



# Gotha Growl

For the parents, students and community of Gotha Middle School

**Gotha Activity Line Call:**  
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**Gotha Middle School**  
9155 Gotha Road  
Windermere, FL 34786  
**Phone: 407-521-2360**

**Office Hours**  
*Monday-Friday:*

**8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**School Hours**

*Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.:*

**9:30 a.m to 3:50 p.m.**

*Wednesday:*

**9:30 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.**

**Non-Discrimination Statement**

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To download a PDF version of this newsletter, go to <http://academypublishing.com/schools/gotha/gotha.php>

## *Principal's Message*

Gotha Families –

I can't believe it is the holiday season and we are mid-way through the second marking period. This school year is flying by! I am enjoying our focus on kindness this year! We have been spreading the message on GTV, across campus and through social media that #gothaiskind! Our kindness efforts continue this season as we are collecting canned goods for those Gotha families who may be in need. Please consider donating if you can.

As we move toward the 2018-19 half way mark, please make sure you are following your student's grades on Progressbook. We don't want missing assignments to cause any student's grade to drop.

As we continue to build our culture of literacy, remember that every student school-wide has reading homework every night. Students should be reading 20 minutes per night and completing their reading journal weekly. Students are allowed to choose the books they read, so please encourage them to choose books that are engaging to them – books they will enjoy reading.

I hope everyone finds time this holiday season to rest and enjoy time with family and friends. It's incredibly important. I thank each and every one of you for allowing your students to come to our school each day. It is a pleasure working alongside each of you to ensure the students are building those skills needed to be productive and successful YOUNG adults. I am proud to be your principal. IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A GRIZZLY!

Mrs. Emery, Principal

## *Gotha Middle School*

Gotha Middle School is a student-oriented school that focuses on the whole child. We promote a partnership between students, educators, parents, and community to achieve our goals of:

- Academic excellence
- Character development
- Technological proficiency
- Preparing students for transition to high school

Visit Gotha Middle School's web site at: <http://gothams.ocps.net>

'Gotha Growl'

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P.O. Box 271

Orlando, FL 32802

Issue# 3

## SRO Corner

Parents and guardians: I am extremely happy with the decline of the amount of pickups/drop-offs on Gotha Road. Please continue to utilize the designated car rider pickup/dropoff lines on campus or the pickup area on Morton Jones Road, to ensure you do not receive a traffic citation.

Also, please remind your student that ANY threat to the school, whether the student is “joking” or not, is a criminal act, and is now a second degree felony. Please have a conversation with your student about proper humor, and that their words CAN wind them up in serious trouble.

-Master Deputy Luna



### Yearbooks- Leaving our Legacy

Yearbook sales are underway. Be sure to order yours early. Visit [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com) to order. Mrs. Miller and the yearbook students are putting together an amazing book. You won't want to miss out as they will sell out.



## Media Center News

Our media center is the place to be in the mornings! We have free Tutoring every morning starting at 8:50am. Tuesday through Friday we have two content teachers here to help students and every single day we have NJHS tutors available to help with assignments. Everyone is welcome.

Our Makerspace is another great reason to join us in the mornings. We have puzzles, stress reducing coloring posters, Sphero coding, Snap Circuits, K'Nex, Legos, Stop Motion Animation, 3-D printing, Marble Run, and building kits available for student use. We just added Squishy Circuits which are conductive dough and electronic parts that bring your creations “to life”.

Check out these Top 10 Titles in the media center today:

1	<i>The Hunger Games</i>	Collins, Suzanne.
2	<i>The First Rule of Punk</i>	Perez, Celia C.
3	<i>The Giver</i>	Lowry, Lois.
4	<i>The Van Gogh Deception</i>	Hicks, Deron R.
5	<i>The Girl Who Could Not Dream</i>	Durst, Sarah Beth.
6	<i>A Crack in The Sea</i>	Bouwman, H. M.
7	<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid : Dog Days # 4</i>	Kinney, Jeff.
8	<i>Click'd</i>	Stone, Tamara Ireland.
9	<i>The Girl in the Well is Me</i>	Rivers, Karen
10	<i>How to (Almost) Ruin Your Summer</i>	Souders, Taryn

## Cafeteria News

### SEE WHAT'S COOKING

Students come check out our new menu options:

- Beef pot roast, fish tacos, and Buffalo chicken wings.

On 11-15-18 we had our annual Thanksgiving meal when each student received a free cookie!

See you in the lunch line- All students are welcome.



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## Gotha Social Media

If you haven't yet liked us on Facebook, followed us on Twitter, or found our Gotha Videos YouTube channel, you are missing some fantastic things our students are doing.

## Technology Tidbits

### Tips to Help Avoid Damage

- Don't share the laptop or charger with others.
- Tap the keys gently, don't bang on them.
- Unplug the power cord from the base, don't yank it.
- Insert headphones and USB drives carefully. Never force them.
- Do not hold the laptop from the top of the screen, support it from the base.
- Remember your laptop is in your bag, so be careful when putting it down and avoid stepping on others' bags.
- Your laptop is not indestructible.

**\*\*Be sure to save everything to your Google Drive or a USB and not on your desktop. If you need to exchange the laptop you may lose everything if not saved properly. \*\***

**Payments for damages or loss are taken at schoolpay.com. Please pay all damages as quickly as possible. These charges do not disappear or reset from year to year.**

## Virtual Library Card

Explore the Virtual Library Card on your student's Launchpad inside the Library Research Tools folder. Your student can: learn a new language, get free tutoring help, check out e-books, read magazines and more...all online and all for free. This is possible through our partnership with the Orange County Public Library and OCPS. Students use their student ID number as the library card number and their birthday as the PIN number (YYYYMMDD). Happy exploring!





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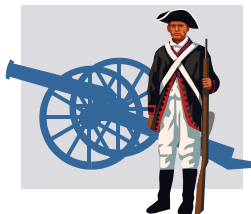
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## 8th Grade US History

We are moving into independence. The colonists have realized that they are no longer going to be bullied by the treacherous King George III. They have had enough of the unfair taxes. The Second Continental Congress has the authority to coin money, raise an army (Continental Army), and start a post office. Paul Revere and Samuel Dawes were notified that the British were coming. They then rode off into the night to warn the colonists that they were on their way. Paul Revere was captured by the British and Dawes continued on his ride to warn the rest of the colonists. The shot heard around the world (Lexington and Concord) has a couple different theories. Some say that it was a hunter who fired upon an animal and the British or the Colonists thought it was the other side that started the war between the British and the American Colonists. Therefore, the colonists fired upon the British starting the battles of Lexington and Concord. Others state that it was someone from either the British or Colonists side firing upon each other. The Revolutionary War has begun. Our army is weak, inexperienced, and is lacking supplies. We are against the strongest army in the world at this point; the British Army has a ton of supplies and very well trained. The British have hired Hessians (paid soldiers from Germany) to aid them in the fight. The Continental Army receives financial and military aid from the Polish, French, Germans, and Spanish. The British Army may have more experience, but the Continental Army has determination to win this fight for independence. The war has ended. Now we must learn how our government developed, Federalist vs. Anti-Federalist, our early presidents and how our country expanded - Westward.

The 8th grade social studies team would encourage you to check your child's Canvas page and Progress Book on a regular basis for assignments, tests, and quizzes. Thank you for all you do to help our children be successful. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email any of us at: gerald.aldrich@ocps.net, cathy.godboldte-hazzard@ocps.net, emilee.fleming@ocps.net

Thank you from Mr. Aldrich, Ms. Godboldte-Hazzard, and Ms. Fleming



## 6th Grade World History

For Quarter 2, World History will have studied Egypt's geography, researched hieroglyphics, and learned about mummification. Next we will study the Israelites, their connection to Egypt and their influence on history. Finally, we will wrap up with an exciting unit on India!



### Resources to check out...

**Brainpop:** "Mummies", "Egyptian Pharaohs"

**YouTube-Ted Ed:** "Egyptian Book of the Dead"

**Safari Montage:** "King Tut: Secrets Revealed", "Horrible Histories: Awesome Egyptians"

"The Ten Commandments"-original version



*Matheus Dos Santos prepares to remove organs in order to mummify Fred the chicken during the unit on Ancient Egypt.*




Pragnesh H. Patel, M.D.  
Jose R. Arias, Jr. M.D.  
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## 7th Grade Civics

Gotha's civic minded 7th graders are diving into election season with a study on elections and campaigns. Students are evaluating political parties and determining where on the spectrum they fit. In class, students registered to vote for the Nov 6th mock election that Gotha will be hosting. Stay tuned to find out who the 7th grade class voted into office and what ballot measures they passed. Following this unit, students will be analyzing the three branches of government, one of our largest units of the year.

## Life Science

Mr. Rose's Life Science Classes have been busy diving into the microscopic world of cells. Students were able to view cells (both plant and animal) using compound microscopes in the science lab. They were able to view not only cells but a wide variety of microscopic specimens on prepared slides. One student said, "The microscopic world is bigger than I thought!" **SCIENCE RULES!!!**



*Tyler Murphy and Kayden Arndt*



*Emily Knopfle and  
Scarlett Russo*

## 7th Grade Math

Greetings! We have started the year off with a fast start. In August, students reviewed and elaborated on Operations with Rational Numbers. In September, we worked on Proportional Relationships. Currently, we are concluding our unit on Percent Reasoning. Students have learned how to calculate costs and prices given a discount or sales tax, as well as determining interest on loans and savings accounts. Every student has been extremely engaged in learning these every day math concepts! Please encourage your child to practice on I-Ready for at least 15 minutes nightly, so that they will be able to pass their required lesson per week! Also, check your student's notebook and Math Canvas Page to keep up with their daily work and lesson checks!

Thank you for all your support, we truly appreciate it!

Mr. Norman and Miss Parker

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**Trina LaBaw**

[trina.labaw@ocps.net](mailto:trina.labaw@ocps.net)

**Gotha Middle School**

## Orchestra News

Congratulations to 8th grader Daniel Liu for being selected to join the All State Orchestra! The concert will take place in January.



## Building a Culture of Literacy at Gotha Middle School

One of our goals this year is to increase the amount of reading students do for pleasure as well as to learn. The Language Arts teachers have focused their homework on achieving this goal. Mrs. Emery purchased and gifted *Restart* by Gordon Korman to all students, and *The Giver* by Lois Lowry was given to all 8th graders. We were able to reward students with three book options they were able to keep as well. Our Battle of the Books club is reading all fifteen Sunshine State Young Readers books. Teachers and staff members are supporting this culture of literacy by posting what they are reading on orange signs so students can see and ask about their own reading. Share your reading with your students and feel free to post it to our Twitter page and use the #OCPSReads, #gothereads so we see it!

What are some of our teachers reading? Some of the titles are listed here:

- Mrs. Rose – *Financial Peace*
- Ms. Hines – *Closing the Attitude Gap*
- Ms. N. Lupo – *A Breath of Snow and Ash*
- Ms. Hamimaz – *One Mind at a Time*
- Ms. Payne – *The Divine Order of Faith*
- Mr. Zanegood – *16 Souls*
- Mrs. Fogarty – *Error Patterns in Computation*
- Ms. ElKholi – *Free Mountain*
- Mr. Irwin – *Renegades*
- Ms. LaBaw – *Click'd*
- Master Deputy Luna – *Warbreaker*
- Nurse Rodriguez – *Call the Midwife*
- Mrs. L. Lupo – *A Breath of Snow and Ashes*
- Mrs. Emery – *The Haunting of Hill House and School Leadership for Results*
- Mrs. Wilcox – *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*
- Mr. Aldrich – *End Game*
- Mr. Owens – *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*
- Mr. Gladden – *The Hate You Give*



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## 7th Grade ELA

During 2nd Quarter 7th graders have been busy examining author's point of view and analyzing different multimedia versions of texts. This quarter we also will analyze source transformations across mediums while reading about Nelson Mandela. We'll wrap up this quarter by comparing authors' arguments and write our own argumentative essays. Students should continue to read for homework every night. The next book project is due December 14, 2018.

## Leaders in Training is LIT!

Service Learning started our first ever Socktober! Gotha donated over 650 pairs of socks to go to a local homeless shelter. We also just wrapped up our Middle School Kindness Challenge at the end of October, as well as Red Ribbon Week. We are starting to learn more about civic responsibility in regards to voting and elections.



## Gotha is Grateful

Students in Ms. Corcino's classes took time to practice showing their appreciation for teachers and staff by writing notes of gratitude and kindness to them.



Satara Johnson and Kathleen Senators



Laser Mouden, Kadin Brooks, K'Emoi Brooks, and Jovani Santiago



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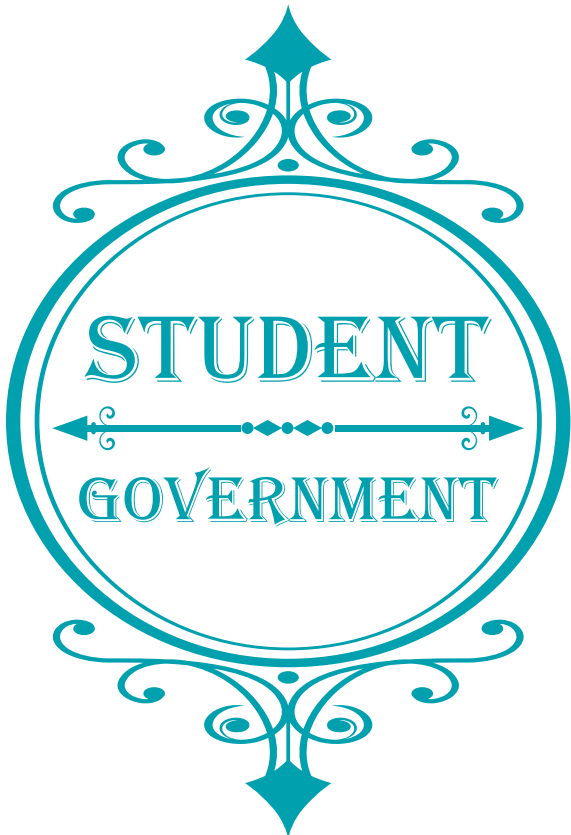
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### *Student Government*

Congratulations to the elected members of student government:

**6th grade Representatives:**

1. Abby Landman
2. Daymara Pabarue
3. Natalia Rivera

**6th grade Vice President: Sydney Gass**

**7th grade Representatives:**

1. Mackenzie Quinn
2. Maria Moraes Uchoa
3. Kathleen Senatus

**7th Grade Vice President: Hayden-Jay Smith**

**8th grade Representatives:**

1. Giovanni Braun
2. Myla Stewart
3. Yamphis Lopez- Duprey

**8th grade Vice President: Daniel Liu**

**2018-2019 Gotha Middle School Student Government President:**

**Kevan “Gage” Stewart**