



Gahanna Middle School East

5TH GRADE PARENT ORIENTATION

Megan Kirsten
Principal

Laura Montgomery
Assistant Principal

Loni Williams
School Counselor

Shayla Upchurch
School Counselor



OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY
COLLABORATION
INCLUSIVITY

STUDENTS FIRST
EMPOWERMENT
EXCELLENCE

6th grade teachers



Jasmine Brown

Math

Megan Forster

ELA

Julie Foster

ELA

Ali Garcia

Math

Anne Harris

Science

Caitlin Hash

ELA

Weston Hill
Social Studies

Ember Hobbs

Math

Robin Reece

Science/
Social Studies

Hope Schwind

ELA

Kelli Sprosty

Math

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MSE PTA

WHAT WE DO AND WHY YOU SHOULD BE INVOLVED

**We
support
our staff
and our
students!**

Hospitality Committee

- Provides teacher meals and appreciation gifts
- Coordinates school supply refresh to help stock classrooms with needed supplies and materials for learning

Special Requests

- Provides PBIS treat and rewards for students
- Funds classroom and club initiatives
- Ongoing outdoor improvements for students and community members
- Brings in speakers and outside community groups
- So much more...

Fitness Fundraiser

- Markets the event
- Collects family and corporate donations
- Coordinates students raffles and field trip rewards!
- Orders and provides T-shirts for the event

Share you time and talents

SHOW UP

Being involved in your child's PTA shows that you are on a united front with their teachers and administrators.

VOLUNTEER

Find opportunities to use your talents. Are you great at throwing a party, do you have corporate connections for donations, are you a wizard with Canva, can you catch an editorial mistake from a mile away? If so, we can use your help.

STEP UP

The GMSE PTA will have the following openings:

- President
- Vice President
- Dine-out Rep
- Spirit Wear Rep
- Outdoor Projects Rep

Join a committee:

Hospitality
Fitness Fundraiser

We keep you informed

Your student will be expected to relay a lot more information from school than they did in elementary school. Attending the monthly PTA meetings or reading the notes will help keep you up to date on all of the happenings at GMSE.

Contact us:

GahannaMSEpto@gmail.com

Facebook:

GMSE Parents

School Counselors

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS FOR OUR STUDENTS



Social & Emotional Support for our students

School Counseling

- Purposeful scheduling
- Individual counseling
- Student check-ins
- Student Groups - Friendship, Executive Functioning, New Students, HS transition groups etc.



Mental Health Support

- Mental Health Specialist (Full Time)
- Outside Agencies

Sense of Belonging for all kids

- House System
- Before & After school Clubs - Robotics, Chess Club, Pickleball club, Creative Writing Club... and so much more!

What to expect in Middle School

Student Growth

- In size
- In emotional intelligence
 - ◆ Friendships

→ What do students need?

- ◆ Challenge with Support
- ◆ A safe place to make mistakes
- ◆ Learn how to learn
- ◆ Knowing and understanding limits
- ◆ Practice with positive human interactions
- ◆ A sense of community and belonging

Transition to Middle School

We want our students to remember where they come from & learn from new students they meet!

Our 6th grade staff help students to learn about themselves and each other through:

- Team Building Activities
- Adventure Day
- Our House System

The first day of school is more of an orientation and a “get to know” middle school!

The Houses



How is middle school different?

- Lockers
- Grades and checking your own grades!
- Multiple teachers
- Hallway transitions on your own!
- Homework
- Book Signatures/ Detentions
- Cell Phones/ Social Media

A day in the life of a 6th grader



Daily Schedule includes...

6th Grade			
WIN/HOUSE	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	30:00
Period 1	9:32 AM	10:12 AM	40:00
Period 2	10:15 AM	10:55 AM	40:00
Period 3	10:58 AM	11:38 AM	40:00
Period 4	11:41 AM	12:21 PM	40:00
Period 5/Lunch	12:24 PM	12:58 PM	34:00
Period 6	1:01 PM	1:41 PM	40:00
Period 7/SH	1:44 PM	2:24 PM	40:00
Period 8/RA	2:27 PM	3:07 PM	40:00
Period 9/RA	3:10 PM	3:50 PM	40:00

Schedule includes:

- WIN/HOUSE
- 4 Core academics classes:
Math Block, ELA Block,
Science, Social Studies
- Lunch & Recess
- Related Arts: Physical
Education, Art, Health

Related Arts

→ Physical Education

- ◆ **(Two 9 week sessions)**
- ◆ Fundamentals of Team Sports with an emphasis on fitness. Students will also learn about lifetime health and fitness.

→ Art (9 weeks)

- ◆ Students create several pieces of art using a variety of mediums from tempera paint to clay. There is an emphasis on creativity while learning new techniques.

→ Health (9 Weeks)

- ◆ Students will learn to express emotions, develop empathy & self-concept, and learn how to become responsible decision makers
- ◆ Students will also learn about personal and safety topics Including hygiene, first-aid, and drug use.

MUSIC

Students start middle school with an introduction to **ALL** MS Music for 6 weeks!

→ *Student choice after 6 weeks*

- ◆ Band
- ◆ Choir
- ◆ Strings
- ◆ SMASH

Do not buy an instrument yet!

Study hall

- Homework
- Interventions
- Work with teachers as needed

Lunch

- Lunch Options
 - ◆ ID numbers (same as elementary)
 - ◆ Add money in Infinite Campus
- What if I forget my lunch?
- Half of the students start in the cafe & the other half start at recess
- Free/Reduced Lunches for those who qualify



Students of the Month

Each month, we are proud to recognize four outstanding students as our **Students of the Month**—one for each area of the **GJPS Learner Profile**. This celebration highlights that together we prioritize the intellectual and social-emotional well-being of our school community and believe learning is a journey of becoming **EMPOWERED RISK-TAKERS, VISIONARY THINKERS, CONFIDENT COMMUNICATORS, and GLOBAL CITIZENS.**



Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools
INSPIRING LEARNERS
BUILDING FUTURES

LEARNER PROFILE

Together we prioritize the intellectual and social-emotional well-being of our school community and believe learning is a journey of becoming
**EMPOWERED RISK-TAKERS, VISIONARY THINKERS,
CONFIDENT COMMUNICATORS and GLOBAL CITIZENS.**

EMPOWERED RISK TAKERS

MAINTAIN CURIOSITY and continuously seek knowledge and understanding

MAKE MISTAKES and learn from them through reflection and perseverance

TAKE OWNERSHIP of their learning and growth

USE THEIR VOICE and actions to innovate and try new things

VISIONARY THINKERS

ASK QUESTIONS and identify needs

GATHER and critically analyze resources and information

CREATE AND APPLY strategies to find unique solutions to existing and future problems

PRACTICE ongoing reflection and revision



CONFIDENT COMMUNICATORS

LISTEN ACTIVELY and with empathy and compassion

WORK COOPERATIVELY and exchange ideas with clarity and intention

ADVOCATE for themselves and others

SELECT AND UTILIZE the appropriate method of communication for the intended purpose and audience

GLOBAL CITIZENS

TAKE PRIDE IN what they bring the world around them and how it impacts others

UNDERSTAND, value and honor diverse communities including their own

BUILD AND NURTURE relationships by listening to, respecting and learning from people who may be different from them

ACT AS CHANGE AGENTS who serve their local, national and global community and make our world a better place



Citizenship Award

Each quarter, our staff nominates students for a Citizenship Award to recognize those who consistently show what it means to be part of the Gahanna Middle School East community. These students demonstrate the 3 Rs every day by being **respectful, responsible, and ready** to learn. We intentionally teach and reinforce these expectations in all areas of the building so that East remains a welcoming, positive, and engaging place for everyone.



What to expect in August

SCHEDULE PICKUP INFORMATION & OTHER COMMUNICATION

Schedules & Schedule Pickup

→ Schedules will be created and completed by Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Upchurch and Mrs. Kirsten over the summer.

→ Schedules will be distributed in August before school starts!

- ◆ 8/13: Schedule Pick-Up Day
- ◆ 8/20: 1st Day of School

First Day of School - August 20

**All 6th graders
report straight to
the GYM!**



Activities

- Ski Club
- Coderz
- Pickleball Club
- Multicultural Club
- East Live (Broadcast)
- Student Guides
- 6th Grade Fun Nights
- Spelling Bee
- Fitness Fundraiser
- Spirit Days
- East Buds
- Robotics Club
- Chess Club
- Adventure Day



Questions you may have about middle school

- What should you do when a child is coming to school after the start of the day?
 - ◆ The student should check in at the front desk and get a pass from the office staff
- What should you do if you want to pick up your child before the school is over?
 - ◆ Arrive a few minutes early with you ID and we will call your child out of class
- What if there is a change in transportation for the end of the day?
 - ◆ Notify the front staff so we can let your child know!

Communication

- ◆ Infinite Campus
- ◆ **Newsletters**
- ◆ Kirstenm@gjps.org
- ◆ Phone calls/email with teachers
- ◆ Facebook
- ◆ Parent-teacher conference nights
- ◆ Google Classroom & [Google Calendar!](#)
- ◆ PTA: Openings for volunteers

lastnamefirstinitial@gjps.org