



Gehmans Mennonite School

Newsletter – Sept. 7, 2016

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Thoughts on Homework

Homework helps students develop responsibility, self-discipline, and lifelong learning habits. Homework should provide students the opportunity to apply information they have learned through relevant, challenging, and meaningful assignments.

There are many benefits to homework. Here are some of the top benefits that research has shown: helps students learn the importance of planning, staying organized, and taking action; increased understanding; better critical thinking; and more independent problem-solving.

Our lives are busier than ever today even without the competition of technology. Establishing a homework routine can help with this challenge. Routines will vary depending on the age and personality of your child. One child might do better with a routine that begins as soon as he/she gets home from school while another might need some down time before starting homework.

Here are a few tips for establishing a homework routine:

1. Establish what time the work will be done.
2. Establish a place for your child to do the homework.
3. YOU should be involved.
 - a. Check your child's backpack every evening – especially with younger students. Older students should learn to share homework and school information with you.
 - b. It isn't your homework, but it is your child's. Don't DO the work, but support the importance of the routine. You are his/her life-long teacher and can model that homework is an important part of learning.



Homework assignments will vary according to differences within each grade level. If a student is consistently spending an excessive amount of time on homework, parents should communicate this to the classroom teacher.

New Staff Members

Library/Learning Support Assistant – Mrs. Amanda Weaver has joined our staff as our librarian and learning support assistant to Lorraine Harnish. Amanda lives in Reamstown with her husband Shawn. With her prior experience in teaching, we are glad that she has joined the GMS team.

Music – Sergey Kravets is our part-time music teacher replacing his older brother Yuriy. Sergey is from New Holland, PA and also has a wealth of knowledge and experience in music. While we will miss Yuriy, we are excited to have Sergey as part of the GMS team.

Financial Status and Information

We are at the beginning of a new fiscal year. We ask that you keep the school in mind in your giving throughout the school year. All financial donations that are given to the school are tax deductible.

In May we were given a \$25,000 matching fund opportunity. I am pleased to inform you that we have already completed and reached this goal.

PTF - Monday, Sept. 26, 7pm

Parent Teacher Fellowship

Our first PTF for this year is on **Monday,**

September 26, at 7pm. The title for the evening is 'Helpful Hints for Healthy Lunches. At this meeting, Nelson and Christa Rutt will be sharing tips and info on providing our children with lunches that spur them on in their quest for academic excellence. Mark your calendar now and plan on attending!

Attendance and Excuse Cards

Each family will be receiving a small packet of excuse cards and a letter about them in the near future. Please remember to fill them out and turn them in as the instructions in the letter will specify.

As a reminder, if you are picking your child up early from school, please remember that we do require a note to the homeroom teacher for each child that is leaving early. Also remember to inform your bus driver if your child is not going to be on the bus as well. If your child comes late or leaves early, they are required to check in with Lisa in the office so that the attendance records can be kept accurately.

Pizza

On Wednesdays, by the slice pizza is available to purchase for lunch. It is \$1.50 per regular slice and \$1 for a smaller slice for the younger grades. You may send the money for the pizza along with your student and they will then place the order with their teacher in the morning.



Asbestos Control

Each year we notify our patrons of the presence of minimal amounts of non-friable asbestos in some floor tile and ceiling tile glue in the 1969 building. Also the linoleum in the foyer of the modular building contains some asbestos. All of these areas are perfectly safe as long as we maintain them properly. The emphasis is not on removal but proper management as to prevent the release of fibers. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Ink Cartridges/Old Cell Phones

If you have empty ink cartridges from your printer or old cell phones, don't throw them away. Send them to school with your children and we will send them off to be recycled and the school will receive funds for them. With these funds, we will be able to buy supplies for the school.

Amazon.com

If you are a person who purchases things from Amazon.com, the next time you use Amazon, go to www.smile.amazon.com to make your purchase. When



you use that website, Amazon will ask you to choose your charity. You can then search for Gehmans Mennonite School, and a portion of your purchase will be donated to GMS

To Welcome All Moms



On the second Tuesday of each month, there are some moms who gather to pray specifically for the school and teachers. We meet at the home of Clair & Gerry Good, from 9:30-11:00. (Baby-sitting is provided, if needed). We welcome any moms who care to join us! If you have any questions...you may call Gerry at 445-4107 or any of the other moms, you know who meet.

Dear School Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers over the summer. I have finished my 30 radiation treatments. I am in the midst of Herceptin infusions. My next one will be Wednesday, Sept. 7th. Herceptin leaves me with a headache for about 24 hours, then I am fine. The side effects of Herceptin are minimal compared to the chemo I had last school year. Monday I was able to join 1st grade in a recess game. What a joy to feel good enough to run and try and free people. A prayer request is that I would sleep better. I am not sure if it's a side effect of Herceptin or tamoxifen, maybe both. I seem to waken every few hours, this results in me feeling sluggish and having headaches during the day.

Your support on this journey has meant so much to me.

Sincerely,

Miss Valerie

Automated Calling System

We use a web-based automated calling system to 'blast' a message to all of our patrons, or just to parents that have students in certain grades. This system is used mainly to inform parents of delayed starts or closings due to inclement weather. But it is also used to pass information along to parents of schedule changes to just parents of a particular grade. Example: A Jr. High soccer game is postponed due to rain.

Each family can have 2 different numbers that the system calls. It doesn't matter if it is cell phone or a landline number. It is recommended that you chose a number(s) that are most likely to be answered so that the message gets through. Both numbers will be called when a message is 'blasted' for a group that you are in.

Please fill out the bottom section and return it to the office Sept. 16.

Thank-you!

Name: _____

Phone # 1: _____

Phone # 2: _____