

Garfield Middle School News

In the Middle

Real Students, Real Stories, Real News



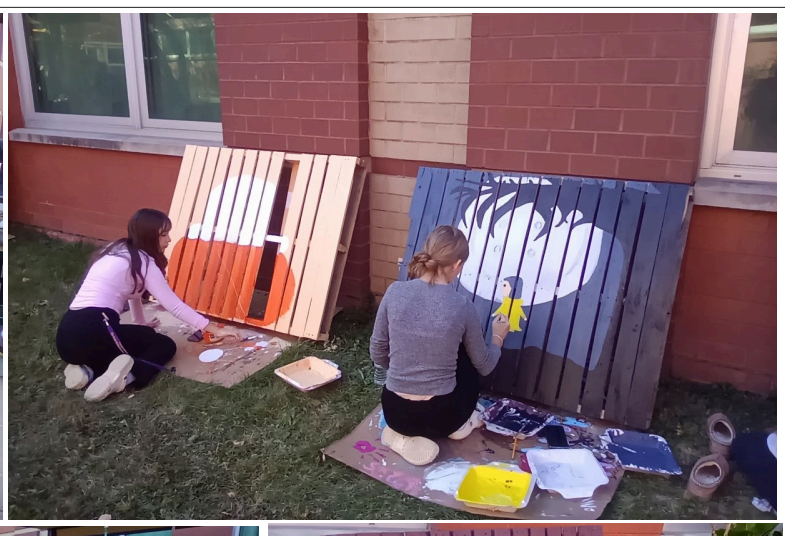
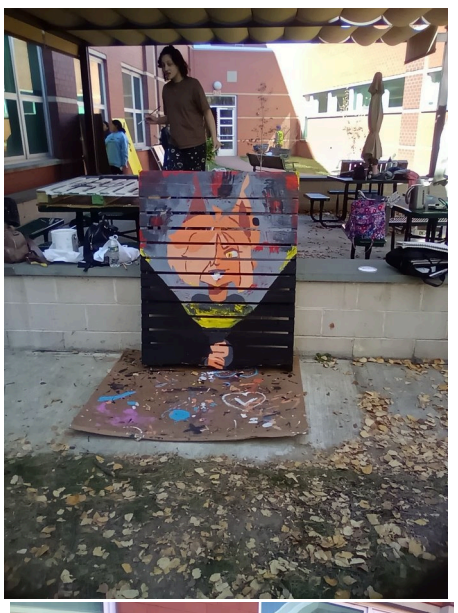
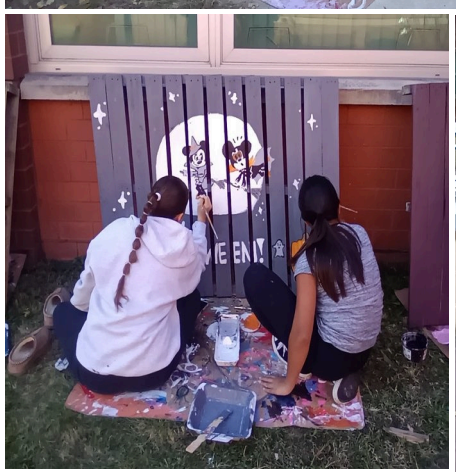
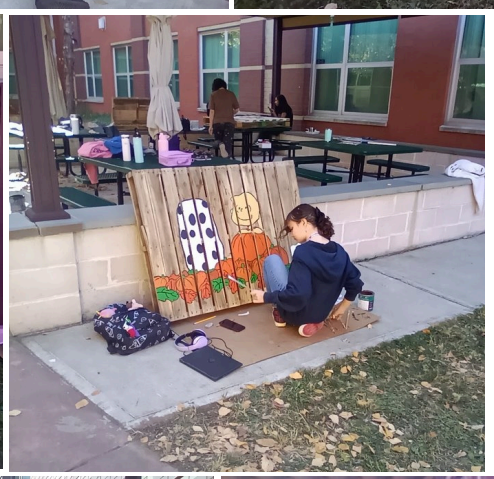
November 2024 | Welcome Back to School | Volume 7, Issue 1

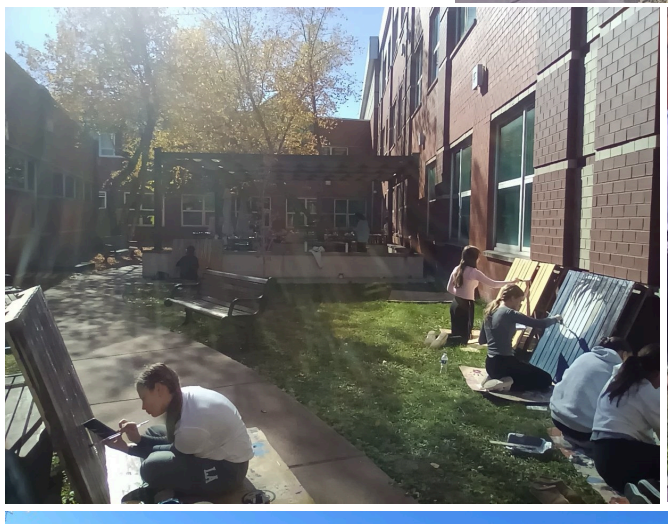
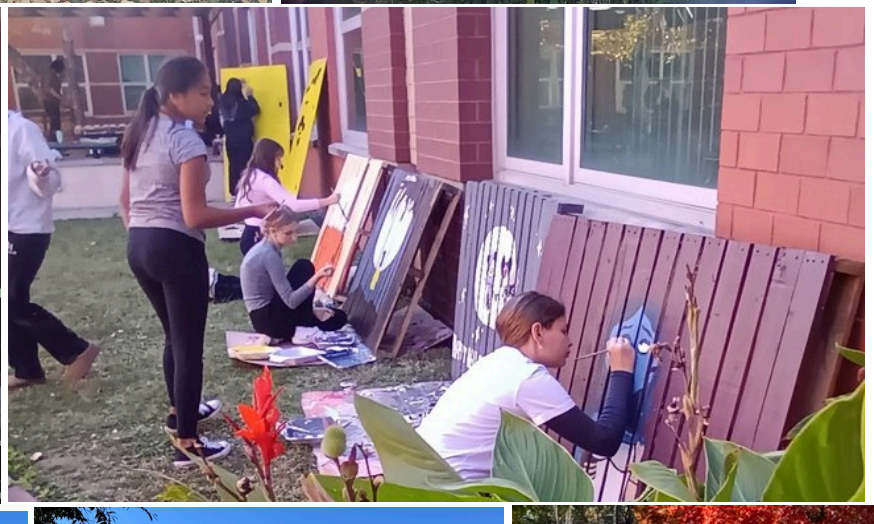
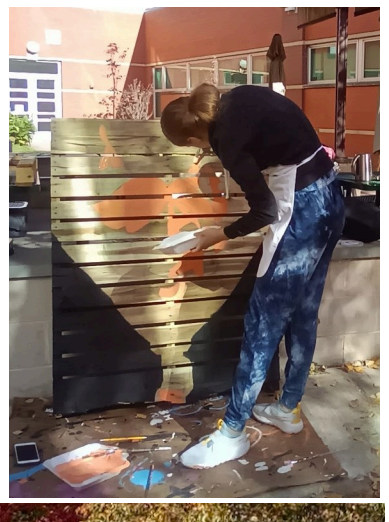
Garfield Middle School Art students paint Fall pallets for the town

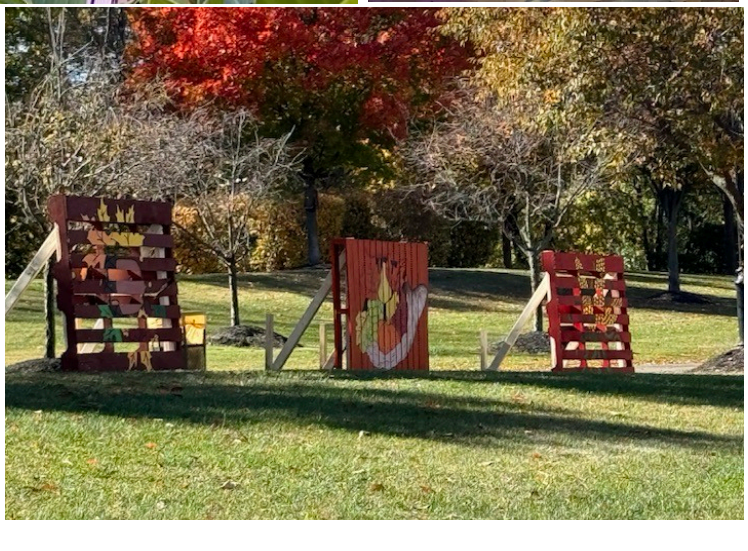
Artwork on display at River Drive Park

Garfield Middle School students have found a unique way to add a splash of color to the community by turning ordinary wooden pallets into stunning works of art. As part of a school art initiative aimed at promoting creativity and public art, students from Garfield Middle School painted wooden pallets, which are now on display along River Drive PArk for the community to enjoy.

The project, led by art teacher Mrs. Gaboury, invited students to brainstorm and design their own creative concepts. Students were encouraged to explore a range of themes, from nature and abstract shapes to cultural symbols and community pride. The final designs now bring life to the once-plain pallets, featuring vibrant colors and intricate designs that each tell a unique story.

GMS shows "Purple Pride" as we kick off the new school year on September 20th







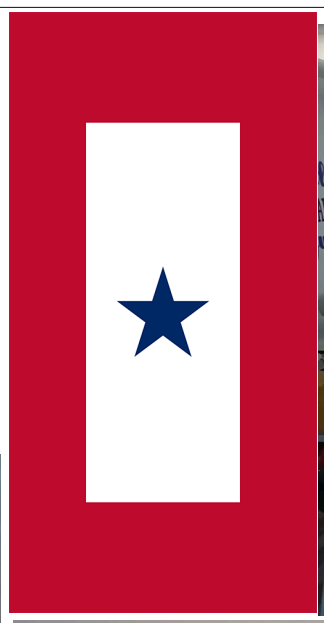




Annual Blue Star breakfast to welcome members October 30th

Blue Star Families

The families of our all-volunteer military make unprecedented sacrifices these days to serve our country. Blue Star Families, founded by military spouses in 2009, empower these families to thrive as they serve. At GMS we are committed to strengthening military families by connecting them with others – individuals and organizations – to create vibrant communities of mutual support. We believe we're all stronger when we take care of one another.

















The GMS Book Review:
Dr. Stone
A Manga Series

Written by Gyon Bendezu, Grade 7

"Dr. Stone" is a manga series written by Riichiro Inagaki and illustrated by Boichi. Originally released in Weekly Shonen Jump, this manga stands out in the shonen genre due to its fusion of science, adventure, and survival themes. Unlike typical manga, "Dr. Stone" takes a whole new approach by focusing on science, discovery, and human ingenuity.

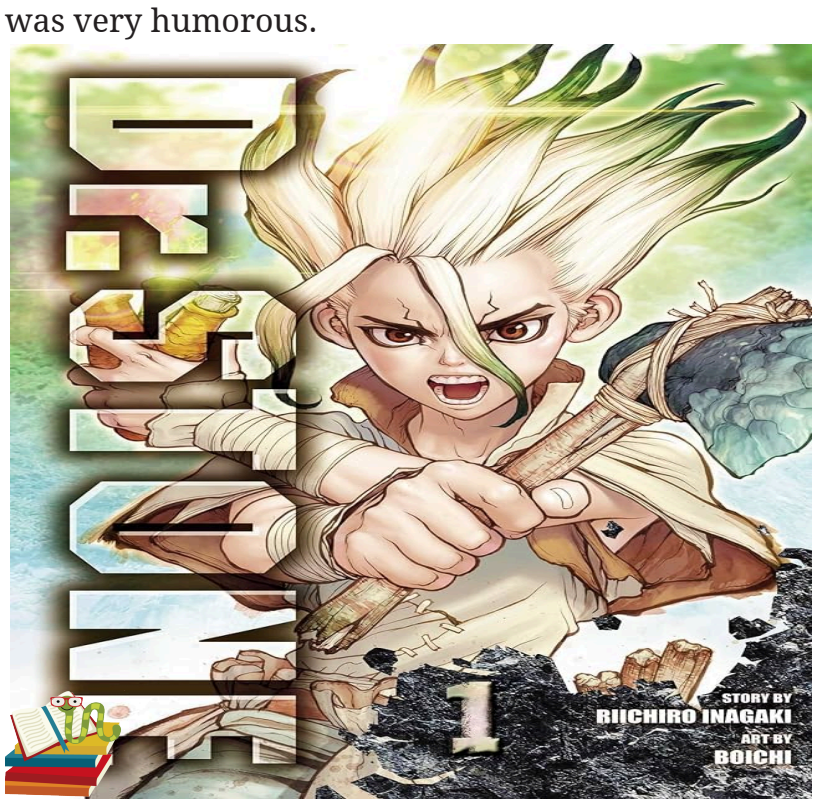
After tragic events occur the entire world has been petrified for 3,700 years. All hope is lost until scientific genius Senku Ishigami breaks out and makes it his goal to return the earth to what it once was long ago.

The story actually begins when a mysterious green light turns every human on Earth into stone, plunging society into a frozen state for thousands of years. Fast forward over 3,700 years, and Senku Ishigami, a teenage genius with a passion for science, wakes up and finds himself in a world without modern civilization—where all technology has crumbled, and nature has reclaimed the planet. Determined to rebuild society from scratch, Senku uses his many skills to "revive" human civilization. Teaming up with his friend Taiju Oki and others they meet along the way, Senku embarks on a quest to reintroduce the wonders of technology—from simple inventions like soap to more complex inventions like electricity.

"Dr. Stone" also shines with its sense of humor. Senku's dry wit, Taiju's endearing coolness, and the characters make for some great comedic scenes. The relationships between the characters—whether friendship or rivalry—give the story an emotional feeling that makes their achievements feel more meaningful.

There's a sense of teamwork and human connection throughout, as the characters work together to reclaim their humanity, one invention at a time.

All in all, I enjoyed this book a lot and always ended up coming back for more. They use many examples of real-world science! I really felt like I was learning something while at the same time it was very humorous.

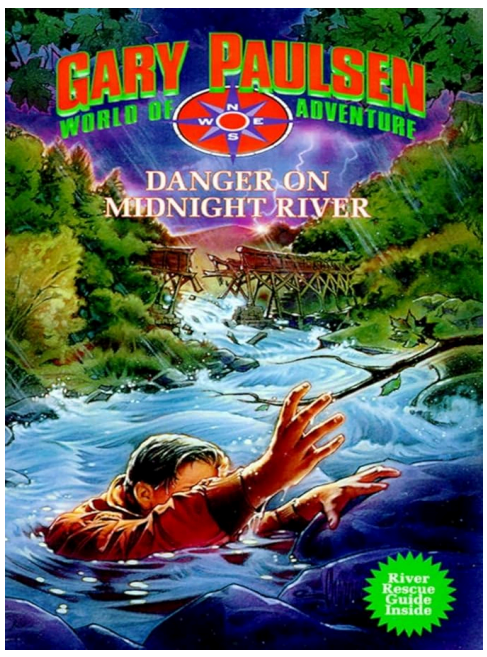


The GMS Book Review:
Danger on Midnight River
by Gary Paulsen

Written by Laith Ammar, Grade 7

In the quiet town of Willow Creek, a group of friends discover a mysterious river that glows under the moonlight. When they decide to explore it one night, they uncover secrets that could change their town forever. But they're not alone! Dark shadows lurk beneath the water, and as the friends dig deeper, they realize they're in more danger than they ever imagined. Will they work together to solve the mystery, or will the river claim them? Get ready for an adventure filled with thrills, friendship, and unexpected twists!

Friends Liam, Maya, and Jake discover a mysterious river that glows under the moonlight. Drawn by local legends, they embark on a nighttime adventure to explore its secrets. As they navigate the river's eerie waters, they encounter strange creatures and uncover a hidden history that threatens their town. With dark forces at play, the friends must rely on their courage and teamwork to solve the mystery before it's too late. Will they uncover the truth and survive the dangers lurking in the shadows of Midnight River?



As they explore the river, they encounter eerie sights and strange sounds. They begin to uncover the legend of the river spirits and their connection to past events in the town. Tensions rise as they face unexpected challenges and dangers, testing their friendship.

The friends confront the river spirits and must solve a puzzle that holds the key to stopping a dark force threatening their town. In a heart-pounding showdown, they learn the true meaning of bravery and teamwork.

Teamwork seems to be the theme of this book. The story emphasizes the importance of working together and supporting one another in the face of challenges. The bond between Liam, Maya, and Jake grows stronger as they confront their fears and rely on each other. Give this one a try! You will really love this book.

Save the date!



Garfield Middle School Fall Sports Page









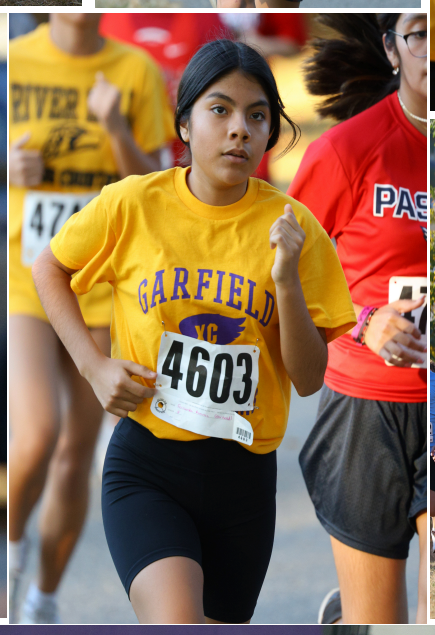


















Safa in the Middle School

And just like that...
I got to know my teachers

A column written by Safa Kayali, Grade 6

When my GMS Publishing teacher told me that I can interview anyone I want for the newspaper, I thought about interviewing a teacher. But I loved so many teachers and I wanted to interview them all! Although it was hard to choose between all my teachers, I decided to interview three of them, and they all had remarkable things to share! (Every teacher told me a crazy story! Keep reading to find out the crazy stories that happened to each of the teachers I interviewed!)

First, I interviewed Mr. Kenny, my Gym and Health teacher. He talked to me about many things: what he used to work before teaching, how his experience has changed, and many more subjects. When I interviewed him, he said he used to work in advertising before he was a teacher.

Also, Mr. Kenny said that he loves teaching gym and health, and he likes to be a positive influence among children, which is what inspired him to be a teacher. When he first started teaching, he was an elementary school gym and health teacher, and then he transitioned to middle school. Based on what Mr. Kenny said to me, this is his 17th year of teaching gym and health.

Mr. Kenny loves fishing, going to his kids' sports activities, hanging out with his family, and playing and coaching and basketball. Now, there is a story that I'm about to say that's pretty crazy, people.

When I asked Mr. Kenny about a crazy story that has happened throughout his teaching experience, he told me that he was stuck in a lockdown for 2 HOURS and it was all false! It is crazy don't you think?



But then I decided to find out more about our Garfield teachers. I was certain that there were more interesting stories out there, and I was determined to find out more of their stories.

Next, I interviewed Mr. Wellington, my math teacher. We talked about many things that Mr. Wellington wanted to share, one of them that he loved what he teaches, and he won't change the subject he teaches. He also said that his enjoyment of working with young students and helping them succeed is what inspired him to be a teacher.

When I interviewed him, he told me that he used to be an Opera singer before he became a teacher. When he was younger, he said that had wanted to be an Opera singer or a psychologist. He got close on both fronts! After college, he worked in the financial industry in New York. Although it was stressful, he enjoyed it. Then, he worked as a teacher. Mr. Wellington said that he is pro-technology and that there are less surprises throughout his teaching career, but every day is a new challenge.

Now, it's time for the crazy story Mr. Wellington told me about. When I asked Mr. Wellington about a crazy story that has happened throughout his teaching experience, he told me that while he was teaching in Paterson, three of his students participated in the district Math Olympiad. In the end, they got remarkably close to 1st prize! That was an extremely exciting event!



After hearing the great stories that I had so far, I still wanted to know more. There was one other teacher that I had in mind for an interview.

My GMS Publishing teacher told me to "Go for it!" , so I did.

Lastly, I interviewed Mrs. Dickson, my literature teacher. She had a lot of things to share as well! We talked about many things. When I interviewed her, she told me that when she was little, she wanted to be a stay-at-home mom because she wanted to have lots of kids and be part of a huge family. But, before she was a teacher, she told me that she was a waitress.

Now, I know you must be thinking: how did Mrs. Dickson become a teacher? Well, let me tell you. Once, when she was in college, she was a teacher's aide in second grade, and then she realized she wanted to be a teacher. Mrs. Dickson said that she would stay a literature teacher if she was to choose another subject to teach, because she loves to read. When I asked her if she likes teaching with technology better or with no technology, she said that she likes teaching better with no technology because she wants students to be creative and think themselves.

Also, Mrs. Dickson said that the technology has definitely changed over the years, and she'd learned a lot, which had made her a better teacher, but her love for teaching hasn't changed.

Now, it's time for Mrs. Dickson's crazy story that happened throughout her teaching life! So, during Covid, when Mrs. Dickson was on her laptop and there were no students, she saw a mouse running on her desk then climbing up the blinds, and Mr. Leonard had to come to rescue her! That is some crazy story, people!



Principal Thoughts - From the desk of Mr. Rigoglioso

By Jose Chingate, Bryan Mozo & Gyon Bendezu, Grade 7

Welcome back to another exciting year at Garfield Middle School. Whether you are stepping into the hallways of middle school for the first time as a 6th grader, returning as a 7th grader, or preparing for the big year ahead as an 8th grader, we are excited for this new school year.

As we dive into this new school year, I am even more excited about the learning, growth, and fun that lies ahead. We have so many exciting opportunities, challenges, and experiences planned that I am confident will make this year memorable.

This year, we are introducing new programs, clubs, and activities designed to help you discover your passions and explore your talents. Whether you are interested in sports, arts, science, or student leadership, there will be something for everyone. Do not hesitate to step out of your comfort zone and try



something new—you never know what you might find a love for until you give it a shot!

Our teachers and staff have been preparing all summer to make your learning experience the best it can be. They are here to support you academically, but they are also here to cheer you on, answer questions, and help you navigate anything that comes your way.

Remember, middle school is a journey, and it is okay to have questions or ask for help. We are all in this together.

As a school, we strive to live by the values of respect, responsibility, and resilience. Respect each other's ideas and differences, take responsibility for your work and actions, and do not give up when things get challenging.

Throughout the year, we will celebrate your achievements, learn from mistakes, and grow together. Let us work to make each day count. Be kind to each other, work hard, and always remember that every one of you has something unique to contribute to our school community.

I also want to say how excited we are to have you back with us. This year is going to be amazing, and we cannot wait to see all the incredible things you will accomplish. Here is to a fantastic year ahead!

GMS School Store officially opens

By Jeronimo Suarez Osorio, Grade 7

The Garfield Middle School School Store is open. This store was created to give students the opportunity to purchase prizes with the bitcoins that they have earned in the PBSIS program.

When students are found demonstrating and displaying positive behavior, they will earn bitcoins that they can use here at the school store.

There are many items that students can purchase with their bitcoins. Items range from snacks to pencils to jibbitz and more.









Welcome to GMS School Disciplinarian Mr. Williams

By Milania Cordero, Grade 7

This year, Garfield Middle School welcomed a new addition to its administration team: Mr. Todd Williams, our new School Disciplinarian. With a strong background in educational leadership and student advocacy, Mr. Williams is ready to tackle his new role, focusing on creating a balanced environment that promotes both responsibility and support. His main goal? To help students build essential life skills like accountability, respect, and resilience—all while keeping the school atmosphere positive and encouraging.

Mr. Williams comes to us with many years of experience working with students and staff in a variety of school settings. Before joining Garfield Middle School, he worked as a school disciplinarian at Garfield High School, where he helped students improve their social skills and supported students with behavior improvement strategies. His passion for student development is evident in his approach. He believes in listening to students, understanding their perspectives, and working collaboratively to find solutions to any issues they face.

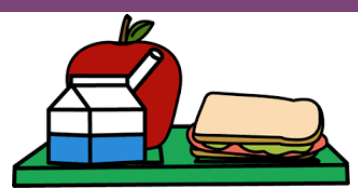
"Discipline isn't just about consequences," Mr. Williams explains. "It's about guiding students to make better decisions. I'm here to help students learn from their mistakes and become better versions of themselves."

As the new GMS disciplinarian, Mr. Williams will work closely with teachers and counselors to support students who may be struggling with behavioral challenges or decision-making. His duties include monitoring and enforcing the school's code of conduct, providing one-on-one support to students, and introducing proactive programs to reduce issues before they arise.

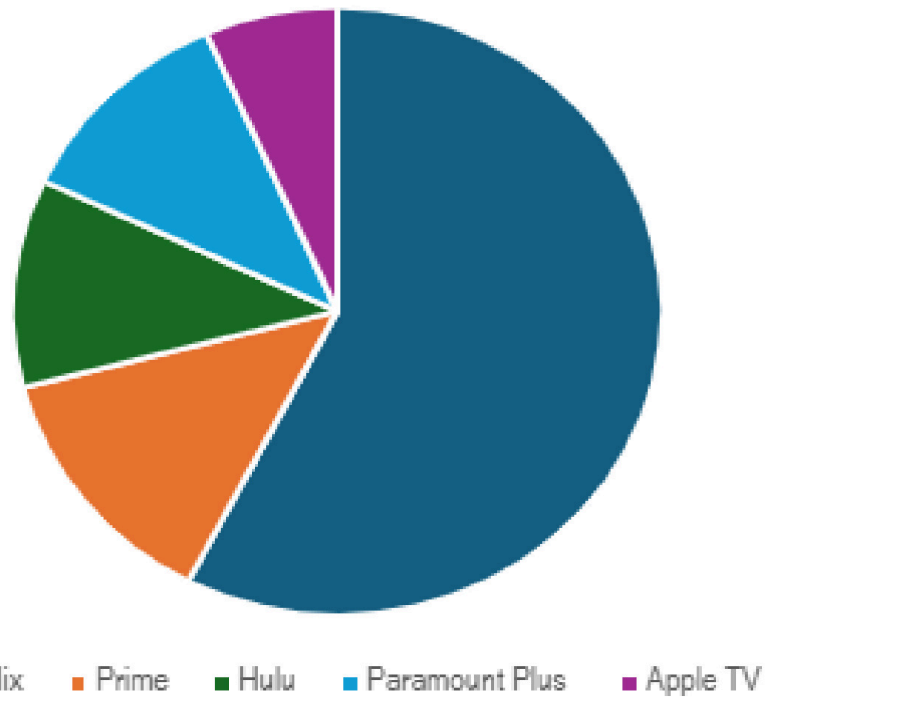
For students who want to get to know him better, Mr. Williams encourages everyone to stop by his office. "I'm always available to listen," he says.



GMS Lunchtime Poll
Marking Period One
"What is the best streaming service?"



Our lunchtime poll for this issue asked 757 students and staff what their favorite streaming service is. Nextflix is the clear winner at 436 votes. See how your favorite brand did on the chart below.



A *day* at the Museum

GMS Art teachers take their classes to the Newark Museum of Art October 24th





Dress up like your favorite teacher for Halloween

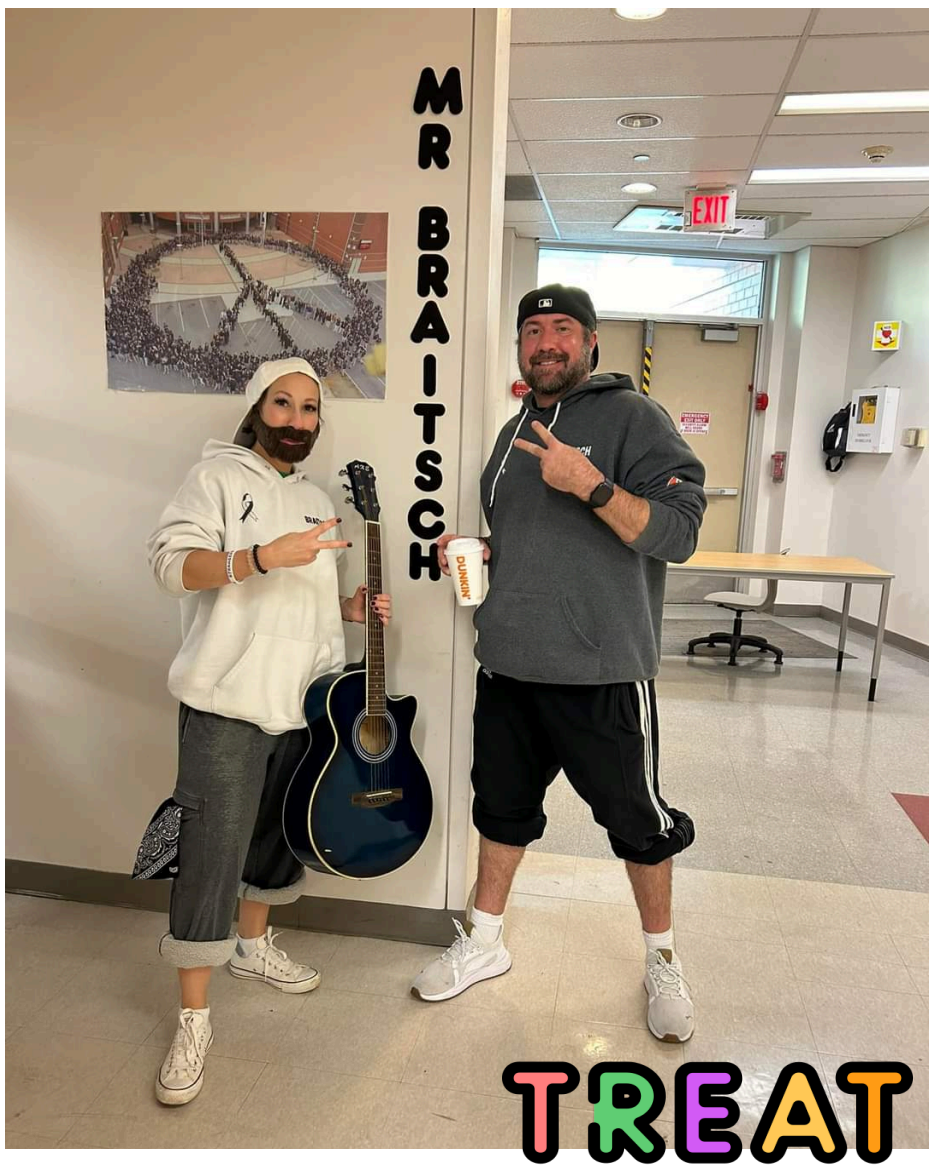


GMS teachers dress up like each other as tribute to *Mr. Braitsch, Mr. Cicchelli & Mrs. Bowen*









Mrs. Fiduccia (pictured above as Mr. Braitsch)
A special thank you for the pics. Great job!



GMS Wears Red

Drug Prevention Week

October 23-31, 2024

"Be Kind to Your Mind. Live Drug Free"

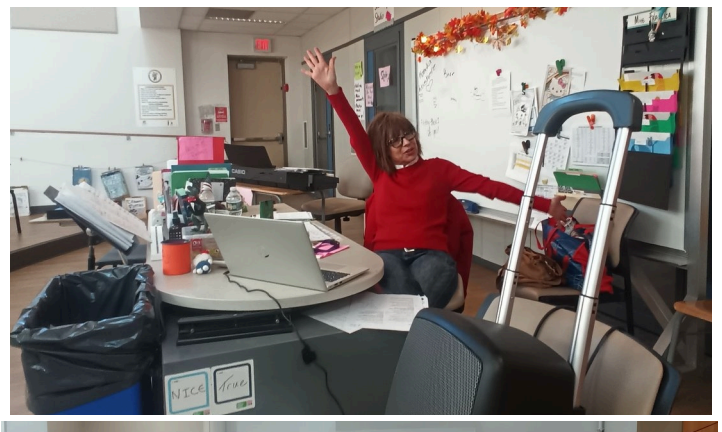














ECLC comes to GMS

for Halloween Performance

October 29th, 2024

Welcome to GMS class of 2038 & 2039

















Scooby-Doo invasion at GMS on 10/31 ~ Zoinks!



GMS Monster Mash - Halloween dance
October 30, 2024





























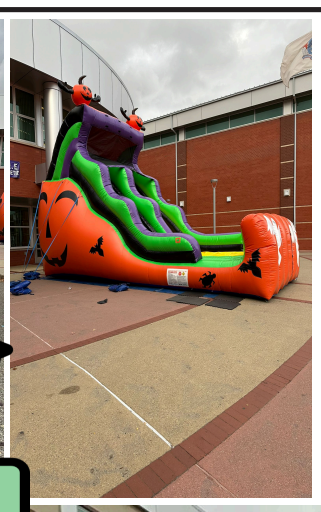




Trunk or Treat GMS Teachers vs. Pre-K Teachers

GMS Wins 433-339 ! October 29th, 2024

















Gaming Column - New Consoles and Games arrive in 2025

Written by Jose Chingate - Grade 7

There are rumors that Nintendo is making a new console better than the switch. The Nintendo Switch 2 is expected to be released in April 2025 at the earliest. This is later than the original expectation of a fall 2024 release. It's expected to be between $349 and $499.

Shuntaro Furukawa (the president of Nintendo) announced that the Switch 2 will be announced within the fiscal year ending March 2025

Nintendo also hinted that backwards compatibility would work on the switch 2, which means it can be used with older technology meaning that you can use the Joy-Cons with the Nintendo 2.

Interestingly, instead of using OLED (displays consist of self-lit pixels) it's rumored to use a LCD (displays use a backlight shining through liquid crystals to create an image)





Meanwhile, Playstation PS5-Pro is being introduced to the world og gaming. The PS5 Pro is all about making big-TV gaming a happier experience. A souped-up GPU promises more ray-tracing and fluid 4K and 60-frames-per-second gaming across the board for games that get a Pro upgrade, and automatic AI upscaling for other games in the PlayStation library. Sony says about 40 to 50 games will get patches when the system launches in November to give them Pro-upgraded performance extras. Expect a lot more ray tracing, a fancy graphical technique to simulate light.

t's also a more expensive piece of gaming hardware. At $700 with a 2TB solid-state drive, the system doesn't include an optical drive (sold separately), a vertical stand or a second controller.

And the included controller is the standard DualSense; nothing new there. You're paying for the expanded internal storage and that new GPU upgrade.

The biggest external differences, teased in Sony's 30th-anniversary logo, are the diagonal black ribbed vents across the center. (These mean the Pro is incompatible with existing PS5 console covers.) The front and rear ports on the Pro shipping in November are the same as the current PS5, but the prerelease hardware I saw on display during my demo had an extra USB-C port in the back instead of USB-A. The final hardware will have USB-C ports on the front and USB-A ports in the back. The PS5 Pro should slot into similar shelving to your older PS5, unlike the chunkier PS4 Pro released in 2016, and you can mount the Pro vertically on the optional $30 stand if you prefer.

The Pro comes with the same DualSense controller as the PS5 -- no upgrades there. (A step-up DualSense Edge controller already exists.) The Pro doesn't have an optical disc drive. Instead, there's a larger 2TB solid-state drive, plus the same support for expanded M2 SSDs. However, you can attach an optical drive separately, the same ones that work on the new PS5 models.

International Food Night
October 17th, 2024

The International Food Festival has returned to GMS! Here at GMS we recognize that food has a unique ability to transcend language barriers and bring people together. This festival was a testament to the power of cuisine in fostering cultural exchange. It was a celebration of diversity, unity, and a reminder that the world truly is a global village. The heart of the festival was, of course, the food. Each dish represented a different corner of the world, and visitors were invited to embark on a culinary journey. The festival's offerings were nothing short of remarkable, and every bite was a flavorful testament to the heritage and traditions of the student, staff and community's respective cultures.























The school newspaper is back !!

Look for our next issue with more articles written by our outstanding students!

Teacher Spotlight and more polls

GMS happenings and highlights

More book reviews

and of course, more GMS news!



