



THE ROOST REPORTER



The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade

Aug. 31, 2018

Welcome GCCS Class of 2019

So many emotions are wrapped up in the first day of Sixth grade, for kids and parents alike! We are excited to play such a pivotal part of your child's last year at GCCS and look forward to helping your son and daughter shine and take chances like never before. For those families new to sixth grade, our students take on greater leadership roles, from helping in the K-2 classrooms and Community Circle to spearheading composting efforts and completing community service outside the school's walls. Our curriculum departs from the spiral of local history of K-5 by allowing students to help identify a local problem (and solution!) that tests their character and academic abilities by exploring a topical problem with a real-world need. For those families returning to sixth grade, welcome back! There have been a few changes in recent years and we will share those with you during curriculum night in a few weeks. Passage is still a cornerstone of sixth grade, but it, too, has evolved.

Our first day was quite productive, to say the least. We discussed what made a partnership successful, charted the ideas, then put them to the test with a special initiative; working in pairs to build our new desks! The images to the right show the sequence of events, from empty classroom, to busy bee workshop mode, to completed crew configurations. We modeled what each step should look like and at the end, debriefed the experience. There was a definite sense of pride and ownership in the classroom and we saw firsthand the collaborative spirit of this class. We are easing back from summer and into our normal rhythm - right now our priority is on establishing relationships and routines. Purposeful home learning will happen soon enough.

We also got in a little math and character work this week (ask your sixth graders about the magic coin problem!). We will dive into our first book club selection next week and get a sneak peek into what our year's "hot topic" might be. We welcome parent communication and try to get back to you within 24 hours. E-mail is our preferred mode of communication and our addresses are located on the back of this newsletter. You can always call school and leave messages for us and we keep the class webpage regularly updated. We will also try to share photos to the class Facebook page so you can peek in on our adventures. Here's to a great year!



Welcome, Ms. Jones!



We want to welcome Ms. Kristen Jones to our classroom this fall. She is a teacher candidate completing her B.S. degree in Inclusive Childhood Education at St. John Fisher College and will be with us for the entire first expedition of the year. Ms. Jones jumped in on the first day of school and will be joining us on our leadership retreat. We are excited to have her in our classroom and you can expect to see her in a variety of teaching roles in our classroom. Look for a welcome letter coming home next week along with information about videotaping our class as part of the teacher certification process for New York State.



Simon Says...

- ✓ **Retreat Reminders** - Thanks to everyone able to quickly turn around our Camp Gorham paperwork. Remember to get any medical forms completed and returned to school as soon as possible (especially self-carry and administer requests).
- ✓ **Recess** - No doubt you've heard about our run in with the wasps (late summer is always an ugly time for these critters!). We will be avoiding the Back 40 for recess until the RMSC is able to neutralize the threat - but we still plan to head outside! You can send in a change of shoes next week.
- ✓ **We love the Arts!** - Just so you can plan your child's wardrobe accordingly, we have Physical Expedition with Mrs. Johnson Monday afternoons and Friday mornings and art with Ms. Lockner on Thursday mornings. Always a good idea to dress for active (and potentially messy) learning on those days. Music with Mrs. Barone will be on Tuesday afternoons.
- ✓ **Enjoy Your Labor Day Weekend** - see everyone back at school, Tuesday, September 4th.

Picking up? Dropping off?



Our first few days of school are always a bit hectic, but we appreciate your flexibility and how prompt everyone has been for morning drop off and afternoon pick up. As school gets back to normal next week, just a reminder that the doors to GCCS open for students at 7:55 a.m. and all students need to be in their classrooms by 8:15 a.m. After that time, students will need to be signed in by an adult in the office and obtain a pass to come to the classroom. Pick ups will continue on the Back 40 until the snow starts falling. After 3:10 p.m., students are escorted to the office for pick up. Please send in notes for any dismissal changes that vary from your regular schedule - and please make sure your pick up permissions are updated. Your child's safety matters to us.

Your Sixth Grade Team

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