

October 2018

# GREGG MIDDLE SCHOOL

*SUCCESS IS THE ONLY OPTION*

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## Quote of the Month

"Education is the foundation upon which we  
build our future"

Christine Gregoire

## From The Principal's Desk

Dear Mustang Family,

We are a few weeks into the school year and it's been a great start! Our teachers are hard at work teaching, assessing, and examining data within teams to ensure student learning. Our support staff is working hard to keep our school clean, inviting and safe so all members of the Gregg Middle School family can do their personal best. Our students are engaged in learning during the school day and busy with their activities, athletics or interests afterwards. Our parents and community members are hard at work supporting all we do at Gregg Middle School to make us among the best in the state. Given the busy schedules of our entire Gregg Middle School Community, we see our GMS Newsletter as one of the important ways we maintain communication between school and home. It contains a variety of future events the community can be aware and involved.

Finally, earlier this month my administration team and I took the time to meet with all students during their courtyard time. The main purpose of these meetings was to reinforce the importance of their education, highlight accomplishment, highlight a few specific areas in the handbook, and inform them as to why those policies are in place. I shared with our students the four keys to success: "Be in school every day, Be on time to class and ready to work, Respect yourself and others, and Take care of your school and facilities. As our students commit to these keys for success, they are also committing to: (1) Grow in knowledge & maturity. (2) Learn the norms of a professional environment. (3) Be supportive of one another in a safe environment. Ultimately, they are making a commitment to "Success is the ONLY Option!" At GMS, we are honored to work with you in this endeavor. Mustang Proud!

Mr. William Wilson, Principal

# News You Can Use

Greeting, GMS family. As we roll into October, we have already made it halfway through the 1st quarter. As you recently received your student's 1st Quarter Interim Report, I strongly recommend that keep up with your child's progress by frequently checking Parent Portal where you can access your student's grades as the year progresses. Also, if you should have any questions or concerns, I encourage you to contact your child's teacher or to schedule a parent/teacher conference. Furthermore, on Tuesday, October 2, we will be hosting the 7th & 8th Grade Open House where you can meet your child's teachers. I strongly encourage you to come out to this event and visit the school. Lastly because we would like to see as many parents as possible involved in the PTSA, I invite you to attend the next PTSA Meeting in the GMS front office on Monday, October 15 at 5:30 PM. I hope to see you there!

## Tips for Parents

### Active Study Skills vs. Passive Study Skills

Knowing how to study is as important as the process of studying. Using active study skills allows students to develop a deeper understanding. Below are tips on how to use active study skills.

#### Active Study vs. Passive Study

- \* Take complete notes. Teachers usually write test questions based on material and examples covered in class.
- \* Be an active participant in the classroom. Volunteer to answer questions. Work ahead; try to read the material or work some of the problems before the material is covered in class. Previewing the information has your brain ready for what the teacher will present.
- \* Ask questions in class! The teacher does not know what you do not know if you do not ask questions.
- \* Go to extra help and ask questions. The teacher will be pleased to see that you are interested, and you will be actively helping yourself.

# Literacy at Home

As we continue to bring students back from the summer break, it is important to rejuvenate their love of reading. This not only provides them with opportunities to better understand their interests, but also serves as an invaluable tool for academic development. One-to-one reading time is an important factor in a children's emerging literacy skills and better prepares them for success in all subject areas of school and ultimately, future educational and career outcomes. Below are ten easy ways in which we as partners can help our students become more confident, successful readers. Try them out and when in doubt; read!

1. Set a routine.
2. Read at home and read often.
3. Create a special reading location.
4. Be a great reading partner.
5. Surround your student with books.
6. Bring books everywhere.
7. Be caught in the act of reading by your student.
8. Communicate with teachers for ideas and reading-level appropriate books.
9. Set learning goals.
10. Be enthusiastic!

## Technology in the Spotlight

"As of October 2018, Dorchester School District Two will begin using a new website platform and transitioning away from EdLine School and Teacher sites. Please look for more information to be shared soon. Thank you!

## Clinic Notes



Getting flu vaccine is your best defense, but you may also use the following tips to fight the flu this year:

- Wash your hands frequently, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, and being with ill people and especially before you eat
- Avoid sharing objects
- Avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes
- Get enough sleep and Reduce stress
- Use tissues for coughs and sneezes and dispose of them immediately and appropriately!
- If you are sick, avoid contact with the frail, very young and elderly
- If you are sick, stay home from work or school

# OCTOBER FEATURED MUSTANGS!

## Chalcie Parson

My name is Chalcie Parsons and I am the 6th/7th ACE math teacher. I was born and raised in West Virginia and decided to move down south with my family this year. My husband and I have two little boys, Mason who is 3 and Aiden who is 1. I have a math degree from West Virginia State University and a Master's in Education from Marshall University. Other than teaching, I love everything about volleyball! I played all the way through college and even helped coach high school. In my spare time you can find me hanging with my family and creating things with my Circuit machine. I am excited to be a Mustang!

## Elizabeth Martin

I am a Charleston native, and I have been teaching English Language Arts for 22 years. This is my first year at Gregg Middle School and I am excited to be part of this team.

I have one daughter, Libby, who is a freshman at the University of South Carolina. My husband Jason and I are very dedicated GAMECOCK fans, because we both went to college there also! I love animals; I have a dog, Bubba, and two cats, Mowgli and Birdie. I also love books, pajamas, and my STUDENTS! GO Mustang!

## Health & Awareness



Why is breakfast the most important meal of the day?

- It Encourages Healthy Eating Habits - Children who make a habit of eating breakfast every day are more likely to continue to do so throughout their lives.
- It Improves Concentration - Research shows children who eat a well-balanced breakfast show improved academic performance, demonstrate a longer attention span, have better attendance and experience decreased hyperactivity in school.
- It Boosts Family Bonding - Children greatly benefit from sitting around the table for a meal with their family, and breakfast is no exception.

# PTSA NEWS

## PTSA

Happy Fall! We hope that everyone is enjoying the school year and all fared well with the hurricane. A few shoutouts this month go to Mindy W, Mrs. Kay B, Allison A, Tina C, Nikki B, Suzanne W, Debbie W, Marieke L, Catherine O, Patsy Y, and Marcie M...these ladies donated their time helping with Mustang Market, Popcorn Incentive day and grandparents' day. Without our rockstar volunteers we wouldn't be able to put on these events. We would also like to thank all the people who have donated supplies to our hurricane supply drive to N.C. We are very appreciative of your donations.

Please mark your calendars and join us for some events. For the month of Oct we will kick off our fundraiser on Oct 1 and run through Oct 12. Please be on the lookout for the packets. This is the PTSA's biggest fundraiser and the funds allow us to put on events all year long.

Oct 10th-Popcorn Incentive day, Oct 15th-board meeting 5:30pm front conference room, Fall Dance ticket sales week of Oct 22-26, PTSA Fall Dance\_Oct 26-3:30-5:30pm Gym, Kool Katz Italian Icee Oct 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th during all courtyards weather permitting, Mustang Market-Oct 5th and 12th during all courtyards. We love and appreciate any time donated and it's never too late to become a PTSA member or volunteer. Together we can do so much! Teamwork! The PTSA Team.

## SIC

Happy New School Year Everyone! The GMS School Improvement Council (SIC) held its first meeting of the school year. We will be posting candidate names for Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary so if you are interested in any of these positions please let us know. If you are just interested in attending the SIC as a member, then please see the front office to complete a nomination form OR email the SIC at [GMSSIC@yahoo.com](mailto:GMSSIC@yahoo.com). We would love to have you!

Our focus this year will be on sharing our academic successes as well as strengthening our home-school-community relationships. Some great events will be coming out of the Gregg SIC this year and we can't wait! Hope you will consider joining us.