



Gotha Growl

For the parents, students and community of Gotha Middle School

Gotha Activity Line Call:
407-521-2360
Press the number 6.

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.

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

Principal's Message

We would like to hold a series of Parent Academies this year to support the interests of our community. We understand that there may be initiatives you would like to better understand or questions you may have. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/GMSParentSurvey> to provide your feedback.

There is still time to join the Gotha Middle School PTO! We passed out PTO membership flyers in first period. Students can return the forms to their first period teacher or to the front desk. You can also go to <https://gothapto.ptboard.com/home>. You can also sign up for PTO reminders by texting @gothapto to 81010.

Please continue to remind your students to charge their devices every night. Additionally, please allow your students to bring their ear buds to school. Many teachers utilize videos as part of their instruction and we allow students to plug their ear buds into their devices in order to hear better.

Monica Emery
Principal

Follow us on Social Media to stay updated on what's going on at the school!

- Twitter: @gotha_ocps
- Facebook: Gotha Middle School
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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>

Four "MUST DO'S" for Parents to Assure Success in Middle School

1. **GET AND STAY CONNECTED.** Register and access our online parent access software, monitor your child's progress on a weekly basis and communicate with your child's teachers if you have questions, concerns, or if you'd like to request additional information regarding resources that may help your child master course standards. Be aware of what's happening in your student's school life and **TALK ABOUT IT.** Your interest and involvement has a tremendous effect on your student's performance and attitude at school.
2. **ESTABLISH A SOLID HOME STUDY ROUTINE.** Encouraging and supporting this vital activity will improve your student's attitude and performance at school and instill a work ethic that endures for a lifetime.
 - **SET A SCHEDULE.** Establish a regular timeslot for this important daily activity. Seek your child's agreement and commitment to reserve this time each day for homework and study. Encourage this discipline.
 - **CREATE THE ENVIRONMENT.** Students can be easily distracted. Teach them to create an atmosphere conducive for concentration. Minimizing social media access, loud music, and other detractors will improve effectiveness and retention. Having a defined study area works with some students but not all. The most important factor is the discipline of doing it every day. **OBSERVE AND ENGAGE.**
Psychologists suggest that it takes three weeks to break or establish a habit. Commit three weeks to assisting with your student's daily routine. Make good homework practices a habit for both of you.
3. **MAKE DAILY ATTENDANCE THE EXPECTATION:** Very few things have as much negative effect on academic performance as poor attendance. Be clear in your attitude towards attending school every day. In the working world, attendance is equated with dependability.
4. **ENCOURAGE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY:** Involvement in any of our many clubs, sports, and arts programs improves academic performance, attendance, and discipline issues. We have something for everyone. Participation in these activities enhances school life.

Academic Tidbits

Service Learning

We're participating in **Pepsi's Recycle Rally**, and in just three weeks have recorded 15 pounds of recycled Plastic #1, Plastic #2, and Aluminum! We are also working on our yearbook for the year; getting ready for Start with Hello week, working on random acts of kindness to share with the school, and we have tons of upcoming projects with Pinktober, Red Ribbon Week, Socktober, canned food drive, and so much more!

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are \$30 now, but prices will be going up! Students can bring money and their order form to Mrs. Miller in B105 or purchase online at www.jostensyearbooks.com.

Digital Learning

With our digital learning initiative fully rolled out, some students are finding themselves lost with productive software or web sources like Google Docs.

Key features of Google Docs

You can learn more about Google docs by typing this address into your address bar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6V_h43-BIY.

If your student has incurred damage fines for chargers or devices, please make those payments at **schoolpay.com** as soon as possible.



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Media Center News

Students have been to the media center twice with their Language Arts classes to learn about Destiny Discover which is accessed from Launch- Library Research Tools- Follett Destiny. Here they can search for books, view their accounts, read e-books, and more.

Our fall book fair was a great success. Thank you to all who supported it with purchases and volunteer time. This is how the media center funds our maker space supplies and materials.

The top 10 checked out titles between August 21st and September 21st are:

1.	<i>The Hunger Games</i>	Collins, Suzanne.
2.	<i>The Giver</i>	Lowry, Lois.
3.	<i>Click'd</i>	Stone, Tamara Ireland.
4.	<i>A Crack in the Sea</i>	Bouwman, H. M.
5.	<i>The First Rule of Punk</i>	Perez, Celia C.
6.	<i>The Girl Who Could Not Dream</i>	Durst, Sarah Beth.
7.	<i>The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora</i>	Cartaya, Pablo.
8.	<i>The Girl in the Well is Me</i>	Rivers, Karen.
9.	<i>How to (Almost) Ruin Your Summer</i>	Souders, Taryn.
10.	<i>I Even Funnier : a Middle School Story</i>	Patterson, James.

The top 5 library patrons for the month are:

1. Daniella F.- 42 checkouts
2. Benedict T- 29 checkouts
3. Giovanni B.- 17 checkouts
4. Shanti T. - 17 checkouts
5. Jada L- 15 checkouts



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8th Grade Social Studies

Mr. Aldrich, Ms. Godboldte-Hazzard, and Ms. Fleming would like to welcome you to the new school year. The colonies are slowly being formed by separatists who want to form their own churches and escape persecution in England. Jamestown (1607) has been formed and was saved by planting and selling tobacco. England has sent many more colonists over to settle in hopes for an economic advantage over the French and other European nations. The English settlers are battling the Native Americans for land whereas the French are befriending them and living among them. The Columbian Exchange is a huge help to all nations: Where would Italy be without the tomato? Where would Florida be without citrus? Where would we be without chocolate? The colonies are slowly starting to realize that the King of England is a brute and wanting to control everything they do. We will be discussing the causes of the Revolutionary War and the forming of our nation. Students will be reviewing primary and secondary sources to guide their thinking. We will also work with Document Based Questioning and involving our students in reading documents that will kick start their thinking process of how historical events have changed the way we live. Please check Progress Book and Canvas frequently for assignments. 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

7th Grade - Civics

The primary content for this course pertains to the principles, functions, and organization of government; the origins of the American political system; the roles, rights and responsibilities of United States citizens; and the methods of active participation in our political system. The course is embedded with strong geographic and economic components to support civic education instruction. Our first unit covered citizenship, students evaluated the roles rights and responsibilities of United States citizens. Our second unit was on influential people and historical documents, during which, students demonstrated an understanding of the origins and purposes of government, law, and the American political system. Up Next students will explore the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation.

6th Grade World History

Sixth grade World History is beginning the prehistory era and will finish the 1st quarter studying Ancient Mesopotamia. The standards that will be taught all fall under SS.6.W.2 which covers the emergence of early civilizations. We will be studying specific characteristics of these civilizations in order to compare and to relate to our world and culture as we know it today. Some great resources to help support your child as they are guided through these chapters are outlined below.

Resources:

A. YouTube videos...

1. "Mesopotamia from Nomads to Farmers"
2. "Development of Written Language"
3. Video series from Keith Hughes...
 - a. "Neolithic Revolution"
 - b. "Mesopotamia Explained"



B. Websites...

1. Hammurabi's Code Activities & Cuneiform Writing
 - http://www.phillipmartin.info/hammurabi/hammurabi_situation_index.htm
 - <http://www.penn.museum/cgi/cuneiform.php>





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8th Grade Language Arts

Thus far, students have been working on main idea, theme, text evidence, and plot in their 8th grade Language Arts class. We are working on strengthening their communication skills through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. You can help this process at home by encouraging your child to read anything that they are interested in (magazines, graphic novels, short stories, poetry, books, nonfiction, newspaper articles) and by asking them to explain their reasoning for things that they do around the house. This year, all 8th grade students are expected to read for 20 minutes per night in a novel for homework. The expectation is they will read two books per quarter and complete homework activities. Being able to read critically is the key to success in ALL other subjects.

If you have a reluctant reader at home, you can encourage them to read by reading yourself. Have your child choose a book and both of you read the book together and talk about it or you can set up a reading time for the family to unplug from electronics and all sit down to read at the same time.

7th Grade Language Arts

Students in 7th grade language arts have been learning about central idea, theme, and using evidence to support their responses. They've begun analyzing plot element interactions and making connections in the text. To wrap up first quarter, we will analyze text for author's craft and structure in literature and informational texts. Students have completed their first novel and book project and we hope to continue seeing a love for reading!

6th Grade Language Arts

In 6th grade ELA, students have jumped into our new reading homework with both feet! Students have read their first book and completed a reading journal as they read. Many students have completed a book project in the form of a poster, a movie trailer, or a diorama. A number of their projects are on display in our media center. 6th grade students have chosen their second book of the nine weeks and are reading and completing their reading journals. 6th grade ELA teachers are looking forward to more great projects at the end of the nine weeks!



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Science

Sixth Grade Scientists in action! Life Science participated in the labs The Great Butterfly Hunt, Marshmallow Challenge, and an ESCAPE Room challenge. These labs and activities demonstrated the aspect of the Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection. In Comprehensive Science our scientists discovered the effect of forces as a result from an object's interaction with another object. Science RULES!!!!



News from Fine Arts

Art

Two 8th grade students won "honorable mention" in the Global Peace Art Contest. Congratulations to Catherine Perry, and Brian Willis.

Choir

Choir is performing the National Anthem for the Orlando Magic Game on October 12th. Concert choir is performing in a concert with Olympia on Oct. 11.

The following students passed the first two portions of the All-State Choir Audition and will complete the final audition on October 20th at Freedom High School.

- Anthony Teter
- Jonas Dahlman
- Andrew Green
- Jayden Little
- Alzira McNeil
- Emma Dunagan
- Jahnia Underwood



The Winter Musical Annie Jr. is in rehearsals and will be performed on Dec. 6th & 7th at 6:30 p.m. and Dec. 8th at 2:00p.m.