For the Parents, Staff & Community of





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*

Volume XVI · Issue 4 SEPTEMBER 2021

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

> Office Telephone 407-320-7650

SEMINOLE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 400 E. Lake Mary Boulevard Sanford, FL 32773

To download a PDF version of this newsletter, go to academypublishing.com/schools/greenwoodlakes/greenwoodlakes.php

> 'EAGLE EXPRESS' September 2021 Published Six Times Per Year Greenwood Lakes Middle School 601 Lake Park Drive Lake Mary, FL 32746 Issue # 4

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 Office of Student Services

Welcome back! We are so excited to see most of our students return to campus for the 2021-2022 school year! It has been a challenging 18 months, but we are confident that the students are ready to get back to work and ready to learn.

For our new 6th grade students and parents, we are looking forward to working with you over the next three years. Middle school is a big transition from elementary school for families but know that we are here to support you. Staying in communication with your child's teachers is one of the most proactive ways to ensure success in school. Be sure to schedule a parent/teacher conference if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's education. Parent/teacher conferences can be coordinated by contacting Ms. Ginger Stallings at 407-320-7674.

For our returning students and parents, please continue to reach out to us for anything you may need. We have both a School Social Worker and a District Mental Health Counselor that work with us on site 2 to 3 days each week that can assist you and your child in various ways.

If your family needs food or school supplies, please reach out to your School Counselor (contact information listed below). Items can be sent home with the student or picked up from a parent at the front office.

Cherish Beacham

Counselor for all students with last names beginning with the letters A through L Beachaco@scps.k12.fl.us

Kimberly Longarzo

Counselor for all students with last names beginning with the letters M through Z Kimberly_Longarzo@scps.k12.fl.us

Art Blurb

Hello everybody. The time has come to bring back the GLMS Art Club. If you are interested in joining the club, please come to Room 2-001 (Art) to pick up a Permission Form. All students must submit the form to join the afterschool club. Thank you!



Yearbook

Hello! My name is Matthew Valdez and I am excited to be advising the yearbook course this year! We have an immensely talented team and can't wait for you all to see their skills in action! If you haven't purchased your yearbook yet, do so soon! The current price is \$30 now until October 31st. Starting November 1st, the price will increase again to \$35. Don't forget about your upgrades! Name engraving is available for only \$8.50! **8th Grade Ads:**

We are excited to be offering 8th grade recognition ads again this year! These ads are great for a number of reasons:

- 1. It's a great way to commemorate your 8th grade student for everything they've accomplished in middle school
- 2. This gives the yearbook students an opportunity to showcase the graphic design skills they've learned in the class
- 3. The fees collected directly support the yearbook program and provide valuable funds for things such as new equipment, upgraded equipment, additional yearbook pages, and cool cover and design upgrades!

Recognition ads are available in a variety of different sizes. A full page ad comes with up to 10 pictures and is \$100. A half page ad gives you a 6 photo limit and is \$70. And a quarter page ad allows you to submit 3 photos and is \$45. For full details visit https://valdezmz.wixsite.com/ glms-altair/8th-grade-ads/.

CREATING SMILES THAT LIGHT UP THE WORLD







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.



Business Advertisements

Do you own a small business and want to advertise in our yearbook? Business ads are a GREAT way to help our yearbook program grow each year with 100% of the funds going directly back into the program, all the while getting your business some extra traffic! Business ads must be fully created and ready to go, the staff cannot make business ads at this time. The pricing for our business ads are as follows:

- Full page ad \$150
- Half-page ad \$80
- Quarter-page ad \$50
- Business Card \$25

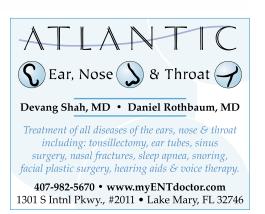
Space is limited for these ads so make sure to secure your spot today! <u>The final day to order your 8th</u> grade recognition ad or business ad <u>is December 18th, 2021!</u> Order your yearbooks, business, and recognition advertisements now at http://www. yearbookforever.com!

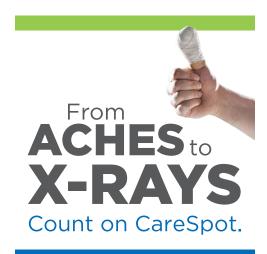


John D. Whigham 200 East Commercial Street, Suite 4 Sanford, FL 32771 *phone:* 407-915-6847 *cell:* 407-923-3979 john@whighamaccounting.com www.whighamaccounting.com









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6th: This quarter, 6th graders will jump into a new text and learn how to determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings. During this time, they will simultaneously analyze the impact of specific word choice regarding meaning and tone. Building upon these skills within yet another new short story, students will analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot. Students will also begin to prepare for the Write Score assessment which will take place the week of October 18th.

7th: Seventh graders have been busy working on refining their skills on identifying theme and central idea in both literary and informational texts. We will continue to practice the skills learned thus far to help students be successful on our first 9 week exam, after which, we will soon be shifting our focus to writing! Students will be taking the Write Score assessments the week of October 18th. This year, students will continue to practice argumentative writing, but will be adding in a counterclaim to help make their argument stronger and less biased.

8th: Eighth graders have been hard at work writing objective summaries, determining central idea and theme, and analyzing word choice in both prose and poetry. We've also been brushing up on narrative writing skills in preparation for the first nine week exam and upcoming Write Score assessments. Please encourage your students to be reading and writing at home, too - the more practice, the better!

Math

We are off to a productive start in the math department. Every grade level is maximizing student learning by digging deep into the standards to understand the concepts and more importantly, MASTER THEM!

In **6th grade**, as we continue a productive year, the students will be working on Geometry concepts, involving area of 2D figures, surface area and volume of 3D figures. Students will need to know their multiplication facts fluently to be successful. Please practice multiplying facts as often as possible. GEMS students are continuing to work independently and diligently on the 6th grade standards at home while exploring the 7th grade standards in class. It is necessary for the students to complete the 6th grade assignments at home for them to be successful on the 7th and 8th grade standards in class.

7th grade math is finishing out the quarter strong! We are working hard on learning about statistics and probability and we are very proud of the work our students are doing. Please continue practicing multiplication facts with your child as well as adding and subtracting integers. We don't send home homework every night, but if we do, it's important! Please encourage your child to take it seriously. We are excited to see our students rock their 9 weeks exams and continue soaring on their math journey.

Pre-Algebra students will continue to practice, grow, and master non-proportional relationships. Make sure to ask your students what the difference is between proportional and non-proportional relationships and the equation of a line! Students are currently diving into solving linear, multi-step equations. The acronym "Don't Call Me After Midnight" helps students remember the order to solve the equations: Distribute, Combine Like Terms, Move the Variable to One Side, Add/Subtract, and Multiply/Divide. Stay tuned as we will dive into functions!

The **Algebra 1** classes are working on solving multi-step equations and inequalities. These equations can be quite complex, so please encourage your student to be practicing at home by staying on top of their homework assignments. As mentioned in the Pre-Algebra update, the acronym "Don't Call Me After Midnight" helps students remember the order to solve the equations and inequalities: Distribute, Combine Like Terms, Move the Variable to One Side, Add/Subtract, and Multiply/Divide. Make sure your child can tell you the order in which to solve equations and explain what each step means! Students must be able to solve the problems and also justify their steps through algebraic proofs. Coming up next, students will dive into functions and then linear equations and inequalities!

Geometry Honors has taken off by studying the basics and understanding the foundations for geometry, we are exploring with transformations and will soon be looking at geometric reasoning through proofs.

"Every successful individual knows that his or her achievement depends on a community of persons working together" –Paul Ryan

Mon-Thur 11:30a - 10p Fri-Sat 11:30a-11p | Sun 12p-10p

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Science

6th Grade Science will be exploring how and why organisms are classified according to shared characteristics with emphasis on kingdoms. Students will explain and illustrate the roles of and relationships among producers, consumer, and decomposers and how the process of energy is transferred in a food web. Compare the relationships among organisms such as mutualism, predation, parasitism, competition, and commensalism. Students will learn how to cite evidence that living systems follow the Laws of Conservation of Mass and Energy. They will conclude the 1st nine weeks by Illustrating that the sun's energy arrives as radiation with a wide range of wavelengths, including visible light.

7th Grade Science will be exploring how the Earth's surface is built up and torn down by physical and chemical weathering, erosion, and deposition. They will be able to differentiate between physical and chemical changes and how temperature influences chemical changes. Students will have to be able to demonstrate when substances undergo physical and chemical changes that it follows the law of conservation of mass. Students will recognize that there are different landforms on Earth's surface; coastline, dunes, rivers, mountains, glaciers, deltas, and lakes and how they relate to Florida.

8th Grade Science will be investigating types of forces including contact forces and noncontact forces. Students will investigate and describe that an unbalanced force acting on an object changes its speed, or direction of motion. They will have to interpret distance vs. time graphs and the relationship of objects moving at a constant speed. Explore the law of conservation of energy by differentiating between potential and kinetic energy.

Science Fair for all advance classes. The school Science Fair will be December 1. If you have any questions please communicate with your student's Science teacher.



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/



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Reading

The Reading department in grades 6th, 7th and 8th grade completed the I-ready Diagnostic #1 the first few weeks of school. This data will help teachers understand our 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). 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. Students each have a tracker in the folder to monitor their own progress, and they may also see their progress on the teacher class chart as they progress through levels and lessons.

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 students has a need for these supports, please check to be sure they are receiving them in their Intensive Reading class.

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!







Social Studies

6th Grade World History covered their first unit on the Foundations of Geography. Students reviewed the major bodies of water and the continents of the world. They took a look at how these bodies of water affected the development of civilizations. Students learned about the different types of maps used to study the world and how to read the parts of a map to better analyze and understand them. They continued to brush up on their cardinal and intermediate directions in order to prepare for locating the latitude and longitude coordinates of people and place on the earth. In September, students will be learning about primary and secondary sources, what makes them reliable, and how to distinguish between the two. They will then forge on to learn about the Early Humans that roamed the earth and how their discovery led to the Agricultural Revolution that was key to the development of ancient civilizations that influenced the world today.

7th Grade Civics covered their first unit on Citizenship. Students learned the meaning of citizenship and what makes someone a citizen. They analyzed the naturalization process and got to discuss the steps involved as well as the impact it has on the United States. They processed what citizen obligations and responsibilities were and how they contributed to the common good of the country. In September, students will get to breakdown and analyze the political parties of the United States and their platforms. Students will also learn how society evaluates candidates for political office.

8th Grade US History covered early exploration and utilized different learning and test taking strategies to keep them successful in their first unit. The rest of this quarter the students will continue to learn about early America and write their first DBQ on Jamestown. Please continue to remind your student if they are absent to check out their teachers eCampus page so they can stay up to date on what is happening in the classroom.





Advertise in the Eagle Express!

This is a wonderful way for your company to get community recognition and exposure, and at the same time help support your local schools!

Evan Sokolowsky evan sokolowsky@scps.k12.fl.us Greenwood Lakes Middle School

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Current Resident or/



Cross Country Schedule

All Cross Country meets will begin as soon as the visiting team(s) arrive. Approx. 4:30 PM.

- September 15 Teague @ GLMS
- September 22 Galileo, Markham Woods @ GLMS
- September 29 GLMS @ Sanford
- October 6 Sanford, GLMS @ Millennium
- October 9 County Meet Lake Mary HS @ 8:00AM







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