



GEORGIA ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL
4416 Ethan Allen Highway
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Principal pK—4
Principal 5—8

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Dear GEMS Families,

Sept. 8, 2021

We continue to be impressed with our students and staff as we settle into our school year and begin to feel accustomed to our schedules and routines in our building. Likewise, it's great to see the wonderful participation of our middle school students in our fall sports offerings. Over 47% of our middle school students are participating in soccer or cross country this fall and it's exciting to see the games and races begin. Go Chargers!

GEMS Family and Student Handbook: Please take the time to read the GEMS Handbook. If there are changes or addendums, we will notify you in one of our newsletters. [GEMS Handbook Link](#)
Printed copies are available at request.

9/11 Commemoration - Georgia Elementary and Middle School will recognize the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on Friday, September 10th, 2021.

Middle school students will create a story walk around our 0.6-mile walking path on our school grounds with markers including stories of some of the heroes of 9/11. Additionally, students will place flags around the walking path to honor the 2,977 people who were killed from the attacks on America that day. We have invited the Georgia Fire Department to join us for our walk on the morning of the 10th but otherwise, this event is closed to the public.

We welcome our community members to come to our school grounds over the weekend to use the Memorial Walk our Georgia Middle School students will have created to commemorate this significant day in American history.

Elementary students, during morning meeting, will acknowledge this event with our students in a developmentally appropriate manner and to show respect and remembrance for all of the Heroes who sacrificed and served our nation. Here is a script we will use to start this brief conversation: "Twenty years ago there was an event in our country that highlighted the many types of heroes all around us and in our communities. We want to take a moment to share about the heroes we know and acknowledge their service." **We will not be sharing any specifics about the events, rather a focus on Heroes.**

Middle School Morning Drop-off - In an attempt to expedite our morning drop-off, starting Monday, September 13th, we will open the lower lot as a Middle School drop-off point for families dropping students in grades 5 through 8 only. Students will need to walk up the sidewalk the length of the building to enter the Middle School Entrance. We hope this will alleviate some of the route 7 congestion and help our students transition into the building more quickly. Families with students in both elementary and middle school should continue to follow the drop-off loop. Please be on the lookout for adults helping redirect those middle school cars as we adjust to a new traffic pattern.

Open House Curriculum Night: Open house will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates:



Grade	Date
1st Grade	Wed., Sept 15th
2nd Grade	Tues., Sept 14th
3rd Grade	Wed., Sept 22nd
4th Grade	Thurs., Sept 16th
5th and 6th Grade	Mon., Sept 20th
7th Grade	Mon., Sept 27th
8th Grade	Tues., Sept 21st

2021-2022 School Year Calendar

Thank you again for your partnership in your child’s education. We appreciate your interest, feedback, and support throughout this fall.

Busing: As we move further into the school year, we want to remind parents that our busing option is available to families. Many of our buses are operating with far fewer students, especially in the mornings. If your needs change, please contact the front office so we can make and communicate changes to Terricel and assign specific seats to students and family members.

Health Updates: It is our biggest goal to keep our students and staff safe and healthy this year. With that goal in mind, we rely on a strong partnership with our families to help us meet that goal. Please take a moment to read the Nursing Newsletter and the Vt Dept of Health’s Definitions of a “close contact.” Please reach out to our amazing school nursing team, Terry Shaw (pK-4) and Melissa Waterhouse (5-8) if you have any questions.

FWSU School Nursing Newsletter [“What to do if your child feels sick”](#)

Food Service: Children need healthy meals to learn. Georgia School offers healthy meals every school day through our partnership with GENUINE Foods. In-School Year 2021-2022, all children will receive free meals, regardless of your household income eligibility. **It is still very important for families to submit the Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals to track our community's Free and Reduced Percentage.** [Filling out this free & reduced application](#) may help your family, the school, and the community at large, qualify for other financial assistance. P-EBT benefits to your household, grant funds for the school, and telecom reimbursements for the community are just a few examples of the [benefits of having higher Free and Reduced percentages](#). Please contact Corrina Favreau at cfavreau@fwsu.org or at (802) 524-6358x2 if you have any questions.

GEMS Calendar: A Look Ahead

Mon., Sept 13	Tues., Sept 14	Wed., Sept 15	Thurs., Sept 16	Fri., Sept 17
	7/8 G Soccer and 8B Soccer Game @ SATEC 2nd Grade Open House (Library @ 6:00)	Middle School UN Sustainable Development Kickoff with Shelburne Farms 10:00 - 12:00 Early Release Day (Dismissal @ 1:00) 5/6 Soccer (B&G) Games Home vs. SATEC/TOWN 1st Grade Open House (Library @ 6:00)	7/8 G Soccer and 8B Soccer Game Home v MVU 4th Grade Open House (Library @ 6:00)	5/6 Soccer (B&G) Games @ Sheldon
Mon., Sept 20	Tues., Sept 21	Wed., Sept 22	Thurs., Sept 23	Fri., Sept 24
5/6 B & G Soccer @ Fairfield 8 B Soccer @ Fairfield 5th & 6th Grade Open House (Library @ 6:00)	7/8 G Soccer Home v Fairfield 8th Grade Open House (Library @ 6:00)	3rd Grade Open House (Library @ 6:00)	7 B Soccer Home v Berkshire 7/8 G Soccer and 8B Soccer Game @ MVU	

Georgia Middle School Plans Sustainable Development Goals Launch with Shelburne Farms & UP for Learning

On Wednesday, September 15th, Georgia Middle School will launch a year-long project-based learning unit focusing on the UN Sustainable Development goals in partnership with Shelburne Farms and UP for Learning. During this kick-off event, students will be imagining what our community (and the



world) would need for all individuals to thrive and how the sustainable development goals can help us achieve this vision.

Students will spend the year building an understanding of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a three-phase process: Inform, Research, and Act. Through this process, students will be exploring the SDGs and their impact on the local and global community. Students will take action through a collaborative sustainability project based on one of the goals.

There is also an opportunity for two students to join the Student Leadership team on this project.

Best,

Julie Conrad and Steve Emery
Georgia Elementary and Middle School Principals