

# Geneseo Middle School

[GMS Website](#)



## TEACH

## LEARN

## CARE



### Principal's Message

Almost eleven weeks ago, students and staff across Geneseo Schools started their long awaited summer break. It has been a time to rest, play sports, practice music, attend camps, go on vacations, read books, and just enjoy the beautiful summer sunshine. But this message alone reminds us that school supply purchases, and getting clothes that fit your kids for more than a week, are already happening as we get ready for the year ahead. As parents, whether you are full of joy to be sending your kids back to school, or you want just a little more time together, the first day is just around the corner and we are truly excited to welcome you all to GMS.

This year, we host the graduating classes of 2030, 2031, and 2032 in our 8th, 7th and 6th grade hallways. As our team makes final preparations to return to learn, I want to thank you for partnering with us in our school district mission of Teach Learn Care. It takes incredibly competent, caring, and creative adults to raise and educate nearly 600 middle school aged children, so your partnership and trust is not only helpful in your child's success, it is essential.

At our all-school assembly on August 13th, I will share our L.E.A.F. Skills learning expectations with students (Leadership, Effort, Accountability, Focus). My challenge to you, is to model these life and job L.E.A.F. skills each day, and to help our 11-14 year olds see the value of doing what's right, even when it may not be popular to do so. Make it a great rest of your summer break, and a phenomenal 2025-26 school year!

Nathan O'Dell  
Principal, Geneseo Middle School

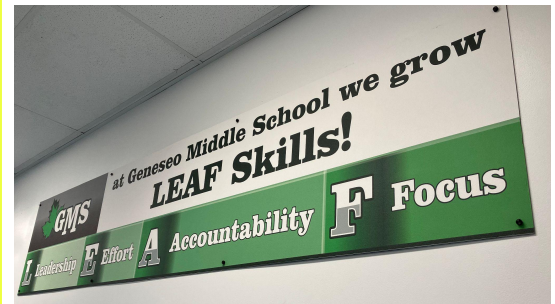
Page 2 - Important Updates and Student Life at GMS

Page 3 - Back to School Info (including our GMS Cell Phone & Smart Watch policy)

Page 4 - GHS Football Home Game Guidelines

For your iCal, gCal, or wall-Cal

Click [here](#) for the full GMS Calendar



#### Monday, July 28

- ☐ 7th/8th Girls Softball Season begins

#### Monday, August 4

- ☐ 7th/8th Golf Season begins

#### Wednesday, August 6

- ☐ Student Schedules available on Skyward Family Access @ 4pm (\*Only visible if registration is complete)

#### Thursday & Friday, August 7 & 8

- ☐ Student Locker Set-up, 2-6pm

#### Friday, August 8

- ☐ New Student Orientation, 10am

#### Monday, August 11

- ☐ GMS Open House, 5-7pm

#### Wednesday - Friday, August 13-15

- ☐ 7th & 8th Grade Volleyball tryouts
- ☐ 7th/8th XC & 8th Football begin

#### Wednesday - Friday, August 13-15

- ☐ 8/13 - First day of Student Attendance
- ☐ 2:10pm dismissal on 8/13, 8/14, 8/15

#### Monday - Friday, August 18-22

- ☐ Fall MAP Assessments

#### Monday, September 1

- ☐ Labor Day, No School

#### Wednesday, September 10

- ☐ School Picture Day

#### Saturday & Sunday, September 20 & 21

- ☐ Maple Leaf Band Classic & Harvest Choral Music Festival

#### Wednesday, September 24

- ☐ ½ day Inservice, 11:40am dismissal

#### Thursday, September 25

- ☐ GMS Code Red Drill (Run-Hide-Fight)

## GMS News



IL Principals Association Student Leader Award

## GMS Student Spotlight

In this section in 2025-26 you will see student-centered highlights from sports, activities, music, volunteering, individual accomplishments, classroom learning, teamwork, collaboration, and more. Get ready to “celebrate the great” at GMS!



Math Khan Academy Level-up Champs

## GMS Curriculum and Feedback Update for 2025-26

We are committed to a guaranteed and viable curriculum for your children, with feedback (grading) that is authentic, timely, and focused on both growth and achievement. It is our goal for you and your child to know what they are learning in each course, why they are learning it, whether they are on track, and what they can do about not being on track. To ensure this occurs, we will be using the following grading practices in 2025-26. Please reach out to Mr. O'Dell if you have questions or want to know more.

- 7th & 8th grade Grading Scale - 100-98% (A+), 97-90% (A), 89-80% (B), 79-70% (C), 69-60% (D), 59-0% (F).
  - Letter grades: (A) Advanced, (B) Proficient, (C) Developing, (D) Beginning, (F) Not Enough Evidence.
- 6th grade, and a few 7th & 8th grade courses, are using Standards-Based Reporting, with grades directly linked to course standards. Details on Standards-Based Reporting will be communicated by your child's teachers in the first couple days.
  - Standards-Based grades: (4) Advanced, (3) Proficient, (2) Developing, (1) Beginning, (0) Not Enough Evidence.
- Reassessment on summative assessments is available for students to improve their grade. Reassessment opportunities may require students to attend reteaching sessions, complete any missing work, and/or take an alternate assessment.
- The consequence for not completing expected learning (i.e. missing work), is to complete expected learning. A student who does not complete expected learning by the due dates may be required to attend our 8th period Student Workshop, receive an Academic Lunch Detention, and/or be ineligible for their sport or activity until expected learning is completed.

## 2025-26 Celebrations and Communication

[GMS Website & daily Announcements](#)

[GMS Library, On the Same Page, Student Council](#)

[District 228 Facebook Page](#)

## School Nurse “Back to School” Important Information

- Schedule your child's **Sports Physical** as soon as possible. Students who plan to participate in school-sponsored sports must have a sports physical on file prior to practicing or competing in that sport. Physicals are valid for 1 year and 1 month after the exam date. Forms can be found at our [School Health](#) link. As soon as your athlete's physical is completed, drop it off or mail it “Attention School Nurse” to GMS (333 East Ogden Avenue Geneseo, IL 61254).
- \*Any medication(s) your child may need to take at school must be brought directly to the School Nurse by a Parent or Guardian. You also must fill out a [medication form](#). This is applicable for both prescriptions and over-the-counter medications. **It is strictly prohibited for students to bring to school or carry any medications (including Tylenol or Advil).**
- 6th Grade Parents and Guardians, please note the additional [Medical Requirements](#) for your student to enter 6th grade.

## Geneseo School District Prevention of Bullying and Harassment

[Board Policy 7:180](#) - Bullying and Cyberbullying are defined as “severe and pervasive verbal or physical conduct that is targeted at and significantly harms another person.” If your child is witness to, or the target of, severe and ongoing verbal or physical conduct that harms them or another child, contact their teacher, counselor, or a building administrator right away.



## GMS Back-to-School Reminders

- Cell Phones and Smart Watches - All cell phones and related electronic devices must be kept "Powered off and in Lockers" during the regular school day (8:10 am to 3:10 pm). Consequences for violation may include confiscation of the device for the school day, detention, and parent pickup of the device. The only exceptions to this policy are: a staff member grants permission for educational use, or the device is used as part of a medical care plan.
- School Supply lists are available at all major store outlets in the area, or you can find them here: [GMS School Supply List](#)
- Registration for new and returning students is located here: [Online Student Registration](#)
- August 6th, 4:00 pm, student schedules will be available on Family Access (visible only if registration is complete).
- August 7th & 8th are GMS Locker Set-up days, 2:00-6:00 pm. Students need to log into Family Access, get their schedule, locker number, and combo, then can stop by GMS to find, practice, and set up their hallway locker.
- August 8th, 10:00 am, is GMS New Student Orientation, for new students to the district (meet in the Cafeteria).
- August 11th, 5:00-7:00 pm, is GMS Open House/Backpack Night
  - Walk through student schedules and meet your teachers
  - Although hallway locker set-up will be available at Open House, we encourage you to take advantage of the locker set-up times on August 7th or 8th, 2:00-6:00 pm, for the GMS hallways get very crowded at Open House
  - Students & Parents/Guardians should start at your child's 1st period classroom for sign-in, copies of schedules, and an orientation welcome (1st period rooms are listed on each student's schedule in Family Access, lists will also be posted at the west end of each grade level hallway)
  - Some things that may be for sale at Open House:
    - GMS Student Activity Passes: \$10 for students, \$20 for adults
    - Book Socks - Book Covers
    - GHS Football T-Shirts & GMS T-Shirts (sponsored by Student Council)
    - GMS Yearbook order forms
  - Middle School/High School PTA will have parent sign-ups, they will also be looking for volunteers to help with Football game concessions, Picture Day, Teacher Appreciation and more - [Join MS/HS PTA!](#)
- August 13th school begins - students report to their 1st period class by 8:10 am for planners, schedules, and to discuss academic and behavior expectations at GMS
- August 13th, 14th, and 15th are one-hour early out days
- GMS Schedules - Regular school day is 8:10 am – 3:10 pm, 1-hour early out is 8:10 am – 2:10 pm, ½ day dismissal is 8:10 am – 11:40 am, and 2-hour delayed start is 10:10 am – 3:10 pm
- WIN 8th Period (WIN = What I Need), starts August 18th:
  - Students will report to WIN daily, during 8th period, to engage in "What I Need." This includes Silent Sustained Reading (SSR), Khan Academy Math practice, Language Arts or Math Interventions, Peer-led Student Workshop, Special Education Learning Centers, Social Emotional Learning Groups, or Enrichment programs.
  - Silent Sustained Reading (SSR) Expectations:
    - Bring a school-appropriate book of your choice, read quietly for 30 minutes
    - Students are not permitted to use cell phones or other electronic devices to read during SSR
  - Khan Academy Math will take place each Wednesday during WIN, where students practice math concepts and skills for 30 minutes independently through the Khan Academy program ([click here](#) to access at home).
- Participating in a fall sport, activity, or music program at GMS?
  - Make sure you have your [Sports Physical form](#) turned in to the main office **before** your sport or activity begins (the [Medical Authorization](#) form is also a requirement, it is submitted online when you register your student)
  - There is a [one-time Participation Fee](#) each school year for any student participating in a sport, activity, or music. If you have a student that will be participating in one or more activities (i.e. football, track, band, choir, student council, speech), this annual one-time fee is required. Fees can be paid online with a credit card through Family Access or by cash or check at the middle school office. Make checks payable to Geneseo CUSD #228.
- Be aware of the District 228 Food Allergy Management Plan, which establishes District-wide guidelines to help our administrators, teachers, students and parents protect those with food allergies from serious harm or injury. The Food Allergy and Safe Snack procedures can be found here ([Food Allergy Plan](#)).

If you should have any questions, please call the GMS Main Office at 309-945-0599 between 7:30 am and 3:30 pm.

## Geneseo Community School District 228 Football Game Guidelines

*In an effort to continue to make Geneseo High School football games enjoyable and safe for all spectators, the following guidelines for students in attendance are used at all home football games.*

*\*Elementary and Middle School students must be accompanied to the game by a parent/guardian or responsible adult.*

### **Middle School students attending home GHS football games have two options for watching the game:**

1. Students may sit with their parent/guardian or other responsible adult.
2. Students may sit with friends in the GMS student section, located in the South Endzone of the football field. If sitting in the GMS student section the following guidelines apply:
  - a. GMS students will enter and exit the GMS Student Section by the stairway on the South End of the Compound, going directly from the field gate to the bleachers only.
  - b. All GMS students seated in the GMS student section will only be allowed to leave at the end of each quarter, or half time, to go to the concession stand or restroom. Students are required to stay in the GMS Student Section until released.
  - c. Students outside the GMS student section must be heading to or from the concession stands or restrooms; loitering will result in disciplinary action that may include suspension from future games.

### **Guidelines for All Spectators:**

Regardless of grade level, all students are expected to follow simple rules of proper sporting event attendance.

1. No fans will be allowed on or inside the track (exception, GMS student section).
2. No loitering around areas of the stadium unless in your proper designated area.
3. Spectators are not allowed to bring into the stadium pets, skateboards, bikes, rollerblades, and/or balls. Other items are subject to the approval of administration.
4. It is important that all fans comply with the rules and any requests made by District Staff. Failure to do so may result in removal from the stadium and/or Geneseo Police intervention.
5. The PTA will provide the concessions for your benefit, including online Venmo quick ordering. No open containers backpacks or coolers will be allowed at Bob Reade Field.

