

Eagle Express



Volume XVII • Issue 1

APRIL 2022

From the Principal

Dear Eagle Families,

We are having a successful school year! We are committed to our school mission to provide a learning environment that addresses the academic needs of your child. The mission of Greenwood Lakes Middle School is to ensure that all students acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be productive citizens.

Along with teaching the curriculum, we are also preparing your child for the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA). These paper and computer-based assessments will begin April 4th & 5th with FSA Writing and continue May 2nd through May 16th. Specific grade level information and dates was sent out through Skyward Family Access and posted on our Greenwood Lakes Middle School calendar. Visit www.greenwoodlakes.scps.k12.fl.us for more details. Remember to update both your email and phone numbers in Skyward Family Access. You can do this at home by simply logging into and updating your contact information.

We encourage you to check out the types of questions your child will be asked to answer on these rigorous assessments. You can do this by going to <http://fsassessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/>. You will then click "Take the Computer-Based Practice Tests", click "Sign In" (no need to change the Guest log in information), select the grade level and click "Yes", and then select the Student Practice Test you would like to take. All students will participate in a refresher of the FSA testing computer skills prior to the test. We appreciate any time you can devote to you and your students understanding of the FSA.

We have many great activities coming up in the second half of the year. We encourage all families to become involved by attending parent/teacher conferences. Our 8th Graders are looking forward to Field Day, Dance, and Grade Awards Night. 8th Grade Field Day will be on Friday, May 20th after lunch. 8th Grade Dance will be that evening from 6 – 9 pm. These events are for 8th Graders only and a privilege. Permission forms went home in December and need to be returned back to Ms. Waller, Administrative Dean in order to participate. Students need to see Ms. Waller if they need another form. 8th Grade Awards Night will be Tuesday, May 17th at 6:00pm in the Gym. 6th and 7th Graders Award Celebration will occur the week of May 17th virtually and on the announcements. Don't forget Semester Exams start Friday, May 20th and continue during Early Release Days May 23rd, 24th, and 25th.

We believe that our students can do anything they wish to do and can be anything they wish to be. We want to provide hope and encouragement to all students to dream big and go after their dreams. If there is anything we can do to help your child, please do not hesitate to contact us.

As Always, Let's SOAR Eagles!

Breezi Erickson
Principal

Administration

Mrs. Breezi Erickson, Principal

Mr. Rendon Fletcher, Assistant Principal
Ms. Jacqueline Wick, Assistant Principal

Mr. Evan Sokolowsky
School Administration Manager (S.A.M.)

Ms. Latasha Smith, Dean of Students
Ms. Megan Waller, Dean of Students

Ms. Cherish Beacham, Guidance Counselor
Mrs. Kimberly Longarzo, Guidance Counselor

Office Telephone
407-320-7650



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<http://academypublishing.com/schools/greenwoodlakes/greenwoodlakes.php>

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April 2022

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Greenwood Lakes Middle School
601 Lake Park Drive
Lake Mary, FL 32746
Issue # 1

Mission Statement

The mission of Greenwood Lakes Middle School is to ensure that all students acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be productive citizens.

The Office of Student Services

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost over! Testing season will commence on April 4th with FSA Writes for our 7th graders and will continue April 5th for our 6th and 8th grade students. All other standardized tests will be administered in May. Please share the following helpful testing tips with your student:

- Get plenty of rest the night before the test. Limit screen time before bed and be sure to get at least 7 hours of sleep.
- Eat a healthy, protein-rich breakfast the morning of the test. Eggs, yogurt, or cottage cheese are great options that will keep a student full for the majority of the morning.
- Don't stress! Students should absolutely want to do their best on an assessment, but endlessly worrying about the outcome is not going to help the situation. Use a calming strategy such as counting to ten, deep breathing or guided imagery. There are several websites that have different techniques that can be helpful in a testing environment.

Looking for extra practice for the FSA? Students who are currently enrolled in an Intensive Math or Reading class may access i-Ready from home as well as at school. This is a specially designed progress monitoring program

that teaches and reinforces important concepts that are presented on the FSA. If a student is not enrolled in an Intensive course but would like extra practice, please visit the Assessments page on the Florida Department of Education's website. There are several grade level practice tests that are helpful to students and parents.

Both school counselors met with all current 6th and 7th grade students in March to review registration cards for the 2022-2023 school year. All course requests have been entered and the administrative team is in the beginning stages of developing the master schedule for the next school year. Please note that the schedule is based upon the students' course requests during this preliminary registration time and it can be very difficult to change a student's schedule in the fall. Any student who scores a Level 1 on the 2022 Math FSA and/or a Level 1 or Level 2 on the 2022 Reading FSA will be enrolled in Intensive Math and/or Intensive Reading coursework for next year.

Please be sure to remind your 8th grade student to complete their high school registration for the 2022-2023 school year. Students may visit their high school's website or see Ms. Beacham for more information regarding the high school registration process.

If you have any questions or concerns about student schedules or the FSA, please reach out to your student's School Counselor.

Cherish Beacham
beachaco@scps.k12.fl.us

Last names A-L

Kimberly Longarzo
Kimberly_longarzo@scps.k12.fl.us

Last names M-Z

Yearbook

Happy Spring Eagles! I hope everyone had a delightful and restful spring break and are ready to kick it into high gear for the testing season. The yearbook is COMPLETED! The ALTAIR staff has worked so hard this year to give you all a product that we are proud of and that you will be excited to purchase and relive all of your memories from this school year. If you have not yet purchased your yearbook, I'm excited to offer Eagle Express readers an exclusive coupon, use code "Eaglexpress" for \$5 off! Head to <http://www.yearbookforever.com> to purchase yours today! **WE HAVE LESS THAN 100 LEFT!** Grab yours today before they're gone forever!



PTSA

GLMS Parent • Teacher • Student • Association
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PBS

Happy Spring SOARing Eagles! We hope you are all ready for a productive 4th Nine Weeks!

The Nest, our PBS school store, is open during Wednesday lunches. Students love using the SOAR bucks they earned from their teachers to spend at the store. We are always accepting monetary or item donations! Items such as school supplies, headphones, phone cases, and pop sockets are in high demand!

As the weather warms up please remind your student of the school dress code. Warmer weather means hats and hoods are not needed! Shorts, skirts, and dresses should be mid-thigh in length or longer, and any rips/tears in jeans should be mid-thigh or below. Belts work wonders in ensuring pants are at the waist and finally, save the crop tops for the weekend! Shirts should fully cover midriffs and back at all times.

We wish all of our students the BEST of luck during their FSA's which are quickly approaching.

And As Always, Let's SOAR Eagles!

Your GLMS Deans,
Megan Waller and Latasha Smith



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Testing Dates: FSA & EOC

Please mark your calendars with our Spring testing dates! All testing sessions will begin promptly at 9:20AM on the following days:

FSA Writing:

7th Grade: April 4

6th and 8th Grade: April 5

FSA Reading:

6th Grade: May 2 (Session 1) and May 3 (Session 2)

7th Grade: May 2 (Session 1) and May 3 (Session 2)

8th Grade: May 5 (Session 1) and May 6 (Session 2)

FSA Math:

6th Grade: May 5 (Session 1) and May 6 (Session 2/3)

7th Grade: May 9 (Session 1) and May 10 (Session 2/3)

8th Grade: May 12 (Session 1) and May 13 (Session 2/3)

Algebra EOC & Geometry EOC: May 12 (Session 1) and May 13 (Session 2)

Science:

8th Grade: May 11

Civics EOC:

7th Grade: May 16

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GLMS Events Update

Stay updated on GLMS events... visit the GLMS webpage and click on the Events tab.
<http://www.greenwoodlakes.scps.k12.fl.us/>

Band

We had a record number of GLMS participants in the annual District Solo & Ensemble event on February 25th and 26th. Please congratulate the following students that received a SUPERIOR rating on their solos: Kaytlin MClay, Angelo Montero Rodriguez, Thomas Youssef, Ben Pham, Annie Weng, James MClay, Hailey Silva, Garrett Fineberg, Claire Bachman, Ailany Rodarte, Jace Ingalls, Kamila Narvaez, Jada Thompson, Christian Zuluaga, Isabel Siple Ramirez, Denaly Ortiz Gomez, Jacob Atwell, Julian Hernandez, Tanner Sarafian, Jefferson Hernandez-Cax, Elizabeth Sierra, Natalie Sullivan, Sarah Williams, and Asher Hudock!!

Our Symphonic Band will be performing at their first MPA on **April 7th** - please wish them luck! They have been working hard on their three pieces and have worked with numerous guest clinicians in preparation for the assessment! Our Spring Concert is scheduled for **Thursday, May 5th at 6PM**. Mark your calendars - this is going to be a fantastic showcase!

Title I

Parents, please visit the GLMS webpage for information on Family Engagement activities, district Parental Involvement opportunities, Florida School grades, and other Title I information. You can also visit the front office to review the Title I Binder which contains the School Improvement Plan (SIP), the Parental Family Engagement Plan (PFEP), the School-Parent Compact, School Report Card, and the Parents' Right to Know.

Be sure to check out the updated Title I Parent and Family Engagement website at www.scps.us/family for information on the Family Resource Center, school-home partnerships, and upcoming family workshops!

State Certified and Licensed Teachers and Paraprofessionals

All Title I schools are required to employ only state certified and licensed teachers and instructional paraprofessionals. If at any time your child is taught by a non-state certified teacher, your school will notify you. In addition, you have the right to:

- *Request whether your child's teacher(s) and/or paraprofessional(s) meet the state certification requirements for the grade levels and subject areas in which they provide instruction.*
- *Request whether a teacher and/or paraprofessional is teaching under emergency or other provisional status where state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.*
- *Request information on the baccalaureate degree major of a teacher and/or paraprofessional and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher and/or paraprofessional, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.*

Art

It's already March, which means Spring Break is right around the corner...along with the 4th and final quarter of the school year. This also means it is art exhibition season. Lake Mary Heathrow Festival of the Arts just happened this past weekend, but the Seminole Town Center show will be coming soon. Please come out to view the artistic creations of all of the SCPS art programs. On another note, GLMS is proud to announce Noah Foster won the Grand Prize in the 2022 Red Ribbon Poster Contest. You can see her artwork on the back window of our campus officer's Police cruiser. Congratulations again Noah, on a fantastic job. Everybody be well and have a great remainder of the school year.

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Social Studies

Our 6th Grade World History classes have been working hard the past week to prepare for their Quarter 3 C9A Exams. From study guides, review games, to Inside-Outside circle partner quiz strategies in order to be experts on their units on the Israelites, Ancient Greece, and the Roman Republic.

Upon returning from Spring Break, students will continue their journey on Ancient Rome by studying the causes and effects that changed the Roman Republic into the Roman Empire. They will examine the role of the Roman Empire's effect on the world. From there, students will wrap up the quarter and school year by examining some of the Mesoamerican civilizations that shaped and influenced the world today.

7th grade Civics is working hard on wrapping up their final units of study before the EOC in May. For this upcoming quarter the students will be focusing on Forms and Systems of Government, Foreign and Domestic policies, and State and Local Government.

This year's EOC is scheduled to take place on May 16, 2022. The Civics teachers will send out an updated study plan for all Civics students when it gets closer to the EOC date so that all students will get the chance to review and prepare successfully for their EOC. The EOC (End of Course Exam) consists of 52-56 multiple choice questions. The students will have 160 minutes to complete their exam, and in order to

pass the EOC the students must receive a Level 3 or higher.

The 8th grade students are in the home-stretch of their year in U.S. History. The students just finished examining the differences between the North and the South, and how the Industrial Revolution led to a larger political divide between regions.

Once students return from Spring Break they will first be examining how the North and the South continued to stretch apart with their interpretations of the Constitution. The final few units your student will be studying will include the Civil War and the Reconstruction Era. The students will continue to compare and contrast specifically looking at the Union and the Confederacy; the students will examine and describe how the battles shaped the United States history, and determine how Abraham Lincoln set the release of Slaves into motion. They will continue to work in groups, on projects, and individually to assess and process all new information given to them this quarter.

Also, the United States History team would like to give a special shout out to the students who participated in the County History Fair. Please congratulate the following students on their hard work and dedication: Emma Depaolo - Exhibit, Taylor Snyder - Exhibit and Armani Hoyle - Documentary. The Social Studies department, Administration, and GLMS staff are very proud of you!

Reading Department

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Reading department is working diligently on developing and delivering high quality reading strategy instruction, which will give your students the tools necessary to be successful in their other courses and on the upcoming FSA tests. The teachers are working with intervention groups to help identify students who need extra help with their I-Ready lessons. I-Ready targets students' reading gaps and provides individualized instruction to help them reach grade level proficiency. All three grade levels are working on completing these lessons in class weekly. Students are expected to complete 45 minutes a week on I-Ready and score at least a 75% or more on their lesson(s). Classroom time has been set aside to allow the students enough time to complete their required minutes each week. Students work with their teachers to track their data and progress on the lessons. Ask them about it! If your student is absent, please have them work on their I-Ready lessons at home, when possible. This instruction is aligned with what students will see on their upcoming ELA FSA test and is a great way you can help students practice at home.

6th grade participated in Seminole County's "Read to Lead" program. Seven of our 6th grade students have been meeting weekly with Ms. Dehner in order to read the novel "The Unteachables." Through reading and discussion, the students gained practice with reading strategies and worked as a team to analyze text. The students had to answer comprehension questions about the novel against teams from other Seminole middle schools in a competition on March 29th. They represented Greenwood Lakes well and we are proud of their effort!

We greatly encourage you to have your students read for 20 minutes each night. Reading 20 minutes nightly helps build reading stamina which students will find helpful on lengthy FSA reading passages. Students can read novels, magazines, recipes, comics or even instruction manuals. Be creative! Whenever possible, have your students share a summary of what they read with you and engage in a dialogue about the ideas in the text they are reading. It is proven that independent reading helps build vocabulary skills. Overall, reading outside of school is a benefit to everyone. Let's read!



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Science

Grade 6 Science students are exploring outer space! Students compare and contrast the properties of objects in the Solar System including the Sun, planets, and moons to those of Earth, such as gravitational force, distance from the Sun, speed, movement, temperature, and atmospheric conditions. Students will also explore mechanics utilizing specific physics boxes that are sure to pack a lot of fun!

Grade 7 Science students are exploring how every organism requires a set of instructions that specifies its traits and that this hereditary information (DNA) contains genes located in the chromosomes of each cell. In May, students will participate in the comprehensive health unit that covers topics related to Family Health and Life. A notice from administration with further details will be sent to students and their families.

Grade 8 Science students, fresh off frog dissections, are exploring body system interactions. Students will learn how different body systems interact to maintain homeostasis to support life. Afterwards, focus will shift to reviewing all middle school science material to prepare for the Standardized Science Assessment (SSA) which takes place on Wednesday, May 11th. We encourage families to help students by studying key vocabulary terms (as found in their science notebooks) and to continue working hard in class.

English Language Arts

6th: In 6th grade we are currently preparing for the FSA Reading & Writing. At home students can go to <https://fsassessments.org/> and practice writing. They can also take one of the practice reading tests and utilize what we learned in class. These skills include process of elimination and going back in the text to check answers.


7th: It is hard to believe testing season is already here! We will be working diligently to prepare students for success on these exams. The writing assessment will be at the beginning of April, and the reading test at the beginning of May. Students can prepare for these tests by practicing reading skills and strategies. Students can also take some of the practice tests offered by the FSA at fsassessments.org. After testing, we will be focusing on Greek Mythology which is a favorite for our students! We will dive into the Greek legends of Arachne, Theseus and the Minotaur, and the flight of Icarus to see how the lessons told from these myths can apply to our own everyday lives today.

8th: Hello Eagle Families! It's hard to believe that we have made it to Quarter 4! We are so excited for all of the exciting end-of-the-year activities for our 8th grade students! Please reach out to your student's ELA teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

We have a very busy quarter ahead of us! We will be getting ready for FSA Writing that is on Tuesday, April 5th! Students have now taken the WriteScore Assessment twice this year and have been working hard to continue to improve their writing skills. Following the FSA Writing students will be taking the FSA Reading on Thursday, May 5th - Cinco de Mayo!

We are so proud of our 8th-grade students and cannot wait to see all of their hard work pay off! The end of the school year is always bittersweet, and we are so excited to end this year with such a great group of students. We hope that the 8th grade class will continue to work hard and be successful in all that they do throughout these next four years in high school. We cannot wait to see everything that they will accomplish.

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Math

6th Grade Standard:

We will be learning about statistics involving measures of center and variability, histograms, dot plots, and box plots. We will begin studying for the FSA at bellwork time by working through a packet which addresses the previous standards learned throughout the year. Students will be taking their FSA Math exam on Thursday, May 6th and Friday, May 7th.

6th Grade Advanced:

Students have recently finished up learning the 6th grade standards that will be tested on the FSA assessment on May 6th and 7th. Prior to the FSA, students will be reviewing and revisiting concepts that they have learned this year. We will finish off the year by making connections to standards that they will be exposed to in 7th grade.

6th Grade GEMS:

Students will be revisiting standards that they learned through the virtual bridge assignments to prepare for the 6th grade FSA math exam on May 6th and 7th. To wrap up the school year, students will investigate exponents, roots, systems of linear equations and multi-step equations. The study of these 7th and 8th grade standards will prepare them to successfully transition into Algebra 1 Honors next school year.

7th Grade Standard & Advanced:

Students are finishing up the year with geometry, sampling, simulations, and statistics and then we will work on reviewing the 7th-grade math standards for the upcoming FSA. We would like to encourage families to work with their Eagles on integer operations, one and two-step equations, and multiplication facts.

Pre-Algebra:

In Pre-Algebra, students are currently working on Transformations, including translations, reflections, and rotations. We are rapidly approaching the end of the school year and the Pre-Algebra FSA exam! The FSA exam will take place on May 12th and 13th. Please note that previous material covered during the first three quarters represent 82% of the students' FSA test!! We will be reviewing past material in class, but additional practice at home will be extremely important to your child's success on the FSA. As such, we strongly encourage that students review their notes

outside of class and practice on Khan Academy and through use of the Pre-Algebra Standards Based Support Course on e-Campus, with an emphasis placed on linear equations, solving multi-step equations, and functions. All notes from class are posted on e-Campus as well in case your student lost their notebook or left it at school! Please encourage your student to finish strong and to persevere to do well on the FSA! We've got this!!!

Algebra:

Algebra I students have been looking at quadratic functions in detail for some time. This topic is a heavy EOC concept, and it's important for students to not only be able to solve but to also interpret the meaning of their solutions within real-world context. Students currently are exploring exponential functions, the last of the three families of functions we will study this year (linear, quadratic, and exponential), as well as learning how to identify and compare these functions. We will differentiate and compare the functions when given through equations, tables, graphs, or verbal descriptions. The EOC is being administered on May 12th and 13th. Passing the Algebra I EOC is a requirement to graduate high school, so we highly encourage students start reviewing their notes from throughout the year as we get closer to May. All notes are posted on e-Campus as well. We will be spiral reviewing through Bellwork in class, but students need to take ownership of their learning and practice at home in order to be most successful! We will send out information on holding additional practice to prepare for the exam as it approaches!

Geometry:

Students have been working diligently with similar triangles and trigonometric ratios. During the 4th quarter, we will investigate the properties of circles in a plane and on a coordinate grid. We will wrap up with spatial reasoning and looking at formulas such as volume and circumference before the EOC. We will spend a lot of time in class covering what we've learned in preparation for the EOC. The EOC will be administered May 12 and 13.

We would like to stress the importance of practicing math skills daily especially multiplication and solving equations. These skills are building blocks and set the foundation for future math classes.



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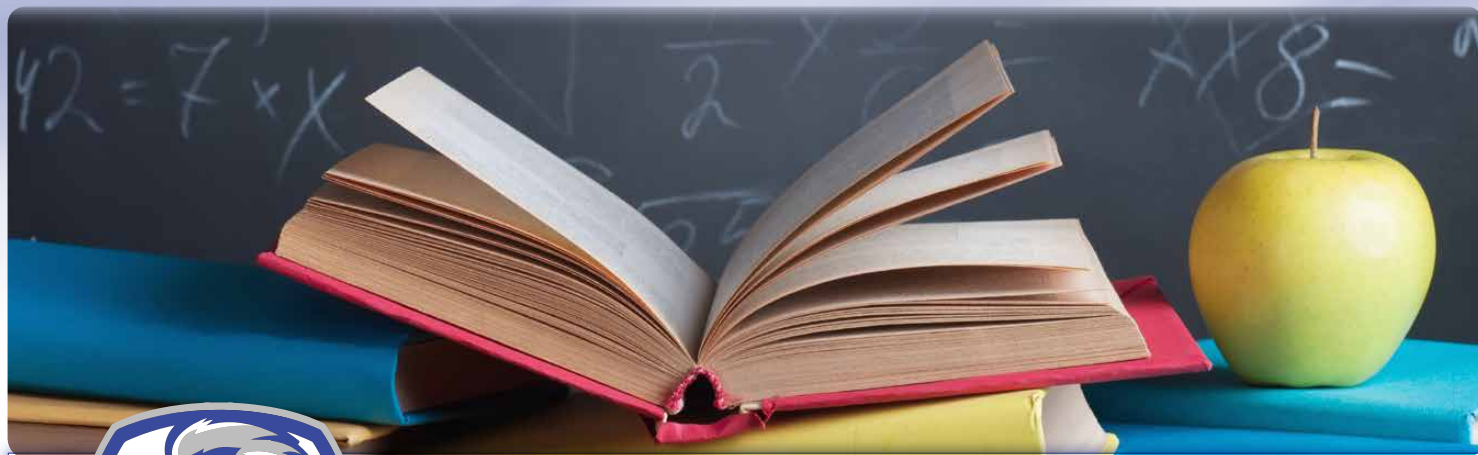


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