

Geneseo Middle School

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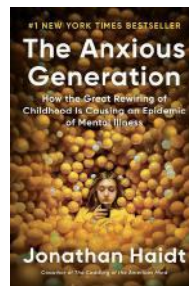
Principal's Message

GMS Parents, and Guardians,

I've rarely been so shocked into action, as a parent and educator, as I was after watching this podcast from the author of "The Anxious Generation," Jonathan Haidt. If you really want to know what to do about Cell Phones, Social Media, and your child's development into a healthy and thriving young adult, [watch this podcast](#). The facts shared will shock you, challenge your mindset on your middle schooler's use of, and limits on, social media and smartphones, and help you learn ways to build in more time for free play and independence. I hope the video makes a positive impact on you and your family. Learn more about free play and independence for kids at home at [LetGrow.org](https://www.letgrow.org).

May you have a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and wonderful Holidays!

Nathan O'Dell
Principal, Geneseo Middle School



Severe and Winter Weather Tips

- Prepare your middle schooler by dressing warm and bringing a coat. *Recess is outdoors if it feels like 10 degrees or warmer, and it's getting cold fast!
- If school is dismissed early due to inclement weather, all GMS after school activities and programs are also cancelled.

The rest of the story...

Pgs 2 & 3	Life at GMS, Student Spotlight, and Important Parent Info
Pg 4	GMS & Geneseo Police Department "Holiday Toy Drive"
Pg 5	Family Resources and Supports during the Holiday Season
Pg 6	"Erin's Law" Parent and Guardian Notification

Important Dates

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



December 1st-12th

- ☐ GMS and GPD "Holiday Toy Drive"

December 6th

- ☐ 8th Grade Boys Basketball Shootout

December 7th

- ☐ 7th & 8th Grade Band/Choir Holiday Concert

December 9th

- ☐ 6th Grade Holiday Concert

December 12th

- ☐ 11:40 am Dismissal-Teacher Inservice

December 13th

- ☐ 7th Grade Boys Basketball Shootout
- ☐ Geneseo Christmas Walk

December 20th - January 4th

- ☐ Winter Break

December 29th

- ☐ Wrestling Tournament at Rockford

January 10th

- ☐ Geneseo Wrestling Invitational @ GHS

January 16th

- ☐ 2:10 pm Dismissal

January 19th

- ☐ No School-Teacher Institute

January 22nd

- ☐ GHS Counselors visit GMS 8th graders to prep for Freshman year course selection

Geneseo Middle School News

GMS Student Spotlight

GMS Speech had an amazing season this year, with all participants scoring the highest possible at IESA Contest.

Congratulations to our Speech Team, Coaches, and Parents for an amazing season!



From your GMS Team

- **#Trending@GMS** - Do you have an 8th grader? Then it may be hard to believe, but it's almost time for Freshman Course Scheduling. Please note the following events and dates, more info will be shared with parents in the coming month.
 - GMS Winter MAP Assessments Dec 1-5 (used for GHS course placement)
 - GHS Counselors visit 8th graders Jan 22
 - 8th Grade Parent Meeting at GHS Jan 26, 6:30 pm
 - High School Course Scheduling Feb 2-9
- **Congratulations** to the following students for being selected to the ILMEA District 2 Junior Band: *Nyali Bernier, Allison Bos, Sophia Pollock, Lucas Fuelling, Elliot Lest, Georgina Kelley, Jack Sullivan, Olivia Boyd, Ethan Hepner, Oliver Conley, Zach Blank, Tanner McShane, Delia Bellagamba, Brynn Wildermuth*
- Builders Club will be having a **Food and Clothing Drive** for the Geneseo - Atkinson Food Pantry. It will run December 1 through December 19. Items can be dropped off in Mrs. Atwell's room at GMS.
- 2025-26 **GMS Yearbooks** are ready for purchase through Skyward Family Access. The cost is \$30.
- **High School/Middle School PTA** would love to have you and your family to become member, [join PTA](#) today.
- Check out our **Geneseo Schools website** for [Upcoming Athletic and Extracurricular special events](#).
- [Click here](#) for our **School Nurse website** and info regarding your child's health.







GMS Holiday Gift Drive

Geneseo Middle School 6th Grade Senate is hosting a gift drive with the Geneseo Police Department to help area children.

Help us bring smiles to children and teens this holiday season! Please donate NEW, UNWRAPPED toys and gifts for ages 6 months and up, gift cards, sports equipment, cosmetics, etc. The Geneseo CUSD #228 Social Workers, Counselors, and Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry will be distributing these gifts.

An area we would like to focus on this year is the 12-18 year old range. Ideas brainstormed by our students include: makeup, hair gel, perfume, cologne, deodorant, body wash, lotion, skin care, nail polish, fake nails, curling iron/straightener, room decor, blankets, pillows, posters, sports equipment, baseball cards, Pokemon cards, Legos, video games, toy cars, technology (watches, headphones, etc.), books, hoodies, pj pants, art supplies, music, jewelry, board and card games, shoes, fidgets, snacks (candy, gum, chocolate, etc.)

*December 1-5 & December 8-12: 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 12th 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





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 at 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 protecting them from touching of 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)