

Eagle Express



Volume XVIII • Issue 4
SEPTEMBER 2023

From the Principal

Dear Eagle Parents:

I look forward to this new school year full of hope and promise that each and every child will be a successful and productive member of the GLMS family. Through SOAR Time all students set learning goals for this school year. These goals will be recorded on page 2 of student planners under My SOARing Story. I encourage every family to ask their student(s) to share their SOARing Story. In order to maximize student learning, all stakeholders (students, teachers, & families) need to understand and be accountable for their students learning. As educators, teachers and staff will need your help and partnership as parents to ensure all students learning is maximized. Children benefit greatly when parents/guardians take an active role in their child's education. It has been proven that when students have parental support at home, they enjoy their learning and school life even more. Students' attitude and perception of school improves as they develop more self-confidence in their road to becoming life-long learners and solid contributors to our community. Here at GLMS, we believe our students Attitude plus their Effort equals their Intelligence (**A+E=I**)! We seek to provide a safe and welcoming environment that is conducive to student learning and student success. The first step in this process is to build and to maintain a working partnership with you by developing strong communication. One amazing opportunity is setting up parent conferences. Please contact Mrs. Weed at 407-320-7606 to schedule your Parent-Teacher Conference today!!

It is important to continue to monitor our school's website and maintain accurate information in Skyward Family Access to receive the most updated pertinent information that all parents should know for the school year. Skyward Family Access and eCampus is the main communication system for Greenwood Lakes. You may access student grades, attendance, and school-wide updates through Skyward Family Access. You may update emails and phone numbers anytime through Skyward Family Access. All Address updates must be made at the school with required information. You may call the Front Office if you are unable to retrieve your Skyward Family Access password. If you do not have the Skyward Family Access App... please download it now! It is an easy and quick!! In addition, eCampus will host all your students' assignments including notes, PowerPoints and other coursework should your student miss school. Your student can assist you with logging in. In addition, follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and our school website for other valuable information and updates.

I thank EVERYONE for an amazing start of the school year!

As Always, Let's SOAR Eagles!
Breezi Erickson, Principal

Administration

Breezi Erickson, *Principal*

Rendon Fletcher, *Assistant Principal*
Jacqueline Wick, *Assistant Principal*

Evan Sokolowsky
School Administration Manager (S.A.M.)

Latasha Smith, *Dean of Students*
Gary Fletcher, *Dean of Students*

Cherish Beacham, *Guidance Counselor*
Maryann Suarez, *Guidance Counselor*

Office Telephone
407-320-7650



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<http://academypublishing.com/schools/greenwoodlakes/greenwoodlakes.php>

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Greenwood Lakes Middle School
601 Lake Park Drive
Lake Mary, FL 32746
Issue # 4

Mission Statement

The mission of Greenwood Lakes Middle School is to ensure that all students acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be productive citizens.

Meet Your Dean of Students



Dr. Fletcher
8th Grade & ESE
407-320-7677
fletchg@scps.k12.fl.us

I am excited to join the Eagle family this school year. This will be my first year as a dean, and I am eager to get to know our staff, students, and families. While I am new to the dean world, I am not new to education. This will be my ninth year in education. I taught in a self-contained classroom in Sumter and Seminole County for 5 years. I also served as a Student Staffing Resource Specialist in Seminole County for the last three years.

About Me

I grew up in Central Florida. I enjoy spending time with my family, friends, and pets. I would have to say that sports are my biggest hobby. My teams include the Tampa Bay Rays, UCF Knights, Tampa Bay Lightning, and the Pittsburgh Steelers.



Ms. Smith
6th & 7th Grade
407-320-7609
Smithlz1@scps.k12.fl.us

This is my 5th year working at GLMS. I started as the School Social Worker and last year became the Dean. I was born and raised in Springfield, Massachusetts. Five years ago, I decided that I do not like the cold and moved to Florida. I have 3 amazing children; one is a student at GLMS. I have always worked with children. I love road trips and spending time with my family and friends.

Guidance

Welcome back, Eagles!

The Guidance team at Greenwood Lakes is excited to work with you for the 23-24 school year. Whether you are a new Eagle or returning to us from last year, we are ready to help.

Coming up:

Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept 15-Oct 15):

Hispanic Heritage Month is back! Last year we had a great turnout from our students on celebrating the various heritages in our Hispanic community. Please look forward to the school flyer for our dress up days starting on Sept. 20th, and every Wednesday after, culminating in our Hispanic Heritage Night! We will be holding an afterschool event on Oct. 12, from 6-8, in our school gymnasium.

Red Ribbon Week (Oct 23-27):

The theme this year for Red Ribbon Week is "Be Kind to Your Mind. Live Drug Free." As always, this week is used to spread the message to our students the importance of living drug and substance free. Please look forward to flyers on the spirit week for Red Ribbon and we look forward to seeing our Eagles show up and show out against drugs! We might even have some new prizes and raffles for those who join!

Eagles' Safe Space:

Mrs. Suarez, School Counselor, and Ms. Fiore, Band Teacher, will be working together to bring back Greenwood Lakes' GSA club! A GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance) is a social club open to any and all students to come together, make new friends, and find a safe space where they can express themselves. This club will be on Thursdays after school, and more specific details and permission forms will be provided.

We hope all of our Eagles have had a great start so far and we look forward to continuing this semester together!

-Mrs. Suarez and Ms. Beacham, GLMS Counselors

Resources

Code of Conduct: https://www.scps.k12.fl.us/_resources/documents/StudentConductDisciplineCode.pdf

Dress Code: https://www.scps.k12.fl.us/_resources/documents/DressCode.pdf

Discipline Procedures: https://www.scps.k12.fl.us/_resources/documents/DisciplineProcedures.pdf

GLMS PBS: <https://greenwoodlakes.scps.k12.fl.us/students/pbs.shtml>

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- O- Own your Behavior
- A- Act Responsibly
- R- Reach for your Personal Best



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GLMS Events Update

Stay updated on GLMS events...visit the GLMS webpage and click on the Events tab.
<http://www.greenwoodlakes.scps.k12.fl.us/>.

Title I

Parents, please visit the GLMS webpage for information on Family Engagement activities, district Parental Involvement opportunities, Florida School grades, and other Title I information. You can also visit the front office to review the Title I Binder which contains the School Improvement Plan (SIP), the Parental Family Engagement Plan (PFEP), the School-Parent Compact, School Report Card, and the Parents' Right to Know.

State Certified and Licensed Teachers and Paraprofessionals

All Title I schools are required to employ only state certified and licensed teachers and instructional paraprofessionals. If at any time your child is taught by a non-state certified teacher, your school will notify you. In addition, you have the right to:

- Request whether your child's teacher(s) and/or paraprofessional(s) meet the state certification requirements for the grade levels and subject areas in which they provide instruction.
- Request whether a teacher and/or paraprofessional is teaching under emergency or other provisional status where state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- Request information on the baccalaureate degree major of a teacher and/or paraprofessional and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher and/or paraprofessional, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

PBS

Dress for SUCCESS in 2023-2024!! Please refer to Seminole County Public School website for Dress Code. As you begin preparing and shopping for the school year, keep in mind the guidelines for students so that your student will meet the dress code requirements on the first day of school. Our school expectations of SOAR - Show Respect, Own Your Behavior, Act Responsibly, Reach For Your Personal Best - can be demonstrated by following the district dress code.

The Nest, our PBS school store, will be back in business this year! During lunch at the Nest, students can purchase school supplies, headphones, Rubik's cubes, posters, books, snacks, and many other items! Students purchase these items by using the GLMS SOAR bucks that they have earned from teachers and staff for demonstrating our SOARing Eagle Expectations. We are always accepting both monetary and item donations for The Nest. Feel free to bring any donations to schedule pick up and drop them off at the PBS table in the Campus Restaurant!

We wish all of our students a FUN end to their Summer Break and we are looking forward to seeing all of our SOARing Eagles this Fall!

And As Always, Let's SOAR Eagles!
 Your GLMS Deans,
 Latasha Smith and Gary Fletcher

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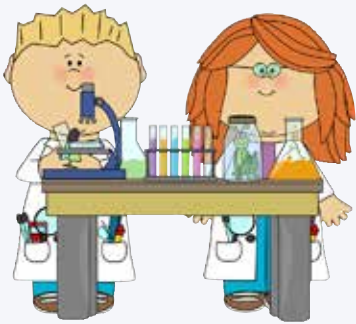
Science

Grade 6 Science students are exploring homeostasis! Students are analyzing the various relationships that exist in a given environment and how humans impact those relationships. Students create food webs and explain how energy is transferred.

Grade 7 Science students are continuing their exploration of changes over time, specifically weathering, erosion, and deposition. Students will soon look at how different spheres of the earth interact, focusing on the atmosphere and the hydrosphere. As Floridians, these interactions affect us on a daily basis and their study helps us become science-literate citizens.

Grade 8 Science students are studying forces and how those forces can be represented graphically. Their knowledge will then be applied to concepts in the Beyond Our World unit, where we explore the electromagnetic spectrum, waves, and light.

Finally, we are taking students who are interested in competing in the Seminole County Regional Science Fair. Teachers will introduce the Science Fair and the requirements. If you have any questions, reach out to Mr. Ali (ibnalim@myscps.us).



Language Arts

6th:

Hello Parents and Students! We have made our way through weeks of testing and it's now time to jump into literature! As things begin to speed up this quarter, please be sure to arrive on time to class with required materials (binder, paper, writing utensils). These basic materials are essential for success and are expected to be had daily. A lack of said materials will slow things down and lead to homework. Also, with the transition from 5th grade to 6th grade being a fresh start for our students, let's encourage them to continue showing SOARing behavior (show respect, own behavior, act responsibly, and reach for personal best).

Students are diving into their first piece of literature with "Eleven". Here, students are learning how to integrate academic vocabulary appropriate to grade level in speaking and writing and demonstrate comprehension by responding to questions using evidence from the text.

How do I support my student? *We encourage students to advocate for themselves. This is a valuable skill that will be essential throughout their lives. Please encourage your student to check on their grades and either go to Ecampus to complete the work or speak with their teacher regarding missing assignments. Together we will ensure your student's success!*

7th:

We hit the ground running in 7th grade! It has been so much fun getting to know the students and watching them jump back into learning after a summer away from the classroom. Students have been reading texts that help them understand the essential question, "When do differences become conflicts?". We have been working with literary texts to help us identify literary elements, determine themes, and practice paraphrasing and summarizing. Students are using these skills to help them analyze a text for a deeper understanding of the text and make connections to the essential question. In just a few short weeks, students will have their **Quarter 1 Benchmark Assessment!** We will then begin a new unit in which students will be able to answer the question "What do we learn from love and loss?" Students will continue to read a variety of texts to deepen their understanding of these skills.

8th:

What a whirlwind start of the school year we've had so far! 8th grade students have begun exploring their own identity, and learning how others express their identities as well. We've been trying to piece together an answer to the question "What makes you, you?". In addition to exploring identity, we are also exploring figurative and rhetorical language with excerpts from "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros; we plan to also read "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost and "Theories of Time and Space" by Natasha Tretheway. After we explore our sense of identity, we will transition into a spooktacular series of stories while we explore the question: "What attracts us to the mysterious?"

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Math

In 6th grade standard, the students will continue to work on converting between percentages, decimals, and fractions. Students will have knowledge of how to analyze word problems involving operations with fractions and decimals. Please encourage your child to come to class ready to learn, with their needed supplies and ready to SOAR. Students should be reviewing skills, such as multiplication, and fractions so that they can be proficient in the 6th grade math standards. Students are able to use a calculator and should have a 4-function calculator to use at both home and at school.

Sixth Accelerated students are working on negative numbers for the first time and how they relate to real-world problems. Students will be introduced to the 4 quadrants for graphing and be able to recognize how a coordinate plane consists of horizontal and vertical number lines that intersect at the origin (0,0)

RAMP 6 students will learn about exponents and the rules associated with them when multiplying, dividing and raising them to other exponents. Students will also learn how to solve problems involving rational numbers. Students will be learning about square roots and simplifying expressions as well

Seventh Standard: Students have been working on area of 2D figures by decomposing polygons into shapes that they know and learning how to find the area/circumference of circles. Finding the area and circumference of circles is new to students this year.

Seventh Accelerated students will learn about exponents and the rules associated with them when multiplying, dividing and raising them to other exponents. Students will also learn how to solve problems involving rational numbers. Students will be learning about square roots and simplifying expressions as well

Pre-Algebra students are starting unit 2 rational and irrational numbers. Students will learn how to approximate square and cube roots and apply them in a real-world context. Quarter 1 will finish up with scientific notation, and that will reinforce the laws of exponents 8th grade started the year out learning.

Algebra: Students are finishing up Unit 1 Introduction to Functions. Unit 2 will bring the study of algebraic expressions. Students will learn how to apply the operations with polynomials to real-world context.

In Geometry we will be learning about parallel and perpendicular lines along with all the theorems that can be proved relating to those concepts.

Social Studies

U.S. History:

Hello Eagle Families!

U.S. History is looking forward to their adventure into exploration of the new world. Students have learned who the Native Americans were, how and why they migrated into the Americas and took a look at the different regional cultures of Native Americans. Students will begin to learn about the struggles of establishing colonies and fighting for survival. Soon, they will encounter the reasons different colonies were established and how life varied depending on the colony people lived in. They will explore the differences between the regions in the original 13 colonies and eventually get into what caused the colonies to begin protesting against the British.

Civics:

Greetings Eagle Families!

Seventh Grade Civics has started the '23-'24 school year with what it means to be a U.S. citizen. What are the responsibilities and obligations of a citizen? How do you even become a citizen? Students should now be able to answer both of these questions and discuss the influential documents and enlightenment thinkers that influenced our Founding Fathers. Students will learn about colonist responses to the British policies that created tension between the two groups which eventually led to the formation of the United States of America. Students will then end the quarter with analyzing some of the grievances that led to the colonists declaring independence from the British.



World History:

Hello to our Eagles and their families!

So far in our first quarter we have been learning about the basics of being a historian and how to read maps. We will soon be learning about the earliest humans and then we will end the first nine weeks learning about the first civilization: ancient Mesopotamia! We will have our first project; please look forward to a message from your world history teachers regarding that!

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Reading

Hello Eagle Families,

We hope you transitioned smoothly into this new school year! The Reading Department is thrilled to welcome you back and look forward to an exciting first semester in reading class.



Students have just completed their first iReady diagnostic assessment! This diagnostic gives students a score in the following categories: phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, and comprehension. The data from this assessment is used in the classroom to help teachers provide individualized instruction to fill any learning gaps students have. Your students will take this assessment two additional times throughout the year. Ask them about their data! They participated in one-on-one data chats with their teachers regarding their results. This semester, students will be working to read and comprehend texts in small teacher-led groups, collaboratively with peers, and independently with their personalized iReady learning path.

Greenwood Lakes hosted our annual Open House on September 12, 2023 at 6:00pm. We also have our annual Literacy Night on October 17th, 2023 at 6:00pm. Save the date and please be on the lookout for more specific information coming soon.

Please reach out to your child's reading teacher at any time with questions. We look forward to working alongside you and your family this year!



Art Blurb

Hello everybody. Welcome to the 2023-24 GLMS school year, both new and returning students. This year's Art Club will be delayed for a while, as I contend with the Pop Warner football season. Once we get past that, Art Club will be starting. Keep your eyes and ears open for updates. Have a great start to the school year.

Chorus

Welcome Back to the Soaring Eagles Chorus!

Dear Students and Families,

I hope you had a restful and enjoyable break. It's fantastic to have you back for another year of music and harmony in our chorus class!

As we embark on this journey together, I want to express my excitement about the music we'll create, the friendships we'll forge, and the skills we'll develop. Whether you're a returning student or new to our class, you're an essential part of our musical community.

This semester, we have a fantastic lineup of events including All State, All County, in school caroling, and of course our Winter Concert on December 7th! Let's challenge ourselves, support one another, and create beautiful melodies that resonate with our hearts.

Remember, the magic of our chorus class lies in unity. We're not just singers; we're a family that finds strength in our diversity and passion for music.

Get ready for an enriching and melodious journey ahead. Don't hesitate to share your ideas, questions, or aspirations with me. I'm here to guide you on your musical path.

Let's make this semester a harmonious and unforgettable one!

Warmest regards,
Ms. Masters
Chorus Director



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Sports

Cross Country

Cross Country tryouts will be held after school on October 3 & 5. The meets will be held on the following days:

- November 1 @ GLMS vs. Teague
- November 8 @ GLMS vs. Galileo & Markham
- November 15 @ Sanford
- November 29 @ Millennium
- December 9 @ Lake Mary High School (8am)

Coach Haynes will send out more information on tryouts as we get closer to the tryout dates!



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