December 2026 - January 2027

Geneseo Middle School

GMS Live Feed

TEACH ***LEARN*** ***CARE***



Principal's Message

GMS Parents, and Guardians,

This is the time of year when Americans recognize the service and sacrifice of others, from our incredible military veterans to our civil rights leader MLK Jr. We celebrate the bold pioneers as they forged the beginnings of this great nation of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We gather to worship, pray, and find ways to serve our fellow man. And it was in November of 1863, in the middle of the bloody and divisive U.S. Civil War, when President Abraham Lincoln scheduled a National Thanksgiving and issued a proclamation entreating all Americans to ask God to "heal the wounds of the nation." His proclamation is as relevant today as any time since President Lincoln was in office. Yet, we have an opportunity at GMS to truly listen to others, to act with courage, to work together when it's tough, give grace when it isn't deserved, and raise our young up with humility, forgiveness, and service towards others.

May you and your loved ones make it a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy New Year, and a wonderful 2027!

Nathan O'Dell
Principal, Geneseo Middle School

Severe and Winter Weather Tips

- Prepare your middle schooler by dressing warm and bringing a coat. Recess is outdoors if it feels like 10 degrees or warmer, and it's getting cold fast!
- If school is dismissed early due to inclement weather, all GMS after school activities and programs are also cancelled.

The rest of the story…

Pgs 2 & 3	Life at GMS, Student Spotlights, and Important Parent Info
Pg 4	Holiday Toy & Gift Drive - Nov 30-Dec 11
Pg 5	JOIN GMS/GHS PTA Today!
Pg 6	Erin's Law Parent Letter
Pg 7	Family Resources and Supports during the Holiday Season

Important Dates

View our online school calendar here.



November 30th - December 4th
- ❑ Winter MAP Testing

December 1st - 11th
- ❑ GMS Gift Drive (drop off - Gym Doors)

December 5th
- ❑ 8th Grade Boys' Basketball Shootout, GFAC, 9 am

December 6th
- ❑ 7th & 8th Grade Band/Choir Holiday Concert, GHS Concert Hall, 3pm

December 11th
- ❑ 11:40 am Dismissal - Teacher Inservice

December 12th
- ❑ 7th Grade Boys' Basketball Shootout, GFAC, 9 am

December 19th - January 3rd
- ❑ Winter Break

December 29th
- ❑ GMS away Wrestling Tournament, Rockford, IL, 9 am

January 2nd
- ❑ GMS away Wrestling Tournament, Bloomington, IL, 9 am

January 9th
- ❑ GMS Speed Chess Tournament, 8 am
- ❑ GMS Wrestling Invite, GHS Gym, 9 am

January 15th
- ❑ 2:10 pm Dismissal - GHS BiState Wrestling Tourney

January 18th
- ❑ No School - MLK Jr Day, Institute Day

January 27th
- ❑ 8th Grade GHS Parent Orientation, GHS Concert Hall and Theater, 6 pm

Geneseo Middle School

GMS Live Feed

Geneseo Middle School News

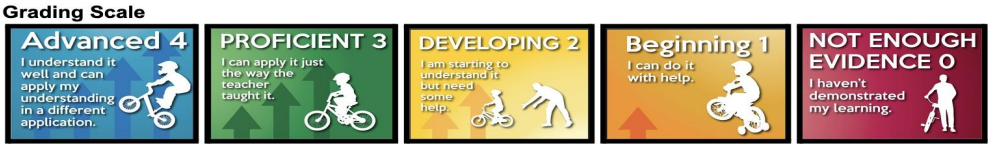


GMS Student Spotlight

Some of GMS's very best musicians were invited to take part in the St. Ambrose Honor Band Festival this past month. These talented and hard working young people represented Geneseo at St. Ambrose University, alongside some of the very best to play their instrument in the entire region. Each of these musicians also auditioned and took part in the ILMEA Honors Junior Band Concert at Augustana College in early November. Well done!

From your GMS Team

- Want to know more about **Standards-Based Grading (SBG)** here at GMS? Click here for a closer look at what SBG is, the types of grades you may see in Skyward, and how to read your child's class grade report. There's also a QR code linked where you can ask questions and provide feedback.



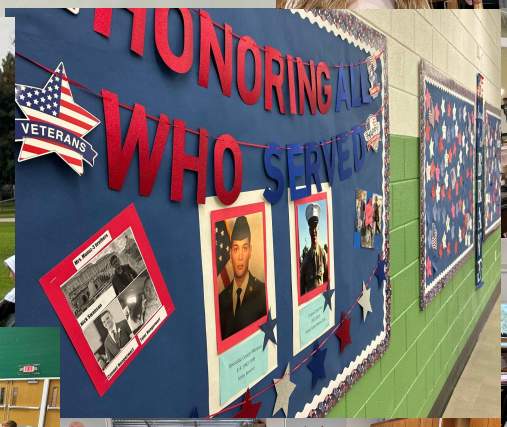
- Parents - for lunch accounts, registration fees, participation fees, yearbook fee, etc., **GMS can take payment in the form of cash, check or credit card** right here on site. Reach out to our main office with any questions: (309) 945-0599.
- **#READaLOT** - The GMS Library invites you to learn more about our reading clubs and events for students and their families. Please go to the **GMS Library Clubs and Events** page to learn more about *On the Same Page, L3 (Library Learning Labs)*, annual book fairs, and more. May the books be with you!
- You're almost out of time to order your 2026-27 **GMS Yearbook**. Stop by the main office and pick up a Yearbook Order Form, or go online to Skyward Family Access, "fee payments," and order one there. Yearbooks are $30.00 if purchased before 1/8/27, after that they go up to $35.00 until the final purchase deadline of 1/22/27. Get your Yearbook today.
- **Do you have an 8th grader?** Then it may be hard to believe, but it's almost time for Freshman Course Scheduling. Please note the following events and dates, more info will be shared with parents and guardians in the coming month.
  - GMS Winter MAP Assessments Nov 30 - Dec 4 (used for GHS ELA, Math and Science course placements)
  - GHS Counselors visit with 8th graders Jan 21
  - 8th Grade Parent Meeting at GHS Jan 27, 6:00 pm
  - High School Course Scheduling Feb 1-8
- Take a look at our **5-Year Strategic Plan**, Geneseo School's commitment to ensuring every student has the best educational experience we can give them. Join your school team as we Teach, Learn, Care.
- Click here for our **School Nurse website** and info regarding your child's health.





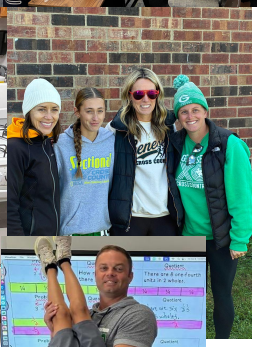



BE AWESOME TODAY

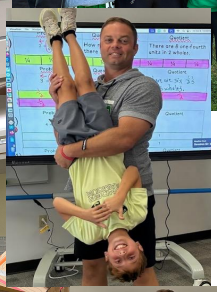
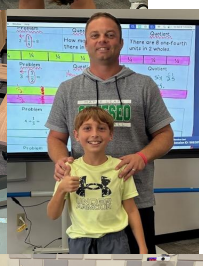

HONORING ALL
WHO SERVED
VETERANS

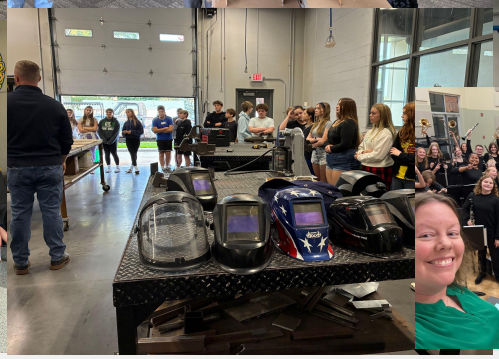







SHIP
worthy
Fantasy
FRIGHTS


GMS Holiday Gift Drive

Geneseo Middle School 6th Grade Senate is hosting a gift drive with the Geneseo Police Department to help area children.

Help us bring smiles to children and teens this holiday season! Please donate NEW, UNWRAPPED toys and gifts for ages 6 months and up, gift cards, sports equipment, cosmetics, etc. The Geneseo CUSD #228 Social Workers, Counselors, and Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry will be distributing these gifts.

An area we would like to focus on this year is the 12-18 year old range. Ideas brainstormed by our students include: makeup, hair gel, perfume, cologne, deodorant, body wash, lotion, skin care, nail polish, fake nails, curling iron/straightener, room decor, blankets, pillows, posters, sports equipment, baseball cards, Pokemon cards, Legos, video games, toy cars, technology (watches, headphones, etc.), books, hoodies, pj pants, art supplies, music, jewelry, board and card games, shoes, fidgets, snacks (candy, gum, chocolate, etc.)

*November 30 - December 4 & December 7-11, A bin will be placed outside of the gym doors during the school day, and it will be placed outside the west doors at GMS during the hours of 3:30PM-7:30PM. You can drop off a gift and place it in the bin during any of those times. All new, unwrapped gifts need to be to GMS by December 11th so we can deliver gifts in time for the holidays.

*Gift Cards (and gifts) can be mailed to:
6th Grade Senate Toy Drive
Geneseo Middle School
333 E. Ogden Ave.
Geneseo, IL 61254

Any questions, please contact: Jenni Johnson 6th Grade Senate Advisor at jjohnson@geneseoschools.org

JOIN GMS & GHS PTA

PTA: IT MIGHT NOT BE WHAT YOU THINK!

You don't have to have extra time to have a voice. Our PTA only meet 4 times during the school year.

What do we do at meetings?

- Hear about what's happening at GMS & GHS by getting updates directly from our principals (and Miss Wendy)
- Discuss ways the PTA can support our students and staff
- Plan ways to celebrate our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week

Where do your dues go?

- Grants for our teachers:
  - Coding robots for use in Mr Eaker's classroom
  - Timing bands for use during PE at GHS and Summit
  - Helping fund the Link Crew at GHS
  - Glass pendant supplies for use in Mr Hamilton's classroom
  - Tuba for GMS student use
- Scholarships for graduating seniors
- State & National PTA Dues

https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/geneseo-hsms-ptas-memberships

Dear Geneseo Middle School Families:

The Comprehensive Health Education Act, often referred to as Erin's Law, requires all public schools to implement an **age-appropriate** sexual abuse awareness and prevention curriculum for all students in grades PreK-12, and to provide training on sexual abuse prevention for all staff.

Geneseo Middle School Counselors and Health Teachers will annually be providing age-appropriate lessons on personal safety to all students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Student lessons will incorporate concepts and skills at that are developmentally appropriate based upon grade levels.

Lessons are adapted from our GMS Health Curriculum and the *Second Step Committee for Children Child Protective Curriculum* that focus on teaching student's basic skills to help keep them safe from abusive or dangerous situations. Some concepts discussed during presentations will include:

- **Personal Safety.** Students will learn important safety rules and will also learn ways to help them decide if something is safe or not.

- **Touching Safety.** Students will learn about safe, unsafe, and unwanted touches, and rules protecting them from touching of private body parts. They'll also learn to say no to unsafe or unwanted touches, and to tell a trusted adult if someone breaks rules about touching private body parts.

- **Assertiveness.** These lessons will also give students a chance to practice asking an adult for help, telling an adult about an unsafe situation, and being assertive to get out of unsafe situations.

If you do **not** wish your child to participate or if you have any questions, please contact your child's School Counselor.

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to provide learning opportunities to improve the safety and wellbeing of our children.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Amy Feely (afeely@geneseoschools.org)
Mrs. Kate Reed (katereed@geneseoschools.org)
GMS School Counselors (309-945-0599)

As we approach the holiday season, we want to inform you of the various resources available to support our families. The holidays can be a truly joyous occasion, but we also understand they can bring significant challenges. We want to ensure every GMS family feels connected and supported all year long, but especially during this season. Please reach out to the counseling & social work team at (309) 945-0506 if you know of someone in need, or for further assistance.

Mental Health

Robert Young Mental Health

- (309) 779-2999 (*Crisis Line)*
- (309) 779-2094 (Rock Island Appointment)

Bridgeway

- (800) 322-7143 (*Mobile Crisis Response)*
- (309) 344-2323 (Galesburg Appointment)
- (309) 852-4331 (Kewanee Appointment)

National Hope Line

- 1-800-SUICIDE
- Crisis Text Line Free 24/7 (confidential)
  Text "START" to 741-741

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (East Moline Office)
Veterans Outreach Program Specialist
Joe Laden (309) 755-3260 ext. 692225

Housing/ Food/ Clothing/ Misc.

Geneseo Food Pantry

- (309) 944-3165

Project Now

- (309) 793-6391 (Rock Island)
- (309) 852-4565 (Kewanee)

Freedom House

- (800) 474-6031 (24 hour Hotline) *Emergency shelter for adult & child victims of domestic violence.

Homeless Shelters

Christian Care in Rock Island

- (309) 786-5734

Salvation Army in Davenport

- (563) 324-4808

King's Harvest in Davenport

- (563) 570-4536