

# Eagle Express



Volume XVIII • Issue 1  
**MARCH 2023**

## Administration

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'EAGLE EXPRESS'  
March 2023

Published Six Times Per Year  
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.

## From the Principal

Dear Eagle Families,

We are having a successful school year! We are committed to our school's 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 Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and End of Course Exams (EOCs). These paper-based and computer-based assessments will begin April 17th -20th with Writing and continue May 1st – 11th. Specific grade level information and dates are located in this newsletter, will be sent out through Skyward Family Access, and posted on our Greenwood Lakes Middle School calendar. Visit [www.greenwoodlakes.scps.k12.fl.us](http://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 Skyward and updating your contact information. We encourage you to check out the many state FAST resources by going to <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/>.

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 Gradventure, the 8th grade Dance, and 8th Grade Awards Night. Gradventure will be on Friday, May 12th. The 8th Grade Dance will be Friday, May 19th from 6 pm – 9 pm. These events are for 8th Graders only and a privilege. Permission forms went home in December and need to be returned to Ms. Smith, Administrative Dean to participate. Students need to see Ms. Smith if they need another form. 8th Grade Awards Night will be Tuesday, May 16th at 6:00pm in the Gym. Don't forget Semester Exams start Monday, May 22nd and continue during Early Release Days on 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

## ELA

**6th Grade:**

Hello parents and students! Wow, time flew by and sadly, 6th grade is coming to an end. As we enter Quarter 4, let's prepare our upcoming 7th graders for the road that lies ahead.

*What does this semester look like? What should we expect?*

Quarter 4 is **busy**, plain and simple. Students should expect final exams, adjusted bell schedules, and unit quizzes as we wrap things up. Expectations are at their highest so preparedness, positive behavior, and effort are expected at all times. There is no time to slack in Quarter 4, so irresponsible misbehavior will not be tolerated.

*Quarter 4 contains a final exam, how can I help my student prepare?*

As for preparing for the test, there are excellent resources located in the Q3 Week 9 module on Ecampus. Studying these will definitely put your student on the road to success. While we often review in class, if a study guide is available, then it will be provided to students in advance. Also, while Write Score is over, let's not stop supporting our students in reading. A good reader becomes a great writer. Athletes do not learn their sport through a mass of lectures; they watch the greats and participate. A student who reads will see how good writing should be structured and subconsciously mimic said writing in the classroom. We both have a classroom library and encourage students to check out books in their free time. The public library is also a great place to pick up a few books as students find what type interests them. **Let's get our students reading!**

Quarter 4 is the "wrap-up" quarter. With the end of the year around the corner, we understand that students are exhausted, but this is no time to lose effort. We must encourage students to push harder now than before and support them along the way. Let's make the road to summer a successful and productive one!

-Mr. Shank & Mrs. Davis

**7th Grade:**

Hi Eagle Families,

We can't believe that we have made it to the fourth quarter already! The seventh graders have been working so hard this year. Our newest unit, Moment of Truth, will work to answer the question "How can one event

change everything?". We will be working through skills such as vocabulary, figurative language, paraphrasing and summarizing, and analyzing an author's argument.

Once we finish this unit, we will go on to our next unit, Test of Time.

This will be an exciting unit that answers the question "Why do we still read myths and folktales?". This will be an exciting unit, as we will be reading an excerpt from "The Hunger Games." Students will also find this unit to be engaging, as it includes Mythology, which many students have been waiting for!

We are looking forward to finishing this year strong!

**8th Grade:**

Happy Spring Eagles! We hope you enjoyed your Spring Break!

Eighth Grade English Language Arts is continuing to explore our Unit 4 essential question: how do you choose the right words? Choosing the right words can have a strong effect on an audience. But how do you know which words are the right words? With a genre focus on argumentative texts, this unit prepares students to explore questions about how authors choose the right words. Some of history's greatest wordsmiths are represented in this unit. Iconic speeches by Abraham Lincoln and Sojourner Truth show students how the right words can inspire and challenge a diverse audience.

Our next unit, Trying Times, will address the essential question: who are you in a crisis? In this unit we will read texts about World War II, which was a time of crisis for many different groups of people. Some faced danger head-on in the battlefields, oceans, and skies. Others, including Anne Frank and Elie Wiesel, found themselves in a different kind of danger. These people and millions of others like them were targets of extreme prejudice. The war changed everything about their lives. Many, like Anne Frank, did not live to tell the tale. Yet, their stories survive. With a genre focus on drama, this unit helps students to understand how times of crisis affect people.



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## Math

### 6th Grade Standard:

Students will be learning about statistics and how to use the data to analyze real-world situations. Students will be learning about mean, median, mode, range, Lower Quartile, Upper Quartile, Interquartile Range, box plots, histograms and line plots. Students will then transition to learning algebraic skills such as variables, coefficients, expressions, constants and equations. Students will be learning how to write and solve equations, which sets up the foundation for Algebra.

### 6th Grade Advanced:

Students will be furthering their understanding on how to evaluate expressions containing rational numbers (fractions, decimals and whole numbers). Students will then transition to learning algebraic skills such as variables, coefficients, expressions, constants and equations. Students will be learning how to write and solve equations, which sets up the foundation for Algebra.

### 7th Grade Accelerated/Ramp 6:

Students will continue to learn about functions, solving equations and simplifying expressions containing rational numbers. Students will transition to learning about probability, comparing 2 populations and finally scatter plots with bivariate data.

### Pre-Algebra:

In Pre-Algebra, students will start the geometry and statistics units. We are rapidly approaching the end of the school year and the Pre-Algebra FAST exam! We will be reviewing past material in class, but additional practice at home will be extremely important to your child's success on the FAST. 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 workbook.

### 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 two-variable statistics as well as learning how to identify and compare a variety of functions as we look at exponential functions, the last of the three families of functions we study this year. We will differentiate and compare the functions when given as equations, tables, graphs, or verbal descriptions.

### 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.

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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 10th. We encourage families to help students by studying key vocabulary terms (as found in their science notebooks) and to continue working hard in class. Make sure to check your student's Skyward and Canvas sites to keep track of missing assignments.

## Social Studies

### Hello to our 6th Grade families!

We hope you have been doing well. We ended our third quarter with the Roman Empire and will begin to discuss its decline at the beginning of the 4th Quarter. After we finish up with Rome, we will learn about Christianity and the ancient civilizations from the Americas. The students will learn more about the Mayan, Inca, and the Aztec people. The year will end with the students completing an extra special project where they will create their own civilization. We are almost there 6th grade, keep up the hard work!

### Greetings 7th Grade Eagle Families!

Our 7th grade Civics Eagles are working hard on wrapping up their final units of study before their End of Course (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 10, 2023. 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 consists of 52-56 multiple choice questions. The students will have 160 minutes to complete their exam, and to pass the EOC the students must receive a 3 or higher. Together we ensure that our Eagles are more than ready to tackle this assessment.

### Hello 8th Grade U.S. History Families!

The 8th grade students are in the homestretch of their year in U.S History. In Quarter 3 they finished examining the differences between the North and the South, and how the Industrial Revolution led to a larger political divide between regions.

As we continue our journey through the last quarter of the school year, we will first examine 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 also 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.



## **We Need You** to bring this newsletter to press

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## Reading

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 FAST assessments. The teachers are working with intervention groups to help provide support to students who need extra help with their I-Ready lessons. Additionally, they are collaborating with their students' ELA teachers to help support the content being taught in ELA.

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 FAST assessment 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!

## PBS

Our PBS team is looking for donations to help supply our school store, The Eagle's Nest, with supplies, snacks, and other items of interest that appeal to middle school students. We open our school store on Wednesdays and students can buy items with SOAR bucks that they earned in class for good behavior. One of the most requested items is individually wrapped snacks such as chips, candy bars, and especially Takis. If you would like to help support positive behavior on campus, we are taking donations through the My School Bucks QR Code link listed below. We are also accepting items that are brought into the school by parents and students. If you drop off items, please make sure that it is labeled PBS.

Thank you for your continued support,

Greenwood Lakes Middle School Positive Behavior Team



## 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](http://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.



## 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/>

## Quarter 3 Grades

Third Quarter Grades have been finalized and posted to Skyward Family Access under Q3. GLMS will no longer be printing paper copies of Progress Reports and Report Cards but paper copies can be picked up in the front office upon request. Please contact the front office in advance if you need a paper copy and Mrs. Smith and/or Ms. Haynes will schedule a time for pick up.



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## Message from PTSA

### WORK FROM HOME VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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- ✓ Google Calendar - Input event information, maintain accuracy of data
- ✓ Excel Files - Input contact information, maintain several spreadsheets
- ✓ Digital Media Catalog - Mark and catalog digital media and flyers
- ✓ Invoice Tracking - Organize and file event contracts, online orders



If you are interested in helping with any of the items listed above please reach out to us! Each of these areas of interest require knowledge of google drive and google platforms.

724-581-8843 [www.GLMSptsa.com/volunteer](http://www.GLMSptsa.com/volunteer)  
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## Art

Welcome to Spring...Art Exhibition Season!!! Lake Mary/Heathrow Festival of the Arts just passed, but the Seminole Town Center Show should be right around the corner. We love showing student art because we get to show off their talents to the community. Keep your ears and eyes open for additional information in community.

Sign up and join the Art Club on Thursdays, to be around a bunch of other like-minded students. It's always a good time. Stop by my classroom for a Sign-Up Form. I look forward to seeing any new members. Until then... Enjoy the Spring Season.

## Student Services

Greetings Eagle Families!

We are gearing up for the last push of the school year! Yes, we only have one more quarter left of this school year...let's finish strong!!!!!!

Testing season is upon us. Here are some helpful hints for students as we prepare:

- Get plenty of rest the night before any 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.

For our 8th grade families, please be sure that you have completed your registration for high school. Registration and course selection information for most school high schools went out in February and has already come due. You can go to their high school's website for more information about the registration process!

Both school counselors met with all current 6th and 7th grade students in February to review registration cards for the 2023-2024 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 2023 Math FAST and/or a Level 1 or Level 2 on the 2023 Reading FAST will be enrolled in Intensive Math and/or Intensive Reading coursework for next year (the Intensive class is one full credit and takes the place of 1 full credit elective or two half credit electives).

### **Cherish Beacham**

Counselor for all students with last names beginning with letters A-L

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### **Maryann Suarez**

Counselor for all students with last names beginning with the letters M-Z

[suarezmz2@scps.k12.fl.us](mailto:suarezmz2@scps.k12.fl.us)

## We need spots filled...



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## Cheerleading

A BIG Thank You to the Lyman High School Cheerleaders who have come to Greenwood to help our cheerleaders every practice! They have taught them new cheers, dances and stunting safety.

The GLMS Cheerleaders are excited for the season to start!

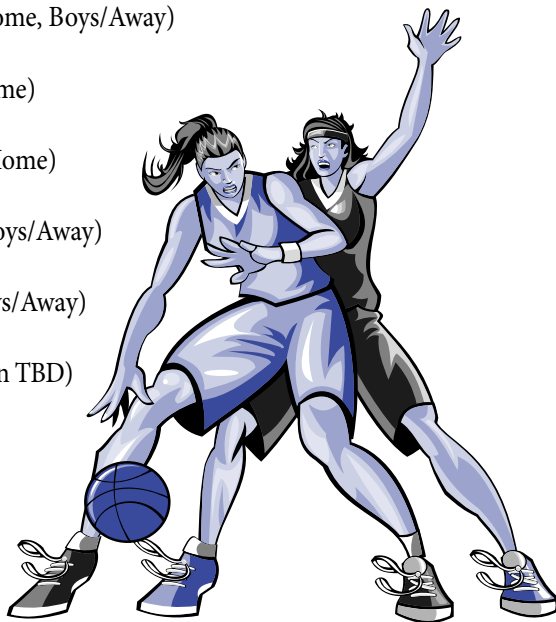
*Let's Go Eagles!*



## Basketball

Come out to support your SOARing Eagles!! The basketball season is now underway:

- March 29: Markham Woods (Girls/Home, Boys/Away)
- April 5: Teague (Girls/Away, Boys/Home)
- April 12: Sanford (Girls/Away, Boys/Home)
- April 19: Millennium (Girls/Home, Boys/Away)
- April 26: Rock Lake (Girls/Home, Boys/Away)
- April 29: Tournament @ 8 AM (Location TBD)
- May 1: Final 4 (TBD)
- May 3: Finals (TBD)





### We need your help

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## Yearbook

Welcome back and I hope everyone had a fantastic Spring Break! The yearbook is officially done and submitted to the printers, wahoo! Distribution will take place the week of May 15th . Additional information regarding distribution will be communicated via Skyward and all of the school's social media channels during the last half of April- so be sure to keep a look out for that.

This book is our most ambitious yet. It is the largest book (140 pages) that the school has ever produced, as well as the most vibrant- it's very colorful! I want to take a moment and thank all the faculty and staff at GLMS for their patience while my yearbook staff constantly entered their rooms, pulled kids, interviewed, took photos, etc. Each and every kid in the yearbook class contributed to the book in some way, and they can't wait to show it off. I'd also like to thank all of the 8th grade parents who purchased a recognition ad this year. In what seemed like an impossible task, we unbelievably sold MORE ads than we did last year!

We really can't wait for this book to be in all of your hands soon!

## FAST Assessments and EOC Testing Schedule

Please mark your calendars with our Spring testing dates! All testing sessions will begin promptly at 9:30 AM on the following days:

**FAST Writing Field Test:** One 120 Minute Session

- 6th Grade: April 17
- 7th Grade: April 18
- 8th Grade: April 20

**FAST Reading:** One 120 Minute Session

- 6th Grade: May 1
- 7th Grade: May 2
- 8th Grade: May 4

**FAST Math:** One 120 Minute Session

- 6th Grade: May 8
- 7th Grade: May 9
- 8th Grade: May 11

**End of Course Exams (EOC):**

- 7th Grade Civics: May 10 (160 Minutes)
- 8th Grade Science: May 10 (160 Minutes)
- Algebra I: May 11 (160 Minutes)
- Geometry: May 11 (160 Minutes)

