



Gray's Creek Middle School

5151 Celebration Drive
Hope Mills, NC 28348
910-483-4124

Spelling Bee

The Gray's Creek Middle School Spelling Bee was held on Friday, December 15, 2017.

A field of nine contestants competed for the championship. These students advanced to the final round of competition after winning their class and team Spelling Bees held earlier in the year. Congratulations go to the winner, seventh grader Chloe H., and the first runner up, sixth grader D.J. S. Chloe will represent GCMS at the area Spelling Bee in February. Thank you to Mrs. J. Hammond for organizing this event!

Congratulations!

Join us in applauding Mr. Scott Witherow, 8th Grade Social Studies teacher as he leaves to take the position of Assistant Principal at Max Abbott Middle School.

Congratulations!

Girls United

Girls United is open to all female students who attend GCMS. Girls United wants you to be part of a movement where girls are accepting of each other no matter their differences.

We embrace individuality and diversity in each other. It's a NO JUDGEMENT ZONE. Girls United wants you to be involved. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Herrera at shannonherrera@ccs.k12.nc.us

National Junior Honor Society

The GCMS National Junior Honor Society will be sending letters home to students who are eligible to join NJHS after the end of the first semester. In order to be eligible, students must have a 95% average. The students must then go through a selection process in order to be inducted. More information on this process will be available in the letter that is sent home to eligible students.

NJHS will also be beginning the Pasta for Pennies fundraiser to benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in the spring. Be ready to donate your pennies in order to help combat cancer!



GROWL Newsletter

1st Edition December 2017- January 2018



Battle of the Books



The Battle of the Books meetings are going great. We will have our competition on March 5th at ERC Auditorium.

Media/Reading Rocks

Thank you to everyone that supported Reading Rocks! We raised a little over \$3,000. This money stays in our school and helps us purchase new technology to enhance our classrooms and purchase new books for our digital library. Thank you to students and parents for purchasing items from our recent Book Fair. We will have another book fair in April when we return from spring break. Please continue to support the media center.

GCMS Spirit Wear

You don't want to miss PTA Spirit Wear Clearance sale! Stock-up on both short-sleeve and long-sleeve t-shirts priced at just \$5. Available sizes vary per t-shirt. View and place orders using the links below. Also, don't forget to reserve the rock for your special occasion. Email us at gcmspta123@gmail.com to check date availability.

Short-sleeve shirts:

https://gcms.memberhub.com/payment_requests/278

Long-sleeve Shirts:

https://gcms.memberhub.com/payment_requests/287



7th Grade News Update

On the 7th grade hallway, we are asking that parents diligently check PowerSchool and Google Calendar <http://gcms.ccs.k12.nc.us/directory/> to ensure that their student's are remaining on top of their assignments and grades.

Grades are updated weekly on PowerSchool to reflect the most current grade for each student's subject. Your student's teachers also upload lesson plans to the Google Calendar weekly that include objectives, jump starts, agendas for the day/week and any homework that was issued for that particular day.

We are also asking that parents encourage their students to come to school prepared and in a mindset to learn. As we come from an extended break, it can be difficult to get back into the routine of school. By working together at school and home, we hope to show students the importance of working hard and remaining focused from now until the end of the year.

Collect Box Tops for Education

Please remember to clip those BoxTops from packages in your cupboard or even when visiting grandma! When everyone gets involved, those few cents add up to hundreds or even thousands of dollars. Send them to the homeroom teacher. Winning homerooms will receive each quarter receive a special prize from PTA.

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products>

Thanks for being a champion of this program!

Save  Please!

Every clip counts



NC Compulsory Attendance Laws

Gray's Creek Middle follows NC Compulsory Attendance Laws and the Cumberland County Schools Every Minute Counts! From Start to Finish, Class Time Matters initiative.

Being here every day, from start to finish will insure that each student has access to valuable instruction time.

If a student is absent, late or being checked out early, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to notify the school in writing the reason when the student returns to school. This will allow the school to code the absent correctly. If a note is not turned in, the absent will be considered unlawful.

For question, contact Tina Smart, school Social Worker at **483-4124**.

School Meals You'll Love!

The ladies in the Cafeteria are always thrilled to see each and everyone of you. We are looking forward to an even better and exciting New Year of 2018! Did you know we have NEW Recipes added to our Menu? We have, Chicken Alfredo w/Garlic Bread and also Banh Mi Sandwich. We Get a "Kick" Out of Nutritional Foods. That's right Super Bowl Celebration will be on 2/2/18. See you there! Stay Healthy! Go Bruins!!



Math Stars

Math Stars! Is Gray's Creek Middle School's new math enhancement program. During these morning (before homeroom starts) math sessions, students are practicing basic math skills in order to improve their proficiency and expediency in these areas. By honing these basic math skills, students will become more confident in their ability to solve problems. In addition, we hope that by improving their basic math proficiency students will be quicker at doing basic computations, leaving them more time for multi-step problems and more complex problem solving.

To garner interest and a sense of competitiveness, students are assigned points for every correct answer. Grade levels compete for the most points to win that month's prize. Some of the prizes include: popsicles at lunch, donuts for breakfast, a movie during math, and open seating at lunch. In accordance with Cumberland County's motto of "Make every minute count", we hope that the use of pre-homeroom time will lead to both proficiency and growth in our students' EOG math scores.



Week for Autism Awareness
March 26 to April 2.
World Autism Awareness Day
2018
is April 2.





Mid-Year Steps to Help Students Reflect and Succeed

- 1) Review report card with your child:
 - Where did he/she succeed (attendance/grades/behavior)?
 - What area(s) need improvement?

- 2) Write a SMART goal with your child. To make sure your goals are clear and reachable, each one should be:
 - **S**pecific (simple, sensible, significant).
 - **M**easurable (meaningful, motivating).
 - **A**chievable (agreed, attainable).
 - **R**elevant (reasonable, realistic and resourced, results-based).
 - **T**ime bound (time-based, time limited, time/cost limited, timely, time-sensitive).

- 3) Check your child's grades in PowerSchool with him/her:
 - Look at missing work, low grades, etc.
 - Were they test scores, HW, CW, projects?
 - Come up with a plan to reach the goal by including making changes to current habits.

- 4) Post this goal on your refrigerator or somewhere you can both see it.

- 5) Be sure you and your child know how to access the teacher calendars on the GCMS website. Your child should be using his/her agenda to write down assignments each day. The calendars are a great way to double-check behind students to make sure they complete all work.

- 6) Be positive! Reflect on your child's progress, even the little things! Talk to your child and give him/her affirmation daily.

Spanish Quiz Bowl

The Spanish Quiz Bowl Club at GCMS focuses on using Spanish in real-world situations. Students learn Spanish in order to be prepared to communicate with others through oral language, print, and media. They are also encouraged to learn about the culture of the Hispanic countries. So get ready to virtually travel around the Spanish-speaking countries and learn the language.

Last school year 2016 – 2017 we achieved first place among all Cumberland County participating schools. It was the first time the GCMS Spanish team won a prestigious contest.

We are ready to tackle this challenge again this year, and look forward to win it for the second time in a row.

