

Geneseo Middle School



[GMS Live Feed](#)

TEACH

LEARN

CARE



Principal's Message

This is the time of year when Americans recognize the service and sacrifice of others, from our incredible veterans to our civil rights leader MLK Jr. We celebrate the bold pioneers as they forged the beginnings of this great nation of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is when we gather to worship, pray, and find ways to serve our fellow man. And it was in November of 1863, in the middle of the bloody and divisive U.S. Civil War, when President Abraham Lincoln scheduled a National Thanksgiving and issued a proclamation entreating all Americans to ask God to "heal the wounds of the nation." His proclamation is as relevant today as any time since President Lincoln was in office. Yet, we have an opportunity at GMS to rise above the issues many political leaders aren't willing to confront. We will work together when it's tough, give grace when it isn't deserved, and raise our young up with humility, forgiveness, and service.

May you and your loved ones make it a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy New Year, and a wonderful 2024!

Nathan O'Dell
Principal, Geneseo Middle School

More Info Below

Pgs 2 & 3 A portfolio of announcements, talent, and life at GMS
Pg 4 Winter Magic Week dress-up days
Pg 5 Family Resources and Supports during this Holiday Season
Pg 6 "Erin's Law" Parent & Guardian Notification

Severe and Winter Weather Tips

- Prepare your middle schooler by dressing warm and bringing a coat (recess is outside if it feels like 10 degrees or warmer)
- If school is dismissed early due to inclement weather, all GMS after school activities and programs are also cancelled.

Important Dates

View our online school calendar [here](#).



December 2nd

- ❑ 8th Boys Basketball Shootout @ GFAC

December 8th

- ❑ 11:40 am dismissal, ½ Day Inservice

December 9th

- ❑ 7th Boys Basketball Shootout @ GFAC

December 10th

- ❑ 3:00 pm 7th & 8th Grade Band & Choir Christmas Concert

December 12th

- ❑ 7:00 pm 6th Grade Band & Choir Christmas Concert

December 15th

- ❑ 4-8 pm GPAC Fundraiser Pick-up at Geneseo Community Center

December 23rd-January 7th

- ❑ No School, Christmas Break

January 15th

- ❑ No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 25th

- ❑ GHS Counselors visit 8th grade for 2024-25 Freshman Course Scheduling

January 26th

- ❑ No School, Teacher Institute

January 29th

- ❑ 8th grade High School Parent Orientation @ GHS, 6:30 pm

Geneseo Middle School News



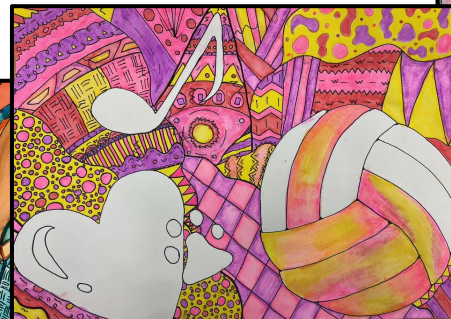
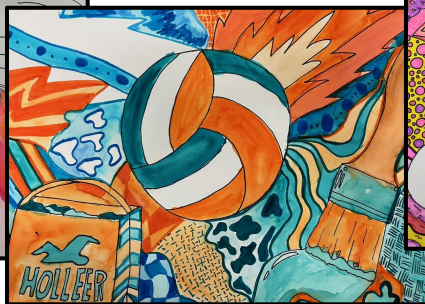
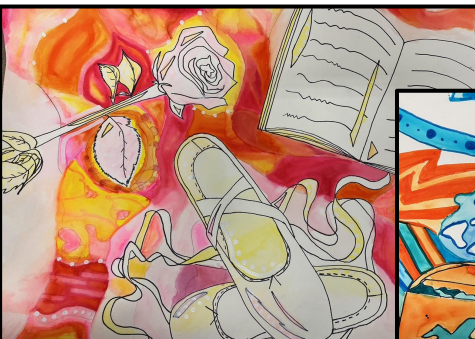
GMS Student Spotlight

On Saturday, November 18th, GMS hosted the first ever Geneseo Middle School Honor Band Festival. There were 86 students representing 15 different schools at the event. They began rehearsing at 9:00am and performed a concert at 4:00pm. The guest conductor for the day was Mr. Chip De Stefano, band director at McCracken Middle School in Skokie, IL. He and the students worked hard all day and their performance was outstanding! We are looking forward to making this an annual event, hosted in our amazing fine arts facilities at GHS.

From your GMS Team

- 8th graders are soon to be preparing for high school and **Freshman Course Scheduling** for 2024-25. January 25th, GHS Counselors will meet with 8th graders at GMS to introduce the course selection process. January 29th is 8th grade Parent Orientation at GHS, 6:30pm. February 8th, all course selection materials are due to GHS. More information will be sent out to 8th grade parents and guardians after the new year.
- Order your **GMS Yearbook** for \$25, any time through December 22nd. Students can pick up an order form from the front office, or you can order online through your Skyward Family Access account.
- Our **On the Same Page (OSP)** community book read is beginning soon, and the book our OSP Team selected this year is "City Spies," by James Ponti. Free books will be available all around town, pick one up to read and pass it along to a friend. Contact Jeanne Brucher (jbrucher@geneseoschools.org) with questions.
- GMS 6th Grade Senate & our Geneseo PD are hosting our **4th Annual Gift Drive** to help area children. Please donate NEW, UNWRAPPED toys and gifts for ages 6 months and up, gift cards, sports equipment, cosmetics, etc. ***NOV 27- DEC 1 and DEC 4-8: A bin will be placed outside the west doors at GMS during the hours of 3:30PM-7:30PM.** You can drop off a gift and place it in the bin during those times. All new, unwrapped gifts need to be to GMS by December 8th so we can deliver gifts in time for the holidays. Gift Cards (and gifts) can be mailed to: 6th Grade Senate Toy Drive, Geneseo Middle School, 333 E. Ogden Ave. Geneseo, IL 61254. Any questions, please contact: Jenni Johnson 6th Grade Senate Advisor at jjohnson@geneseoschools.org
- [Click here](#) for our **School Nurse website** and info on your child's health.

7th graders just finished up their identity drawings (see below). They got to choose three objects to illustrate that represent something about themselves, then chose and practiced a color harmony that described themselves before filling the background with a unique pattern. Amazing skills and talent from our young artists!





Winter Magic Week Dec. 15-22

Friday, Dec. 15



National Ugly Sweater Day

Wednesday, Dec. 20



Winter Hat Day

Monday, Dec. 18



Warm & Comfy Day
(Pajamas, Sweats, Flannel)

Thursday, Dec. 21



Monochromatic/One Color

Tuesday, Dec. 19



Dress Fancy Day

Friday, Dec. 22



Holiday Character Day

Outfits must comply with school dress code.

As we approach the holiday season, we want to inform you of the various resources available to support our families. The holidays can be a truly joyous occasion, but we also understand they can bring significant challenges. We want to ensure every GMS family feels connected and supported all year long, but especially during this season. Please reach out to the counseling & social work team at (309) 945-0506 if you know of someone in need, or for further assistance.

Mental Health

Robert Young Mental Health

- (309) 779-2999 (*Crisis Line*)
- (309) 779-2094 (Rock Island Appointment)

Bridgeway

- (800) 322-7143 (*Mobile Crisis Response*)
- (309) 344-2323 (Galesburg Appointment)
- (309) 852-4331 (Kewanee Appointment)

National Hope Line

- 1-800-SUICIDE
- Crisis Text Line Free 24/7 (confidential)
Text "START" to 741-741

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (East Moline Office)

Veterans Outreach Program Specialist

Joe Laden (309) 755-3260 ext. 692225

Housing/ Food/ Clothing/ Misc.

Geneseo Food Pantry

- (309) 944-3165

Project Now

- (309) 793-6391 (Rock Island)
- (309) 852-4565 (Kewanee)

Freedom House

- (800) 474-6031 (24 hour Hotline) *Emergency shelter for adult & child victims of domestic violence.

Homeless Shelters

Christian Care in Rock Island

- (309) 786-5734

Salvation Army in Davenport

- (563) 324-4808

King's Harvest in Davenport

- (563) 570-4536





Dear Geneseo Middle School Families:

The Comprehensive Health Education Act, often referred to as Erin's Law, requires all public schools to implement an **age-appropriate** sexual abuse awareness and prevention curriculum for all students in grades PreK-12, and to provide training on sexual abuse prevention for all staff.

Geneseo Middle School Counselors and Health Teachers will annually be providing age-appropriate lessons on personal safety to all students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Student lessons will incorporate concepts and skills that are developmentally appropriate based upon grade levels.

Lessons are adapted from our GMS Health Curriculum and the *Second Step Committee for Children Child Protective Curriculum* that focus on teaching student's basic skills to help keep them safe from abusive or dangerous situations. Some concepts discussed during presentations will include:

- **Personal Safety.** Students will learn important safety rules and will also learn ways to help them decide if something is safe or not.
- **Touching Safety.** Students will learn about safe, unsafe, and unwanted touches, and rules about touching private body parts. They'll also learn to say no to unsafe or unwanted touches, and to tell a trusted adult if someone breaks rules about touching private body parts.
- **Assertiveness.** These lessons will also give students a chance to practice asking an adult for help, telling an adult about an unsafe situation, and being assertive to get out of unsafe situations.

If you do **not** wish your child to participate or if you have any questions, please contact your child's School Counselor.

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to provide learning opportunities to improve the safety and wellbeing of our children.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Amy Feely (afeely@geneseoschools.org)
Mrs. Kate Reed (katereed@geneseoschools.org)
GMS School Counselors (309-945-0599)