

Eagle Express



Volume XIX • Issue 5
FEBRUARY 2025

From the Principal

Dear Eagle Families,

Happy Spring! As we enter the final 9 weeks, know we are committed to our school mission to provide a learning environment that addresses the academic needs of your child. The mission of Greenwood Lakes Middle School is to ensure that all students acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be productive citizens. We will continue to strive for student success as we wrap up this wonderful school year.

Along with teaching the curriculum, we are also preparing your child for the FINAL Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) in April and May. The Civics EOC, Algebra EOC and 8th Grade Science Assessments will also occur in May. These computer-based assessments will begin the week of April 1st with Writing and continue May 1st through May 16th. Specific grade level information and dates will be sent out through Skyward Family Access and posted on our Greenwood Lakes Middle School calendar. Visit www.greenwoodlakes.scps.k12.fl.us for more details. Remember to update both your email and phone numbers in Skyward Family Access. You can do this at home by simply logging into and updating your contact information.

We encourage you to check out the types of questions your child will be asked to answer on these rigorous assessments. You can do this by going to <https://flfast.org/fast.html>. You will then click on "Students & Families" and then "Take a Sample Test for Grades 3-10", click "Sign In" (no need to change the Guest log in information), select the grade level and the Student Practice Test you would like to take. There is lots of critical testing information on the FLDOE website. We appreciate any time you can devote to you and your students understanding of the FAST.

We have many great activities coming up in the second half of the year. We encourage all families to become involved by attending parent/teacher conferences. Our 8th Graders are looking forward to 8th Grade Awards Night on Tuesday, May 13th at 6:00pm in the gym. 8th Grade Dance will be Friday, May 16th from 6 pm – 9 pm in the gym. 8th Gradventure will be Saturday, May 17th. These events are for 8th Graders only and a privilege. Permission forms went home in December and need to be returned to Ms.

continued on page 2...

Administration

Breezi Erickson, *Principal*

Rendon Fletcher, *Assistant Principal*
Mayra Santiago, *Assistant Principal*

Evan Sokolowsky
School Administration Manager (S.A.M.)

Latasha Smith, *Dean of Students*
Gary Fletcher, *Dean of Students*

Cherish Beacham, *Guidance Counselor*
Maryann Suarez, *Guidance Counselor*

Office Telephone
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Lake Mary, FL 32746
Issue # 5

Mission Statement

The mission of Greenwood Lakes Middle School is to ensure that all students acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be productive citizens.

Student Services

Welcome back from the holiday break, Eagles!

We started out Semester with a running start into FAST PM 2 testing, so we hope everyone did their best! As we approach the end of January, please take note of some upcoming dates:

- January 30th: Incoming 6th grade night! Every year we welcome our current 5th graders who are zoned to become GLMS Eagles next school year so they can learn everything about the school. It's a fun and informative night, so we look forward to seeing everyone! If you are a current student with family coming here next year, make sure to bring them and give them the insider tour!
- February 6th: Lake Mary High School field trip! Another yearly trip where 200 of our 8th graders that are zoned for LMHS get to tour the high school, learn about registration, and start to decide on their high school paths! Look out for the registration card once you're back and fill them out promptly so we can send them over to LMHS.
- February 24th-March 15th: Registration with our future 7th and 8th graders for next school year! We will be meeting with students to enter their course requests for next school year.

Some important reminders from the school counseling team:

- There are no more schedule changes for Semester 2. All requests were to be submitted in December and have been addressed. If a student still has a concern, they must submit a meeting request through the QR code.
- The QR code is throughout the cafeteria for students to schedule a meeting. If a student does not have a phone, they can have Ms. Mindy send an email or meet with us in the cafeteria to set something up.

Before we know it, this school year will be wrapping up, so make sure to attend school and put in your best efforts!

-Mrs. Suarez &
Ms. Beacham

From the Principal

continued from cover...

Smith, Administrative Dean in order to participate. Students must be in "good standing" to participate in these events. Students need to see Ms. Smith if they need another form. Don't forget Semester Exams start Thursday, May 22nd and continue during Early Release Days May 23rd, 27th, and 28th.

We believe that our students can do anything they wish to do and can be anything they wish to be. We want to provide hope and encouragement to all students to dream big and go after their dreams. If there is anything we can do to help your child, please do not hesitate to contact us.

As Always, Let's SOAR Eagles!

Breezi Johnson
Principal



We need you!

GLMS PTSA is looking for parents/guardians, friends, family members, business partners, and helpful individuals to help us enhance this school year for students, staff and teachers!

Help can come in many different forms! We have several opportunities that can be done virtually, on campus, at your own pace, long term, short term and much more.

**Contact us
for more information.**

GreenwoodLakesMiddlePTSA@gmail.com • @GLMSptsa

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Band

Hello,

Thank you to everyone who came to the GLMS Band Winter Concert! I hope you all enjoyed the performances. All classes are now working towards our Spring Concert, as well as building our fundamentals, technical ability, and musicianship.

We have a few upcoming performances to look out for. The Jazz Band will be performing at Incoming 6th Grader Night on January 30, the Symphonic Band will be performing at Concert MPA on April 3-5, and all bands will finish out the school year with our Spring Concert on May 12.

Thank you all for your support!

Best regards,

Ms. Fiore, *Band Director*



Red Apple Dining

Let's make a meal!

Looking for a meal that's just right for you? Our team members are ready to assist you. Scan the QR code below to learn more about What Makes a Meal in your campus restaurant!



Title I

Parents, please visit the GLMS webpage for information on Family Engagement activities, district Parental Involvement opportunities, Florida School grades, and other Title I information. You can also visit the front office to review the Title I Binder which contains the School Improvement Plan (SIP), the Parental Family Engagement Plan (PFEP), the School-Parent Compact, School Report Card, and the Parents' Right to Know.

State Certified and Licensed Teachers and Paraprofessionals

All Title I schools are required to employ only state certified and licensed teachers and instructional paraprofessionals. If at any time your child is taught by a non-state certified teacher, your school will notify you. In addition, you have the right to:

- *Request whether your child's teacher(s) and/or paraprofessional(s) meet the state certification requirements for the grade levels and subject areas in which they provide instruction.*
- *Request whether a teacher and/or paraprofessional is teaching under emergency or other provisional status where state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.*
- *Request information on the baccalaureate degree major of a teacher and/or paraprofessional and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher and/or paraprofessional, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.*

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F - SA: 11 AM - 10:30 PM

Sixth grade standard, the students will be wrapping up our unit on ratios, rates, and unit rates. Students will be receiving their semester two textbooks where they will start their next unit over operations with integers. Students will start with prime factorization then move into adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing integers. Please make sure students are completing their homework on IXL weekly.

Sixth grade accelerated, the students will be working on area, volume, and surface area. Students will derive the formula to find the area of a triangle. They will use the areas of quadrilaterals and triangles to find the area of composite figures. Students will also have their first exposure to a seventh-grade lesson where they find the area of polygons. Please make sure students are completing their homework on IXL weekly.

7th Accelerated/RAMP 6: Students will be using prior skills of area of 2D figures to find the surface area and volume of 3D figures. We will then move into slope, which is an extension of 6th grade - unit rates and 7th grade - constant of proportionality. Students will be graphing linear equations on a coordinate plane, which is a new skill for them. It is highly recommended that students refresh their memories on how to plot on a coordinate plane.

7th Standard: Students will be learning Laws of Exponents, simplifying numerical expressions using order of operations and finding equivalent expressions with combining like terms. Students need to know what the following vocabulary words are: coefficient, constant, variable, and terms.



Pre-Algebra: Students are completing their study on finding slope and intercepts and writing linear equations. We will now be moving into solving multi-step equations and exploring the basics of systems of equations which will include graphing a linear equation on the coordinate plane. Please encourage your student to practice each night using IXL. Your students are assigned 3 IXL assignments each week.

Algebra: Students have dived deeply into quadratic expressions and equations. They have been working hard to learn all the methods of factoring a polynomial expression. Then we will be moving into solving quadratic equations by finding the zeros of the function. We will finish up this quarter with key features of the parabola. Your students are assigned IXL assignments to help them practice at home. Please encourage them to complete these assignments on time, to help them stay on top of the topics we are learning in the classroom.

Geometry: we are working through theorems about quadrilaterals, similar triangles and finishing with right triangles and trigonometry. Our focus is on using theorems to solve for unknown values using ratios in mathematical and real world contexts

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Language Arts

6th Grade: Hello parents and students! We're already halfway through the school year yet it feels like we've just begun. Semester 2 is a challenging time with testing, projects, and adjusted bell schedules. Let's take a look at the best ways to help your student succeed and navigate their way to the 7th grade.

What does this semester look like? What should we expect?

Quarter 3 is very test and project heavy. We start the second week of January off with FAST ELA and FAST Math followed by Write Score. Also, it's essential that assignments are completed and turned in on time. Many students struggled with turning in missing assignments and many grades dropped by progress reports. During quarter 3, there will be a much stricter late work deadline. Assignments past the 2 week deadline will not be graded and as with any other teacher, papers with no names on it. There's truly nothing worse than not being able to grade A-level work because it does not have a name on it. There are still many students that are coming to school without paper and pencils. Please make sure your student is prepared for class!

Quarter 3 will be writing heavy, how can I help my student prepare?

Reading. A good reader becomes a great writer. Athletes do not learn their sport through a mass of lectures; they watch the greats and participate. A student who reads will see how good writing should be structured and subconsciously mimic said writing in the classroom. We both have a classroom library and encourage students to check out books in their free time. The public library is also a great place to pick up a few books as students find what type interests them. **Let's get our students reading!**

Quarter 3 is the "sink or swim" quarter. With the end of the year in the distance, students often begin to slack off and minimize effort. With testing, projects, and end of year exams right around the corner, we must encourage students to push harder now than before and support them along the way. Let's make the road to spring break a successful and productive one!

7th Grade: We have had a lot of testing in 7th grade since we started back to school after winter break. The students have been rock stars and showing so much progress from Quarter 1. We are very proud of them! As we await testing scores back, we are continuing to work through informational texts that help to answer the essential question: "Why do people chase dreams, even if they seem impossible?". Up until this unit the students have been focusing on a lot of literary texts, but we are switching gears to focus on more informational texts. This unit emphasizes argumentative writing and encourages students to explore these questions through the reading of a wide variety of texts. The selections convey a range of messages about people overcoming obstacles to create a better life for themselves and their communities. Students are working through various activities that will require them to examine and analyze things such as text structure, central idea, and rhetorical devices.

Also, please continue to encourage your student to read daily. If you need books that are on grade level for your student we recommend checking out this year's Sunshine State book list for great recommendations. The Sunshine State book list includes a variety of genres and your student is sure to find something they are interested in reading. Feel free to reach out to your student's ELA teacher for guidance on selecting a book for your student. Daily reading will help build up students' stamina and fluency, ultimately helping them be more successful in ELA.

8th Grade: 8th grade ELA is starting off the new year on a great note, and we all hope that your winter break was amazing. The ELA teachers are so proud of the progress students have made so far this school year, especially with test scores. It is that time of year again, and students have just taken the FAST test, and are currently working on the Write Score test. It is very important, with it being the third quarter, that our students stay focused on their academic goals. We have been busy working on "To America", a poem by James Weldon Johnson. Also, we read Abraham Lincoln's "The Gettysburg Address." Our ELA team has gone in depth with these texts with our students to ensure their understanding of complex issues and the academic vocabulary used.



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Social Studies

World History:

Hello Eagles!

Quarter 2 wrapped up before Winter Break in which we covered Ancient Egypt, Israel, and China. Quarter 3 is kicking off with our newest addition to the department, Mr. Patrick Daly, in which we will be delving into the civilizations of Ancient Greece and Rome. The students will learn about key figures in these civilizations as well as achievements, government, and how geography heavily influenced the direction of their development. And given that these civilizations heavily influenced that of the United States, we are looking forward to connecting our learning with engaging activities related to our own society.

Civics:

Greetings Eagles!

7th grade Civics journeyed through the Path to Democracy, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the Three Branches of the Government, and how a Bill becomes a Law. We began this New Year and quarter engaging students in the process of amending the Constitution. This included understanding why the Founding Fathers wanted the process of amending to be difficult but still possible. Additionally, students will get the opportunity to learn from the point of view of the Anti-Federalist and Federalist as they will evaluate the Bill of Rights followed by other amendments of the Constitution and their significance. Students will gain a foundation in the understanding of the legal system with identifying landmark Supreme Court cases. They will follow this up with an introduction of the uniqueness of the American Legal System and the sources of law. The quarter will end off with students engaging in the importance of citizen participation in international organizations as they differentiate domestic and foreign policy.

U.S. History:

Hello Eagles!

Our U.S. History classes ventured through the colonial conflicts in America, the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the American Revolution, and the process of forming the new government of the United States of America (from the Articles of Confederation to the U.S. Constitution) this past quarter (Q2). Our students showed some amazing growth overall in their C9A (district common 9 weeks assessment) for the 2nd quarter. Our goal is to continue this momentum going into our 3rd quarter with rigorous lessons and opportunities to extend lessons. The focus of our curriculum, forging into quarter 3, is to examine the foundation of our nation. In doing so we will examine the impact of some of our first presidents that have had a lasting effect on our nation. We will then continue our history adventure into learning about the expansion westward by manifest destiny.

Reading

Hello Eagle Families!

We are halfway into finishing this school year for our 6th, 7th and 8th grade reading! We just finished our 2nd diagnostic exam! We saw a significant improvement across all 3 grade levels!

For semester 2 we are continuing to work alongside with ELA to look further into the data to see what standards that students are struggling with and to be able to close those learning gaps and have students succeed the rest of the school year!

There is one more diagnostic towards the end of the school year between the end of April and to early May. Let's finish the 2024-2025 school year strong!





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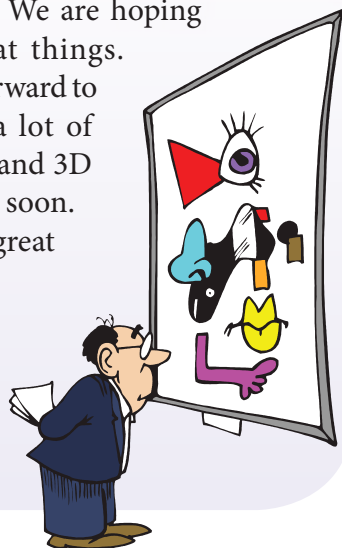
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Art Blurb

Welcome to 2025!!! The Art Program has all new students for the 2nd Semester. Both Art 1 & Art 2 are already in full swing, working on the local community-based World Plumbing Day poster contest. We are hoping for great things.

Look forward to seeing a lot of fun 2D and 3D artwork soon. Have a great winter.



Science

8th grade students are out of this world! Well, at least they are studying how the objects in space impact each other. Students are also reviewing a few basic scientific theories and laws such as the law of gravity and how it affects anything with mass, including themselves.

Students are exploring how the moon affects the earth, how the seasons change, how gravity governs motion within our solar system and the properties of the sun, planets and other objects in our solar system.

We will end this quarter with a big bang. Yes, literally. We end with a unit about the universe, the multitude of galaxies that encompass it and how scientists use the electromagnetic spectrum to study the universe.

7th grade students are digging into units on Earth's interior and Earth's past. Students will learn about Earth's layers and how changes are made in the rock cycle.

They will then shake things up with a study of how the earth's surface changes due to volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and how mountains form.

Students will learn how we measure the earth's age and look at scientific evidence and theories that show us those changes over time.

6th grade students are getting cozy this winter season with units that explore Earth's Systems and Weather & Climate.

Students are learning about Earth's spheres, the water cycle, global patterns of atmospheric movement and temperature differences.

This then leads into describing weather and climate patterns as well as the global patterns that influence local weather.



CLEMENTS & ASSOCIATES

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Forensic Science

We appreciate Attorney Katie Welch of the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel taking the time to visit our Forensics classes! We enjoyed her coaching the students' mock trial performances. Students were fully engaged as she answered questions about what it's like being a lawyer. We hope to have Ms. Welch back again soon!



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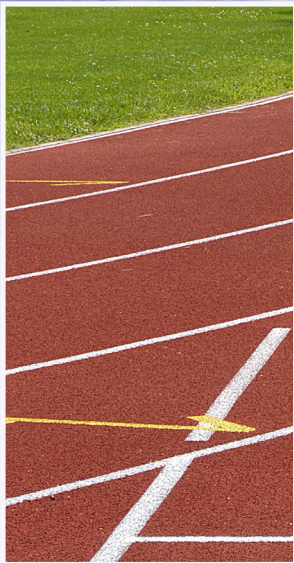
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8



Track Schedule

The Track Season is upon us already! We hope to see you on campus supporting our Track team:

- January 22 vs. Markham Woods (Home)
- January 29 @ Teague
- February 5 @ Galileo
- February 12 vs. Sanford (Home)
- February 22 – County Meet @ Lake Mary High School (8 AM)

PBS

Our PBS team is looking for donations to help supply our school store, The Eagle's Nest, with supplies, snacks, and other items of interest that appeal to middle school students. We open our school store on Wednesdays and students can buy items with SOAR bucks that they earned in class for good behavior. One of the most requested items is individually wrapped snacks such as chips, candy bars, and especially Takis. If you would like to help support positive behavior on campus, we are taking donations through the My School Bucks QR Code link listed below. We are also accepting items that are brought into the school by parents and students. If you drop off items, please make sure that it is labeled PBS.



Thank you for your continued support,
-Greenwood Lakes Middle School Positive Behavior Team

GLMS Events Update

Stay updated on GLMS events...visit the GLMS webpage and click on the *Events* tab.

<http://www.greenwoodlakes.scps.k12.fl.us/>