

From the Principal

Dear Eagle Parents:

I look forward to this new school year full of hope and promise that each and every child will be a successful and productive member of the GLMS family. Through SOAR Time all students learned their 2021 FSA Math and ELA data, set goals, and developed action steps to reach those goals. These goals were recorded on page 2 of student planners under My SOARing Story. I encourage every family to ask their student(s) to share their SOARing Story. In order to maximize student learning all stakeholders (students, teachers, & families) need to understand and be accountable for their students learning. As educators, teachers and staff will need your help and partnership as parents to ensure all students learning is maximized. Children benefit greatly when parents/guardians take an active role in their child's education. It has been proven that when students have parental support at home, they enjoy their learning and school life even more. Students' attitude and perception of school improves as they develop more self-confidence in their road to becoming life-long learners and solid contributors to our community. Here at GLMS, we believe our students Attitude plus their Effort equals their Intelligence (A+E=I)! We seek to provide a safe and welcoming environment that is conducive to student learning and student success. The first step in this process is to build and to maintain a working partnership with you by developing strong communication. One amazing opportunity is setting up parent conferences. Please contact Mrs. Stallings at 407-320-7650 to schedule your Parent-Teacher Conference today!!

Thank you to all our wonderful families who came out to our Virtual Open House Tuesday, September 14th and submitted questions for me to address. I appreciate your time and interest in your students learning. Please ask your student about their 2021 FSA Data and all the wonderful goal setting they are doing during their SOAR Time each Monday. Students are recording their data and goals in their 2021-22 GLMS planner. Students are to bring their planners each and every day to school.

It's important to continue to monitor our school's website and maintain accurate information in Skyward Family Access to receive the most updated pertinent information that all parents should know for the school year. Skyward Family Access and eCampus is the main communication system for Greenwood Lakes. You may access student grades, attendance, and school-wide updates through Skyward Family Access. You may update emails and phone numbers anytime through Skyward Family Access. All Address updates must be made at the school with required information. You may call the Front Office if you are unable to retrieve your Skyward Family Access password. If you don't have the Skyward Family Access App... please download it now! It's an easy and quick!! In addition, eCampus will host all your students' assignments including notes, PowerPoints and other coursework should your student miss school. Your student can assist you with logging in. In addition, follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and our school website for other valuable information and updates.

I thank EVERYONE for an amazing start of the school year!

As Always, Let's SOAR Eagles!

Breezi Erickson, Principal



For the Parents, Staff & Community of

Administration

Mrs. Breezi Erickson, Principal

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

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

Mr. Anthony Todaro, *Dean of Students*Ms. Megan Waller, *Dean of Students*

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

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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.

Student Services

Greeting Eagle Families! The Guidance Department is excited to be rolling out our new School Counselor Request Form for our students!!!! Students may have noticed the white and blue flyers positioned all across campus already, but we wanted to take a moment and mention it here as well. It's a simple and easy process! Students can scan the QR code on the flyer with their phone, and it will take them to the request form. Once the form is completed, hit submit and the counselors will receive a notification that a student is requesting to meet with them! This form is for student requests only.

Below are some important reminders and dates for you to be aware of:

- Reminder: after school tutoring is available if students are in need of some academic support. Tutoring is on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4p to 5:30p. Students, come see us in Guidance for a permission slip!
- The application period for Seminole County Public Schools middle school and high school magnet programs for the 2022-2023 school year began October 1st and continues through December 1st. You can find the 2022-2023 school choice guide and more information about middle school and high school transfer options on the Seminole County Public Schools' website: https://www.scps.k12.fl.us/district/departments/assignment-access/
- The holidays are almost upon us! Please reach out and ask us how you can help us serve and provide resources for our families in need.
- Incoming!! Incoming!!! It's almost time to welcome our future Eagles! Please save the date: Incoming 6th Grade Night is scheduled for Thursday, January 27th. More information will be coming soon!

Who is My Student's School Counselor?

Cherish Beacham 407-320-7607 beachaco@scps.k12.fl.us

Last names A-L

Kimberly Longarzo 407-320-7605 Kimberly_longarzo@scps.k12.fl.us

Last names M-Z

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.









Student Government Association

The GLMS Student Government Association held its first event of the school year on October 29th. Hat Day was a great success with both student and staff support! We look forward to bringing more fun and excitement with different events and service projects throughout the year.

SGA also held elections on November 2nd. We are excited to announce the Students Officers who were elected for the 2021-2022 school year:

- 8th Grade Representative Emma DePaolo
- Historian Ashley Victoriano
- Treasurer Sara Jackson
- Secretary Maddy Cook
- Vice President Matthew Drewes
- President Reese Fernandez

Congratulations to all the candidates!

Yearbook

I can't believe it's already November! We are hard at work creating the yearbook and we have finally settled on a theme for the year. As of today, we have officially sold more than half of our initial stock- which is incredible. I can't thank you enough for your continued support! Once we sell out of our initial stock order there will still be opportunities to buy yearbooks after but will be very limited in quantity, so if you are wanting a yearbook for the year, I would snag one soon.

Additionally, if you are wanting to support the yearbook program and recognize the accomplishments of your 8th grade child- there is *LIMITED* time and *LIMITED* available spaces for our 8th grade recognition ads left. We have ads for as little as \$45 that support the program and gives your child special recognition in the yearbook! Both yearbooks and 8th grade ads can be purchased at **Yearbookforever.com!**



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Art Club

The Art Club is running strong, so feel free to join, if you're interested. You'll be among likeminded artists, who share ideas, interests and/or art. Permission Forms are available in Red Apple Cafeteria, along with Room 2.001. We look forward to seeing you.





Count on CareSpot.

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Language Arts

Hello Eagle Families,

6th grade: Sixth-grade language arts recently started their unit on Greek Mythology, which turns its instructional focus on Cluster 2 standards such as text structure and point of view. Writing is always embedded in the lessons, so by December all students should have a working understanding of how to write an effective introduction, body, and conclusion for a text-based essay.

7th grade: Seventh grade students will compare and contrast a fictional portrayal with a historical account of an event from the same time period in order to analyze how the author uses or alters history in their fictional account. Students will also continue to review elaboration techniques to help make them stronger writers. When we return from Thanksgiving break, we will be taking the quarterly exams the week of December 13. When we return from winter break in January, we will begin our much-loved unit on Greek Mythology. This is typically a student favorite! The 7th grade team hopes you have a great Thanksgiving break!

8th grade: Quarter 2 has been busy for 8th Grade Language Arts! Currently, we have been reading *The Tell-Tale Heart* to practice analyzing how different points of view of the characters, audience, or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.

After we finish reading *The Tell-Tale Heart*, students will be reading two myth texts in preparation for the Quarter 2 9-Weeks Exam. In 6th and 7th grade, students have read and analyzed various Greek myths. We are excited to introduce Norse mythology to our students and read about one of our favorite Marvel Avengers: Thor, and his arch-nemesis, Loki. We want to allow students to interact with texts that utilize more rigorous vocabulary as this is an area where our Eagles need extra support.

We are so excited to see them rock it on this 2nd 9-Weeks Exam!

Social Studies

6th grade World History started the new quarter learning about Ancient India. Students engaged in lessons that covered the geography of Ancient India, the two main religions to emerge for India, and the caste system. Students completed activities that had them examine how the physical geography of an area hindered or encouraged interaction among civilizations, compared the characteristics of India's Hinduism and Buddhism religions, and learned the use and levels of India's caste system (social hierarchy) and it's connection to Hinduism. Students have recently ventured into Ancient China. Here they will be taking a virtual field trip through the physical geography of Ancient China and the philosophies that influenced the people and governments of Ancient China. They will learn about the Silk Road and its assistance in cultural diffusion before heading into their Ancient Egypt unit that will wrap up the quarter.

7th grade Civics has started the quarter with a journey through the "Path to Democracy". Students engaged in lessons that explored the relationship between the early colonists and Britain/England. They learned about the events that led up to the writing of the Declaration of Independence. Students then completed an in-depth analysis of the Declaration of Independence with its ideals and grievances. Civics will continue the quarter exploring the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation

and the creation of the Constitution with the formation of the three branches.

8th grade US History has successfully completed their units on early exploration and early colonization that led into the forming of the original thirteen colonies. Students are now exploring the causes, course and consequences of the American Revolution. The curriculum has allowed the students to have a hands-on approach with the timeline of events from the signing of the Declaration into how the Framers formed our government. Students will continue to analyze the impact the founding fathers had on the creation of our society and connect past events to our present environment. History fair is in full swing with students working diligently on their thesis for debate and diplomacy.







Math

In **6th grade standard**, the students will continue to work on Unit 4 - Ratios and Proportions. Students will have knowledge of ratios, unit rates, percent, and conversions. Please encourage your child to come to class ready to learn, with their needed supplies, and ready to SOAR. Students should be reviewing skills, such as exponents, multiplication, and fractions so that they can be proficient in the 6th grade math standards.

In **6th grade advanced**, the students will be learning about Expressions. Students will have knowledge of exponents, order of operations, prime factorization, coefficients, constants, terms, variables, and how to write expressions using variables. This is a brand new skill in 6th grade. Please encourage your child to come to class ready to learn, with their needed supplies and ready to SOAR. Students should be reviewing skills, such as exponents, multiplication, and fractions so that they can be proficient in the 6th grade math standards.

GEMS students will spend the second 9 weeks focusing on 7th and 8th skills such as functions, nonlinear and linear functions, mapping diagrams, and analyzing and comparing functions with different slopes. The students will continue their Virtual Bridge independent study of equations. It is important that students complete these assignments as they tie in directly with the higher level standards that are covered in class.

7th grade standard is finishing up multiplying and dividing integers as well as working with percent. We will begin moving into one and two-step equations and inequalities. Please continue to work with your child on foundational skills such as multiplication facts and subtraction.

7th grade advanced is finishing up our unit on one and two-step equations and inequalities and we are moving into the unit on functions. Please continue to encourage your child to study for all unit tests and to utilize the study guides that are sent home prior to each unit test.

Pre-Algebra classes are working on interpreting linear functions, where they are learning how to construct graphs, data tables, and equations that all work together to represent proportional and non-proportional relationships between the data. Students are mastering terms like slope, y-intercept, proportional, non-proportional, constant rate of change, and function. Understanding linear functions is one of the most important pre-algebra concepts for students to master going into high school.

Algebra 1 students are continuing to deepen their knowledge on linear functions. Linear functions are 1 of 3 types of functions explored this year. They will be looking at similarities and differences of linear equations and learning how to solve systems of linear equations using any of three methods. Students will finish the quarter by diving into one-variable statistics.

Geometry Honors is moving right along as they look at angle relationships and parallel and perpendicular lines in the coordinate plane. They will translate into looking at how triangles are congruent as well as the attributes and properties of triangles. They will end the quarter by studying how triangles relate to all polygons, and how understanding triangles will enhance the understanding of all polygons.

Math Strategies:

Someone said, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Turning the words of a problem into a picture or a diagram can help you "see" the problem. By using the part of your brain that visualizes a situation or object, you may see relationships or information that helps you solve the problem. When someone tells you a story, try turning the words into a motion picture or a cartoon. When reading a description, try "seeing it in your mind's eye." If you can do these things, this strategy may be for you!

Science

6th grade science students will be exploring the scientific theory of atoms by recognizing that atoms are the smallest unit of an element and are composed of subatomic particles. They will use models to explain the motion of particles in solids, liquids, and gases.

7th grade science is currently exploring what lies *Beyond Our World*. Student scientists have been studying the relative sizes of various astronomical objects such as planets, solar systems, and galaxies that exist within the everexpanding universe. We now turn our attention to the properties of stars such as brightness, color, size, and lumosity, with special attention given to our sun.

8th grade science students will differentiate and show interactions among the geosphere (lithosphere), hydrosphere, cryosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere. Students will also describe how the composition and structure of the atmosphere protects life and insulates the planet.

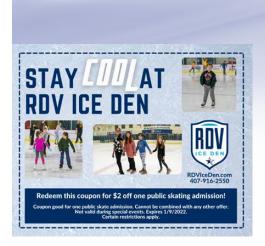
All advanced science classes the school science fair will be held on Dec 1, 2021.

















The Reading department in grades 6th, 7th and 8th grade have been working diligently on developing and delivering reading strategy instruction which will serve students them in their core-content classes and in life. Students completed the I-Ready Growth Monitoring test in October and will complete the I-Ready Diagnostic #2 in December during exam week. This data will help teachers understand your students independent reading level as we move into the new 2021-2022 school year. The data from the Diagnostic was shared with your students during a 1:1 data chat with their teacher, and they recorded their scores in their data tracker. Teachers are working with intervention groups to help identify students who need extra help with their iReady lessons. Additionally, students should be tracking their weekly data from iReady in order to work toward their growth goals prior to the next assessment. This data also helps teachers see how many students in their reading classes are more than one to two grade levels below their academic grade level. Teachers strategically plan their lessons using tiered lessons to meet the needs of all students, regardless of grade level!

All three grade levels are working on completing lessons in class weekly. Students are expected to complete 46 minutes weekly on I-Ready with a score of 75% or more on lesson(s). Students should be taking notes as they work through a lesson, both in class and at home. Notetaking is a great strategy for reading comprehension. Classroom time has been set aside to allow the students enough time to complete their required minutes. If your student is absent, please have them work on their I-Ready lessons at home, when possible. Teachers have data charts in their room and give rewards for students who meet their weekly goals and show growth throughout the quarter. Additionally, Ms. Dehner has a monthly 'lunch bunch' where she has seasonal treats and gathers students to share and spend time in her classroom.

The Intensive Reading classes support the students ELA grade level class. The reading teachers are supporting the ELA standard that the students are working on per grade level. Reading students will benefit from this repetition and review when learning and interacting with the ELA standards throughout the year. The goal of the reading department is to support the ELA standards to allow for higher learning outcomes thus closing the gaps in learning.

SCPS is addressing the new BEST standards by initially supporting the foundational reading standards this year with phonics-based approach interventions, when needed. If your student has a need for these supports, please check to be sure they are receiving them in their Intensive Reading class. Teachers are running small group phonics-based lessons with those students and the Literacy Coach monitors progress of these students.

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. 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!







Band

The months of October and November have been exciting in our band world! Our strong bake sale team attended two Lake Mary HS football games and had a blast selling - thank you to everyone who either ran the table and/or contributed baked goods! On November 5th,

our 8th graders endured a rainy evening to spend time with the LMHS Marching Rams and see what high school band is all about. Our very own Jefferson Hernandez-Cax auditioned to be part of this year's SCPS All County Band - wish him luck as he tries to make this prestigious ensemble two years in a row! Please see below for some notes about our upcoming events:

Thanksgiving Break

Your students have earned this time to unwind, relax, reflect, and PRACTICE! All classes have built up incredible momentum with their concert pieces and we want to make sure it doesn't go to waste. Please help remind our students to take their instruments home over Thanksgiving Break and to take them out of their cases at home. It is crucial that they practice to ensure their technique does not suffer when we return!

Winter Concert

Our Winter Concert is scheduled for **December** 7th at Lake Mary HS at 6pm! This concert is required for all bands! Please mark it on your calendar so that you don't miss your student's first live concert in over two years!!





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