

# Geneseo Middle School



[GMS Live Feed](#)

## TEACH

## LEARN

## CARE



### Principal's Message

February doesn't always feel like it, but our days are getting longer, winter is losing its grip, and spring is just around the corner. Ask yourself these questions: does my child have a consistent and decent bedtime, limits on their gaming, time away from Snapchat and TikTok, or requirements for cleaning up the kitchen after dinner? During car rides, at a dentist office, or waiting in line, is my child allowed to pause, be bored, or even enter into a verbal discussion, or do they immediately get out an electronic entertainment center? And how about you? Part of the challenge of parenting, teaching, and mentoring Generation Z is the immediate and false gratification that life is now providing from all angles. This can lead to significant struggles listening and engaging others, challenges paying attention in school or at practice, even higher levels of anxiety. The following linked article is one I've shared before, but it really hits home on electronic device time, and the dangers it brings to the young brain. Two key takeaways for me were "Setting Limits" and "Delayed Gratification." Take a few minutes to read the article and set some family expectations from the Train Their Brain pointers at the end, for Dr. Seuss said "sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."

[Why are kids so impatient?](#)

Nathan O'Dell  
Principal, Geneseo Middle School

#### More Info Below

Pgs 2 & 3     A portfolio of recent talent and life at GMS  
Pg 4            Info to Parents on the Social Media trend, "#BookTok"  
Pg 5            National School Breakfast Week - March 4-8

\*Take the [5Essentials Parent Survey](#), we greatly value your feedback.

### Important Dates

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



#### February 1st

- ☐ 7th grade field trip to Circa 21

#### February 2nd

- ☐ Rehears-a-thon @GMS, 3:30-9pm

#### February 10th

- ☐ OQMS Jazz Festival

#### February 16th

- ☐ Half-day School Improvement Day, 11:40am dismissal

#### February 17th

- ☐ Band & Choir Recital @ GHS

#### February 19th

- ☐ No School, President's Day

#### February 24th

- ☐ Solo & Ensemble Contest @ RIHS

#### March 5th

- ☐ 7th & 8th Winter Concert @ GHS, 7pm

#### March 8th

- ☐ No School, Teacher Institute

#### March 18th-22nd

- ☐ No School, Spring Break

#### March 25th-28th

- ☐ IAR Testing

#### March 29th-April 1st

- ☐ No School, Easter Break

## Geneseo Middle School News



### GMS Student Spotlight

*Congratulations to our Geneseo Middle School 2023-24 Spelling Bee Champions. These students powered through dozens of rounds of challenging words, with pressure packed competition, before dueling it out for the top 3 spots.*

3rd Place - Gretchen Fuelling

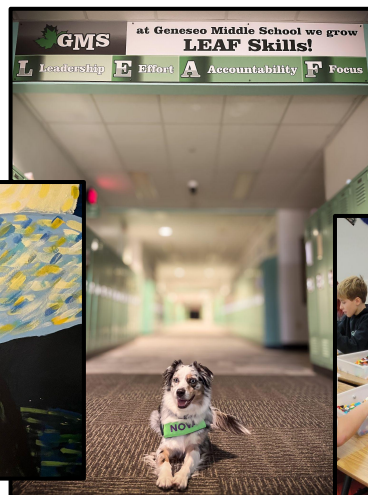
2nd Place - Cat Meis

1st Place - Lydia Carton

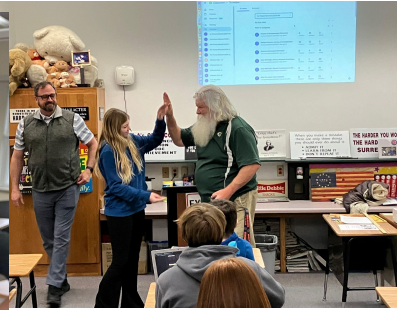
### From your GMS Team

- **GMS Text Tips** are shared once a month with families to provide quick and easy prompts to talk with your child about their interests and development. Text Tip #6 is coming February 2nd and is on advocating for self. Other topics coming up this spring include procrastination and what makes your child laugh.
- Take the **American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge**. Your child, and your Principal Mr. O'Dell, have committed to take the challenge by: being prepared to save a life by learning hands-only CPR, learning how to take care of a their own heart and brain, and raising funds to help kids born with heart defects. Join us by completing Finn's Mission, and donating to support heart research, by [clicking here](#) today. Our GMS Goal for 2024 is \$5,000, let's double it!
- Our **On the Same Page (OSP)** community book read is now under way! The OSP Team selected "City Spies," by James Ponti. Free books are available all around town (Community Center, Public Library, GMS), pick one up to read and pass it along. [Click here](#) for a video 'coded message' from the OSP team, and help us get "on the same page!"
- [Click here](#) for our **School Nurse website** and info on your child's health.

*Is that an original Bob Ross painting on the left below, or our amazingly talented 7th grader Autumn Cunningham's self-taught oil painting (hint: it's the later)? You can also see Nova in the center photo, representing the 4th GMS LEAF Skill of "Focus" with a pose only a phenomenal therapy dog can muster. On the right, check out 6th graders using legos to design architecture and geographic landscapes in Intro to Spanish... "Excelente!"*











Dear Families,

Many students who use TikTok are familiar with #BookTok. While this hashtag has done a tremendous job of encouraging reading and exposing people to books and authors, not all of the books shared on #BookTok are intended for a middle grade audience. The great majority of #BookTok contributors are women ages 14-30. As teachers have noticed an uptick in students bringing from home free-reading books targeted at older audiences, I was asked to share a little about changes in publishing vocabulary and where to get advice as you consider the reading material your child is requesting.

Decisions on what free-reading books are most appropriate for your family are always between you and your child; however, sometimes it can be challenging to help guide your middle grade reader when they are asking for books that are popular in their social media feeds. Most students are good at self-regulating and will abandon a book that is too mature for them in some way, but sometimes you may want to intervene. Talking to your child about what they are reading is a great first step. Asking what the book is about or what they like about it allows you to listen for anything concerning that you could talk about together. This also helps you find common ground if you want to steer your child toward a more age relevant book with a similar topic.

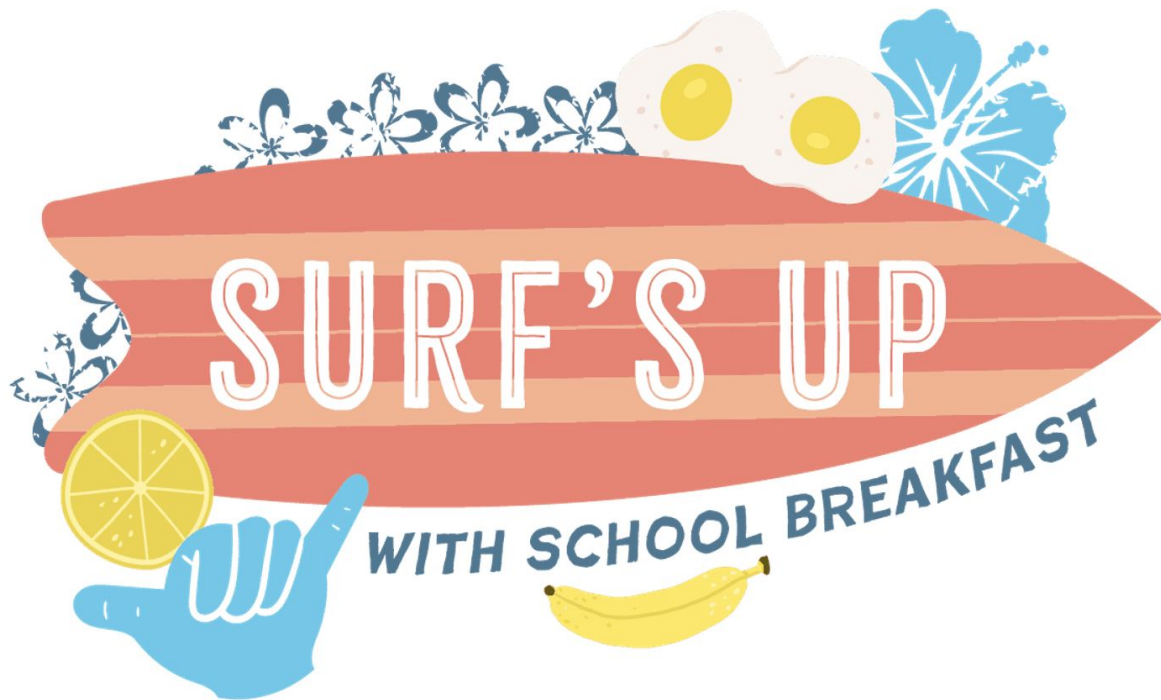
If you are looking for what others have said about the book, answers are a quick search away. On the Amazon website you can read the book summary, which almost always gives you an age for the main characters/protagonists. Amazon also usually lists the publisher's target age for the book's audience. There are terms for these general age categories. Middle Grade means the target audience is grades 4-7. Young Adult means the protagonists are high school aged, but when a book says YA, try to find the publisher's age recommendation, too. Some YA are intended for grade 7 and up and others are very solidly for mature high schoolers and will be listed as grades 9-12 or 10-12. New Adult protagonists are likely in the 18-30 years old range. New Adult authors are very popular on #BookTok (i.e. Casey McQuiston, Ana Huang, Colleen Hoover, Rebecca Yarros) and usually have more explicitly mature content than even a book considered Adult. To put this in perspective, Adult romances from Nicholas Sparks and Danielle Steele are tame compared to the steamy New Adult romances published today.

Another resource that is helpful when determining what is in a book is [Common Sense Media](#). On this website, you can search for reader-provided reviews that not only challenge or reinforce the publisher's targeted age, but they will break down content into categories highlighting both the strengths and concerns about each book. If it's a Young Adult title you are concerned about, you might also find a professional review for it on the School Library Journal's website.

As a librarian, I'm excited any time kids want to read for their own enjoyment; however, I always want to keep their development in mind. If they are asking for authors like Colleen Hoover that they are seeing on #BookTok and you don't think they are ready for them, you might try suggesting a milder YA romance alternative from authors like Kasie West or Jenny Han. All kids develop at their own pace and all families have different expectations, but we can work together to help them make informed choices about the media they consume. As I am an avid reader of middle grade, young adult, and adult novels, please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Jeanne Brucher, GMS and GHS Librarian, [jbrucher@geneseoschools.org](mailto:jbrucher@geneseoschools.org)





National School Breakfast Week is March 4-8 and GMS will be celebrating with some different menu items for breakfast that week. Let your student join us at the GMS café as we offer some delicious entrees and they can “Surf” through the day on top of the wave.