

Eagle Express



Volume XIX • Issue 4
NOVEMBER 2024

From the Principal

Hello Eagle Families:

Happy Fall! I typically use November as a time to deeply reflect and say thank you for all that I am grateful for. The first quarter of this school year has been amazing! I am grateful to be the principal of Greenwood Lakes Middle School and to have an opportunity to work alongside of some of the very best students, families, educators, and staff in the country for the past 9 years.

I am thankful for our students. They come to class and put significant effort into becoming more skilled and knowledgeable citizens. I appreciate their tolerance to staying focused during the many social and environmental distractions out of their control. I am thankful for continuing to be open to new ideas, new concepts, and new experiences while showing maturity and patience. I am thankful for the students who make good choices and influence their peers to do the same. That process is not always easy, but they struggle through the difficult moments together, and they celebrate their successes together. I am proud of our students, and I am blessed to lead their school.

The parents at Greenwood are some of the most engaged and enthusiastic families I have ever worked with. Greenwood is an amazing place because of your support and our effective partnership. Thank you, parents, for your communication and dedication to your student's growth this school year. I invite you to continue to stay active in the educational process by checking our website, reading communications sent home or emailed, joining PTSA/SAC, and participating in school events. Together, our students will succeed! Thank you.

What we do at Greenwood could never be achieved without the dedication of our amazing staff. They get up each and every morning ready to work, support our students, and give students the tools they need to learn while working in extreme conditions. I am so impressed with the grit of this staff as they keep the focus on teaching and learning. In addition, the front office support staff tackles anything and everything to address parent and student needs. The persistence and initiative exhibited from everyone on this campus from our front office to our cafeteria staff is uncommon and I appreciate their professionalism to GLMS.

I want to extend a very special thank you to our teachers. The teaching staff at Greenwood is determined. They constantly challenge their students and themselves to reach higher and accomplish more. Every day I am renewed by

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

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601 Lake Park Drive
Lake Mary, FL 32746
Issue # 4

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.

From the Principal

...continued from front page

their energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to try new things while remaining grounded in foundational teaching practices. Our teachers are continually adjusting their instruction to help each child reach his or her potential. To Greenwood's teachers—and to teachers across our city—please accept my sincere appreciation as I say thank you for your service; your service to our students, our school, and to our city.

Thank you everyone for your commitment to Greenwood and keeping it a successful school!! To all our students, families, and staff, I wish you a very meaningful Thanksgiving.

Respectfully,
Breezi Johnson
Principal

Student Services/Guidance

Hello SOARing Eagles!! We are rapidly approaching the holiday break and the end of this current semester. As we prepare for the upcoming holiday, we just want to take a moment and express our thanks for all of the hard work and effort you are putting into making this 2024-2025 school year a successful one, both students and families. Looking ahead for the next few months, our end of the quarter exams will take place the week before we break for the Christmas holiday, and FAST PM 2 will take place as soon as we return from Winter Break in January. As such, keep an eye out for those adjusted bell schedules and prep for the exams!

To our 6th graders and new Eagles, please review Skyward before January and take note of your updated schedule as many of you might have new electives for semester 2. This could affect your lunches as well, so study up on it and be prepared before you return!

Lastly, Greenwood Lakes will once again be hosting the Giving Tree for the December holidays! If you would like to help us spread the cheer, GLMS will be accepting donations of stocking stuffers, candy, wrapping paper, etc.! These donations can be brought to the front office during school hours at your convenience. We appreciate any and all support!

Enjoy your holidays and we will see you in 2025!!!!

Mrs. Suarez & Ms. Beacham

School Counselors:

Cherish Beacham—Counselor for all students with last names beginning with letters A-L

Beachaco@scps.k12.fl.us

Maryann Suarez—Counselor for all students with last names beginning with the letters M-Z

suarezmz2@scps.k12.fl.us

Red Apple Dining

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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/>.

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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:

1. 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.
2. Request whether a teacher and/or paraprofessional is teaching under emergency or other provisional status where state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
3. 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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PBS

PBS would like to "Shout Out" Students and Teachers of the Month for August, September, and October!

Students of the Month

Asucena Lopez Perez
Isabella Aziz
Jamarian Blue
Liam Tremel
Jayden Rivera
Sidney Tomlin

Christopher Campos Contreras

Aubrey Marrero

Gaige Morency

Olivia Scher

Tiana Hardy

Alexis Dejesus-Rosado

Teachers of the Month

Mr. Menos

Ms. Gregory

Mr. McCord

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Band

The bands here at GLMS have been working hard on preparing for our winter concert! Our Winter Concert will be at 6 PM on Thursday December 5, 2024, at Lake Mary High School. Admission is completely free, so please come on out to support! We will also be participating in the Sanford Parade of Lights on Saturday, December 14 along with several other bands in the county. Both events will be full of fun music, so come take a listen!

Thank you all for your support!

Best regards,

Ms. Fiore, Band Director

Reading

Hello Eagle Families!

Quarter 2 has been busy for our reading students!

Currently, we have been focusing on closing those learning gaps for our students by creating different stations tiered to their 1st I-Ready diagnostic. Students are focusing on ELA standards that align with our ELA classes. We continue to support our ELA teachers in seeing what our students are struggling with the most so that they can succeed. Also our 2nd diagnostic will be in December it will be in place of our 2nd quarter exam. We hope that students will continue to improve their scores on their diagnostic!



Forensic Science

Hello Parents and Students,

We have had a great 1st quarter in Forensic Science! Students are investigating a mysterious case unfolding in a small town. So far, they have conducted experiments with shoe impressions, blood spatter, insects, bones, DNA and documents from the crime scene. Students have one semester to use deductive reasoning skills to solve the case. I'm looking forward to a great semester!

Art Blurb

The Art Department is participating in the Red Ribbon Poster Contest again this year. It's one of a couple of contests in the community we participate in. Historically, we have a lot of success, so we are looking forward to seeing the results after November. Enjoy the Fall Season and the upcoming holidays.

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Language Arts

6th Grade: Hello parents and students! Now that we are in quarter two, it's time for us to put in that effort and make the grades that we want. Quarter 1 was an adjustment period for students but now that we've been together for over 9 weeks, expectations have risen and leniency has diminished. Students are expected to show SOARing behavior (show respect, own behavior, act responsibly, and reach for personal best) at all times both within and outside of the classroom. Furthermore, with the A of SOAR standing for "act responsibly", this correlates with coming to class prepared. All students need is paper, pencil, and their folder/notebook each day. 6th grade ELA has worked to keep the required supplies list to a minimum but even so, students are still arriving to class with neither a pencil nor paper. We have provided students with folders/notebooks for those who did not have one, but the same students are coming to school with no pencil or paper. Please send them to school with pencils and paper. Also parents, please encourage students to utilize the time they have in class to complete their work. As for grades, many students are either turning in their work without a header (name, date, and class period) or forgetting to turn their work in at all. In addition, all students have the opportunity to fix quizzes in their ELA class, but it needs to be on their own time. Please encourage your students to take the opportunity to correct their work.

Students are focusing on the current topic of *How Relationships Shape Us*. During this time, we are diving into multiple texts and doing things like tracking the development of an argument, identifying the types of reasoning used, and paraphrasing content from grade-level texts.

How do I support my student? We encourage students to advocate for themselves. This is a valuable skill that will be essential throughout their lives. Please encourage your student to check on their grades and either go to Ecampus to complete the work or speak with their teacher regarding missing assignments. Together we will ensure your student's success!

-Mr. Charpentier & Mrs. Gregory

7th grade: The 7th graders have been working hard on a unit about love and loss this quarter. We have started reading informational texts, as well as a strong focus on poetry. We have started our third unit of the year: Chasing the Impossible. During this unit, students will be working on answering the essential question: what makes a dream worth pursuing? This text focuses mostly on informational texts, which is a difference from all of the poems we have analyzed. These texts will allow students a chance to apply what they are learning in Civics to their ELA class. As we wrap up the last few weeks of the quarter, please have your student check eCampus regarding missing work. We also would like to encourage students

to read outside of class to help improve their reading stamina!

8th Grade: Happy November! the 8th Graders have finished wrapping up our time travel from Past to Present, and we answered the question, "What makes you, you?" The 8th graders are now starting their second Unit of the year: Everyone Loves a Mystery! We will be exploring a new question for this unit: What attracts us to the mysterious?

In 8th Grade Language Arts classes, we will be exploring readings from "Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science", "Let 'Em Play God", and even "Sympathy". These texts will allow students to analyze and explain the literature for a possible answer as to why people are fascinated with unsolved mysteries or the unknown.





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Math

Math Strategies: Someone said, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” Turning the words of a problem into a picture or a diagram can help you “see” the problem. By using the part of your brain that visualizes a situation or object, you may see relationships or information that helps you solve the problem. When someone tells you a story, try turning the words into a motion picture or a cartoon. When reading a description, try “seeing it in your mind’s eye.” If you can do these things, this strategy may be for you!

Sixth grade standard, the students will continue to work on number lines and working with negative numbers. Students will be discovering absolute value and will be working on operations with absolute value. Please encourage your child to come to class ready to learn, with their needed supplies and ready to SOAR. Students should be reviewing skills, such as multiplication, and fractions so that they can be proficient in the 6th grade math standards. Students are able to use a calculator and should have a 4 function calculator to use at both home and at school.

Sixth grade accelerated, the students will continue to work on Coordinate Plane Graphing and Ratios and Proportions. Students will have knowledge of how to plot ordered pairs on a coordinate plane, ratios, unit rates, percents and conversions. Please encourage your child to come to class ready to learn, with their needed supplies and ready to SOAR. Students should be reviewing skills, such as multiplication, and fractions so that they can be proficient in the 6th grade math standards. Students are able to use a calculator and should have a 4 function calculator to use at both home and at school.

RAMP 6, students will continue to learn how proportions are related to real-world problems involving converting between units and currency. Students will learn how to convert currencies from different countries and between customary system and metric system. This is a great concept that students need when they travel to other countries as United States and 2 other countries use the customary system. Students need to practice how to solve 2 step equations, and operations with rational numbers.

Seventh grade standard students are learning about scale drawings, writing/creating proportions, and converting between

customary and metric system, which are crucial when students are traveling to other countries. Students will also be learning about creating, constructing and interpreting circle graphs along with real-world problems involving tax, tip, discount, simple interest and percent of change.

Seventh grade accelerated students will be working on proportional relationships, reviewing how to solve real-world problems involving mark ups, mark downs, and simple interest, which they should have learned last year and move into relationships with triangles. Students will need to continue to practice 7th grade skills that will be tested on their next F.A.S.T assessment.

Pre-Algebra students will be studying about the relationship in triangles. Working with the Pythagorean theorem and the triangle inequality theorem. We will also explore distance on the coordinate plane. The students will also start their studies into linear relationships and identify key features of linear equations. Please encourage your student to spend some time each night practicing in IXL. This program will help your student relearn prior topics and practice new topics to help them be successful in the classroom.

Algebra students are wrapping up key features of linear functions and will move into solving equations with will include multi-step equations, and systems of equations. We will then finish off quarter 2 with linear inequalities. This includes solving, graphing and systems of inequalities. Please encourage your student to spend some time each night practicing in IXL. This program will help your student relearn prior topics and practice new topics to help them be successful in the classroom.

Geometry students will be working on rigid transformations on a coordinate plane. This leads into triangle congruence theorems.

****Students in RAMP 6, 7th standard, 7th accelerated, pre-algebra, algebra and geometry,** it is crucial that students have a TI-30Xa calculator that they can utilize in class and at home. This is the exact calculator that students are able to use on F.A.S.T., Quarterly Benchmark Assessment (also known as 9 weeks exams), and tests in class.



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Social Studies

6th Grade:

Hello to our 6th-grade Eagles and their families!

We have finally finished Quarter 1 and have kicked off Quarter 2 with a bang! We started off learning about the Ancient Egyptians with their pharaohs, their religious beliefs, and the pyramids. We have now moved on to the Israelites. We are learning about how their religious beliefs differed from other ancient civilizations and their key figures. Once we complete this unit, we will move on to learning about Ancient China. We will learn about the different philosophical beliefs of Ancient China, and how the Silk Road and Great Wall impacted them culturally, and more. Thank you for continuing to support your students this year. Please contact your student's teacher with any questions you may have!

7th Grade:

Greetings Eagles!

As students head into and come back from Thanksgiving Break, 7th grade Civics will have the opportunity to continue to learn about the Constitution through understanding the amending process as outlined in Article V. Included will be understanding reconstructive and civil rights amendments that include the 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th Amendments. Students will have the opportunity to understand comprehensively the influence these amendments have on participation of individuals in the political process. The next topic will engage students in understanding the structure and functions of the Judicial Branch. Students will then have the opportunity to apply what they learned through dissecting the legal and historical significance of Landmark Supreme Court Cases.

8th Grade:

Hey Eagle Families!

U.S. History is on an adventure into the American Revolution. We will cover how the greatest nation in history was born in the fires of war. Students will learn about the founding fathers of our country including George Washington, Sam Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, and Thomas Jefferson. Students will be able to describe the course of the noble struggle to defeat the largest empire on the planet, The British. Imagine if the Patriots had lost, we would all be drinking tea today instead of the superior beverage coffee. The war raged from Lexington and Concord all the way to the battle of Yorktown and when the dust settles, those great leaders will face their greatest challenges yet, how to run a new nation. Note that along the way, our 8th graders have been working on getting ready for the History Fair by working on their projects that are due in January. Make sure to have them explain it to you to help them practice presenting their topics!



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Science

Sixth and seventh grade science classes are doing a lot of “work”, pun intended, as we are continuing to learn about **Energy**. *Energy is defined as the capacity or ability to do work, with the key concept being that it can be transformed from one form to another; essentially, it's the strength to perform an action.* Please “work” with us and use your “capacity” at home to encourage your student to “transform” their study habits and continue to “work” towards “performing” to their best “ability” in class.

In 6th grade, we are “transforming” our knowledge of forces from Unit 2 to continue working in Unit 3 which is all about **Energy, Forces & Motion**. Then we will be “digging” into Unit 4 **Shaping Earth's Surface** which will start in mid November and continue until the end of Quarter 2.

In November, 7th grade will be “working” on Unit 4 Energy Transfer. This unit will continue gaining “energy” as it “transfers” throughout Quarter 2.

Eighth graders really matter and will just have finished working in Unit 3 Structure of Matter, where they learned about atomic structure, the development of the Atomic Theory, and the Periodic Table. Students will then make those lessons “matter” as they will be “changing” it up with Unit 4 **Changes in Matter**. Unit 4 will cover mixtures vs compounds and explore chemical and physical changes in matter, and the Law of Conservation of Mass. All things “matter” in 8th grade science as we continue to practice and revisit the many standards that our 8th grade students will need to be familiar with in order to be successful on the Florida Statewide Science Assessment.

In all grades, the Practice of Science and Scientific Reasoning are spread throughout the year and are consistently and constantly “worked” into our other units of study.

