



GEORGIA ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL
 4416 Ethan Allen Highway
 Saint Albans, Vermont 05478

Principal pK—4
 Principal 5—8

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Dear GEMS Families,

Sept. 1, 2021

We want to thank you and your students for a wonderful start to the school year. Students have been adjusting to the new routines, creating new and building on previous relationships, and have started to learn some amazing new things in our first weeks. Please reach out to us and let us know your questions. We value your feedback and together we make our school a safe and strong community.

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.

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](#)"
VT Dept of Health "[Close Contact Guidance for Schools](#)"

FWSU has also signed up to offer COVID surveillance testing. More information about this will be forthcoming.

Elementary Lunch Schedule: Starting Tuesday, September 7th we will only be allowing one grade level at a time to eat in the cafeteria. This will be a rotating schedule on a weekly basis for grades 1 and 2 (11:00-11:30) and grades 3 and 4 (11:30-12:00). When it is a grade level off week they will be eating in their classrooms. Lunch provided by Genuine will continue to have the same choices in either location. The first week, starting Sept. 7th, grades 1 and 3 will be in the cafeteria and will be sitting with students from their classroom pod.

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 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 6	Tues., Sept 7	Wed., Sept 8	Thurs., Sept 9	Fri., Sept 10
<p>Labor Day No School!</p>	<p>5/6 Soccer (B&G) Games Home vs. Fairfield</p>		<p>7/8 G Soccer and 8B Soccer Game @ Fairfield</p>	
Mon., Sept 13	Tues., Sept 14	Wed., Sept 15	Thurs., Sept 16	Fri., Sept 17
	<p>7/8 G Soccer and 8B Soccer Game @ SATEC</p> <p>2nd Grade Open House (Library @ 6:00)</p>	<p>Middle School UN Sustainable Development Kickoff with Shelburne Farms 10:00 - 12:00</p> <p>Early Release Day (Dismissal @ 1:00)</p> <p>5/6 Soccer (B&G) Games Home vs. SATEC/TOWN</p> <p>1st Grade Open House (Library @ 6:00)</p>	<p>7/8 G Soccer and 8B Soccer Game Home v MVU</p> <p>4th Grade Open House (Library @ 6:00)</p>	<p>5/6 Soccer (B&G) Games @ Sheldon</p>

Middle School Power Hour:

This year, the Middle School is starting a new initiative to increase opportunities to build relationships and connections during our lunch and wellness time. Each week, students will have choices for their recess or wellness with supervised activities like the walking path, team games, yoga or dance. Then lunch times for groups and clubs to play and explore together just like Art Club, Tech club, board games. This also enables us to reduce the size of students that are eating together which will hopefully help us stay safe and healthy. Students will still have the option of a traditional cafeteria lunch and open recess in their choices.



Best,

Julie Conrad and Steve Emery
 Georgia Elementary and Middle School Principals