

# Eagle Express



Volume XIX • Issue 3  
**SEPTEMBER 2024**

## From the Principal

Dear Eagle Parents:

I look forward to this new school year full of hope and promise that each and every child will be a successful and productive member of the GLMS family. Through SOAR Time all students set learning goals for this school year. These goals will be recorded on page 2 of student planners under My SOARing Story. I encourage every family to ask their student(s) to share their SOARing Story. In order to maximize student learning, all stakeholders (students, teachers, & families) need to understand and be accountable for their students learning. As educators, teachers and staff will need your help and partnership as parents to ensure all students learning is maximized. Children benefit greatly when parents/guardians take an active role in their child's education. It has been proven that when students have parental support at home, they enjoy their learning and school life even more. Students' attitude and perception of school improves as they develop more self-confidence in their road to becoming life-long learners and solid contributors to our community. Here at GLMS, we believe our students Attitude plus their Effort equals their Intelligence ( $A+E=I$ )! We seek to provide a safe and welcoming environment that is conducive to student learning and student success. The first step in this process is to build and to maintain a working partnership with you by developing strong communication. One amazing opportunity is setting up parent conferences. Please contact Mrs. Weed at 407-320-7606 to schedule your Parent-Teacher Conference today!!

It is important to continue to monitor our school's website and maintain accurate information in Skyward Family Access to receive the most updated pertinent information that all parents should know for the school year. Skyward Family Access and eCampus is the main communication system for Greenwood Lakes. You may access student grades, attendance, and school-wide updates through Skyward Family Access. You may update emails and phone numbers anytime through Skyward Family Access. All Address updates must be made at the school with required information. You may call the Front Office if you are unable to retrieve your Skyward Family Access password. If you do not have the Skyward Family Access App... please download it now! It is an easy and quick!! In addition, eCampus will host all your students' assignments including notes, PowerPoints and other coursework should your student miss school. Your student can assist you with logging in. In addition, follow us on Instagram and our school website for other valuable information and updates.

I thank EVERYONE for an amazing start of the school year!

As Always, Let's SOAR Eagles!

Breezi Johnson, Principal

## Administration

Breezi Erickson, *Principal*

Rendon Fletcher, *Assistant Principal*  
Jacqueline Wick, *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  
407-320-7650



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<http://academypublishing.com/schools/greenwoodlakes/greenwoodlakes.php>

'EAGLE EXPRESS'  
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Greenwood Lakes Middle School  
601 Lake Park Drive  
Lake Mary, FL 32746  
Issue # 3

## 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.

## Meet Your Dean of Students

### Dr. Fletcher

8th Grade & ESE

407-320-7677

fletchg@scps.k12.fl.us



I am excited to start another year with the Eagle family. This will be my second year as a dean, and I am eager to get to know our staff, students, and families. While I am relatively new to the dean world, I am not new to education. This will be my 10th year in education. I taught in a self-contained classroom in Sumter and Seminole County for 5 years. I also served as a Student Staffing Resource Specialist in Seminole County for 3 years.

#### About Me:

I grew up in Central Florida. I enjoy spending time with my family, friends, and pets. I would have to say that sports are my biggest hobby. My teams include the Tampa Bay Rays, UCF Knights, Tampa Bay Lightning, and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

### Ms. Smith

6th & 7th Grade

407-320-7609

Smithlz1@scps.k12.fl.us



This is my 6th year working at GLMS. I started as the School Social Worker and last year became the Dean. I was born and raised in Springfield, Massachusetts. Five years ago, I decided that I do not like the cold and moved to Florida. I have 4 amazing children and have always loved working with children. I love road trips and spending time with my family and friends.

### SOAR Expectation

- S - Show Respect
- O - Own your Behavior
- A - Act Responsibly
- R - Reach for your Personal Best

### Resources

#### Code of Conduct

[https://www.scps.k12.fl.us/\\_resources/documents/StudentConductDisciplineCode.pdf](https://www.scps.k12.fl.us/_resources/documents/StudentConductDisciplineCode.pdf)

#### Dress Code

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#### Discipline Procedures

[https://www.scps.k12.fl.us/\\_resources/documents/DisciplineProcedures.pdf](https://www.scps.k12.fl.us/_resources/documents/DisciplineProcedures.pdf)

#### GLMS PBS

<https://greenwoodlakes.scps.k12.fl.us/students/pbs.stml>

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## Guidance

The Guidance team at Greenwood Lakes is excited to work with you for the 24-25 school year. Whether you are a new Eagle or returning to us from last year, we are ready to help.

### Coming up:

- Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept 15-Oct 15):  
Hispanic Heritage Month is back! This will be our third year hosting this event and we look forward to it every time! Please look forward to the school flyer for our dress up days as well as details of the event! We will be holding an afterschool event on Oct. 17, from 6-8, in our school gymnasium.

- Red Ribbon Week (Oct. 28 – Nov 1):  
The theme this year for Red Ribbon Week is “Life is a Movie – Film Drug Free!” As always, this week is used to spread the message to our students the importance of living drug and substance free. Please look forward to flyers on the spirit week for Red Ribbon and we look forward to seeing our Eagles show up and show out against drugs! We might even have some new prizes and raffles for those who join!

Remember that we are available by appointment via the QR code that is in the front office and cafeteria. We hope all of our Eagles have had a great start so far and we look forward to continuing this semester together!

-Mrs. Suarez and Ms. Beacham, GLMS Counselors



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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/>.

## School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council (SAC) had its first meeting on August 26 and are looking for active members! SAC meets one Monday per month from 4:30 – 5:30 PM and will meet again on September 23. If you are interested in joining SAC or would like more information please contact Evan\_Sokolowsky@scps.k12.fl.us.



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## 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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## Art Blurb

Hi everybody. The 2024-25 school year is moving right along. Our Art Program wants everybody to know we will be participating in various contests and exhibitions this year, with some awarding cash and prizes. All participants are required to provide parental consent in the form of a permission slip for all contests. Without said permissions, your student will not be able to participate. For that reason, I am giving advance notice for both upcoming contests for the "Anti-Bullying Poster Contest" & the "World Plumbing Day Poster Contest". I will provide the necessary information as the contests arrive. Thank you for your interest. Have an awesome month.

-Aaron Shaffer

## Language Arts

**Sixth:** In 6th grade ELA, we have already completed our first Write Score and FAST test of the year. With testing out of the way, we are able to really dive into reading in our workbooks. Our first text we read was "Eleven" by Sandra Cisneros. Students have started working on annotating while they read and identifying critical information in the text. Please ensure all students have the supplies needed for their ELA class (folder or notebook, pencils, and PAPER). Being prepared for class is essential for success!

**Seventh:** We hit the ground running in 7th grade! It has been so much fun getting to know the students and watching them jump back into learning after a summer away from the classroom. Students have been reading texts that help them understand the essential question, "When do differences become conflicts?". We have been working with literary texts to help us identify literary elements, determine themes, and practice paraphrasing and summarizing. Students are using these skills to help them analyze a text for a deeper understanding of the text and make connections to the essential question. In just a few short weeks, students will have their **Quarter 1 Benchmark Assessment!** We will then begin a new unit in which students will be able to answer the question "What do we learn from love and loss?" Students will continue to read a variety of texts to deepen their understanding of these skills.

**Eighth:** 8th grade ELA is off to a good start. Each class has its personality that shines uniquely each day. For this quarter, we are grappling with the essential question "What makes you, you?" Doing so will allow us to explore our own identities as well as learn to think critically about ourselves and the world that shapes us too. Additionally, students will have several opportunities to develop and refine their understanding of both rhetoric and figurative language. This unit is highlighted by several exceptional texts such as "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros; we plan to also read "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost and "Theories of Time and Space" by Natasha Tretheway. As we get closer to Halloween, the selection of texts will be aligned with the holiday.

## Reading

Hello Eagle Families, We hope you transitioned smoothly into this new school year! The Reading Department is thrilled to welcome you back and look forward to an exciting school year in reading class.

Students have completed their 1st I-Ready diagnostic. This diagnostic gives students a score in the following categories: phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, and comprehension. The data from this assessment is used in the classroom to help teachers provide individualized instruction to fill any learning gaps students have. Your students will take this assessment one more time this school year. Ask them about their data! They participated in one-on-one data chats with their teachers regarding their results. This semester, students will be working to read and comprehend texts in small teacher-led groups, collaboratively with peers, and independently with their personalized iReady learning path.

Please reach out to your child's reading teacher at any time with questions. We look forward to working alongside you and your family this year!



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## Social Studies

Hello Eagle Families!

World History students have been traveling down the path of learning how to analyze primary and secondary sources like historians do. They are moving into reading timelines and interpreting maps to pinpoint events in history and where they took place. Looking at maps will assist and lead students into how early humans migrated and explore prehistoric times. Students will then continue their journey into the first civilization, Mesopotamia, which will include their first project.

Seventh Grade Civics has started the school year with what it means to be a U.S. citizen. What are the responsibilities and obligations of a citizen? How do you even become a citizen? Students should now be able to answer both questions. After learning about citizenships, students will acquire knowledge of essential enlightenment thinkers and influential documents that are seen in the U.S. government today through collaborative practices with peers. Followed, students will learn about colonist responses to the British policies that created tension between the two groups. Students will then end the quarter with analyzing some of the grievances that led to the colonists declaring independence from the British.

U.S. History is looking forward to their adventure into exploration of the new world. Students have learned who the Native Americans were, how and why they migrated into the Americas, and looked at the different regional cultures of Native Americans. Soon they journeyed into the Age of Exploration where Europeans began crossing the Atlantic and began their discovery of the New World. Students will begin to learn about the struggles of establishing colonies and fighting for survival. Soon, they will encounter the reason different kingdoms established colonies and how life varied depending on the colony people lived in.

## Forensic Science & Legal Studies

Hello parents and students! We are excited to start the school year! GLMS Forensic Science and Legal Studies provide a real-world, problem-solving approach to learning through career research. Students who continue with the Forensic Science and Legal Studies Program at Lake Mary High School may take advantage of dual enrollment courses in Forensic Science, Criminal Justice, or Paralegal career pathways.

Forensic Science is a semester course where 6th – 8th grade students apply forensic science concepts to solve a single case from crime scene to courtroom. Students will investigate the case by processing the crime scene, examining evidence, and reconstructing the crime.

Law & Order: An Introduction to Legal Studies is a semester course where 6th – 8th grade students develop critical thinking, public speaking and debate skills through the study of the legal system. With an emphasis on project-based learning, students build arguments based on landmark cases and current events to be tried in a student-led court.



## Science

Science at GLMS is off to a smooth start with a focus on the Nature of Science in all grade levels. The Nature of Science introduces students to all aspects of scientific investigations and the branches of science that they will be studying this year. To get into the investigative mode, we dig deeper into these skills with our Physics in a Box program that provides hands-on experiments to introduce and nurture real-world knowledge of math and science in an engaging way.

Students are learning how to navigate the online textbook that supports student learning and engagement through an interactive student eBook available on the Clever portal, just look for the McGraw Hill Tile, and through an eCampus link.

We're looking forward to another year of supporting students' introduction to science research and engineering design in our classrooms. For some, this may be leading up to our Seminole County Regional Science, Math, & Engineering Fair this February (2/1/2025) at Crooms Academy of Information Technology. Regardless of whether you participate or not, you can visit to see all the great projects completed by students in SCPS.

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## Math

Sixth grade standard is finishing up their first unit over greatest common factor (GCF), least common multiple (LCM), and the distributive property. Students can rewrite equivalent expressions for addition and multiplication expressions. We will be moving into our next unit where we will be converting between percentages, decimals, and fractions.

Sixth grade accelerated is also in their next unit, looking at converting between percentages, decimals, and fractions. We are also looking at math in real world contexts, such as deposits, withdrawals, and balances. Soon we will be looking at number lines and understanding what absolute value is.

RAMP 6 students will learn about exponents and the rules associated with them when multiplying, dividing and raising them to other exponents. Students will also learn how to solve problems involving rational numbers. Students will be learning about square roots and simplifying expressions as well

Seventh Standard: Students have been working on area of 2D figures by decomposing polygons into shapes that they know and learning how to find the area/circumference of circles. Finding the area and circumference of circles is new to students this year.

Seventh Accelerated students will learn about exponents and the rules associated with them when multiplying, dividing and raising them to other exponents. Students will also learn how to solve problems involving rational numbers. Students will be learning about square roots and simplifying expressions as well

Eighth Grade Pre-Algebra students have been reviewing the laws of exponents they were introduced to last school year and are now moving into Unit 4 and continuing their studies to now include the negative and zero exponents. Please ask your student(s) to review and practice these laws so they are more successful in class.

Algebra students have hit the ground running and jumped right into parent functions. These 8 functions require the students to know the name, equation, and what the graph looks like. We have encouraged our students to make flash cards to help them review each week at home. We are finishing up with laws of exponents and will move into polynomial expressions.

In Geometry we will be exploring the relationship between parallel lines, their transversals, and angles. This will help strengthen the proofs material learned at the end of lesson one while also re-examining the material learned at the beginning of the year.

## CLEMENTS & ASSOCIATES

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## Band

Hi everyone,

The school year has been off to a great start in the GLMS Band Room! Jazz Band, Concert Band, and Symphonic Band have been rehearsing music together, and Beginning Band has begun to learn their instruments! As parents, your support plays a crucial role in nurturing your child's love for music. Here are a few ways you can help:

1. **Attend Performances:** Show your support by attending their concerts and performances. Your presence means the world to them.
2. **Stay Informed:** Regularly check eCampus and Skyward/email blasts for updates, resources, and opportunities to get involved in your child's musical journey.
3. **Encourage Practice:** Regular practice at home is essential for your child's musical growth. Create a supportive environment where they can enjoy playing their instrument.

We have a few upcoming performances this semester. The first is the Jazz Band's performance at Hispanic Heritage Night on October 17 at 6pm in the gym. Then, the hard work of all the bands will culminate at our Winter Concert on December 5 at 6pm in the Lake Mary High School auditorium.

I look forward to celebrating many more musical milestones together!

Best regards,

Ms. Fiore

Band Director



## Sports

### Volleyball Schedule

The Volleyball Season is upon us already! Tickets for sporting events will now be \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. We hope to see you on campus supporting our Volleyball teams:

- September 18 vs. Sanford Middle (Girls, Home/Boys @ Sanford)
- September 25: Rock Lake (Boys, Home/Girls @ Rock Lake)
- October 2: Teague (Girls, Home/Boys @ Teague)
- October 9: Markham Woods (Boys, Home/Girls @ Markham Woods)
- October 16: Millennium (Boys, Home/Girls @ Millennium)

8