

THE ROOST REPORTER

The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade

Sep. 9, 2018

Leaders in the Making



The beginning of the year at GCCS is familiar to returning students: re-establishing relationships with friends, establishing relationships with new teachers, revisiting norms and expectations, and of course, some work. Reviewing the way things work in sixth grade sets students up for success throughout the year and placing them in charge of creating norms and expectations helps put them in charge of what our classroom will look and sound like. Our mornings take on a different flavor; morning choice will give way to study hall and morning meeting morphs into Advisory, a time to connect with peers and teachers that feels a bit more like middle school. We are developing habits of learning and will be working with the GCCS character traits in greater depth this year (including having character guardians). Sixth-graders will become leaders of their own learning while also becoming leaders of the school. This week's retreat is all about preparing them for that role!



What to Expect in Sixth Grade

From this week's leadership retreat to four cities to passage to middle school choice, the final year at GCCS has a lot going on! We are grateful for the support of families during this sometimes hectic ride and would like to invite you to our sixth grade curriculum night, **Thursday, September 27th, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** This is an evening for parents and adult guardians. We are offering this date separately from the K-5 curriculum night on Oct. 4th to avoid conflicts with sibling classroom presentations.

We will explore the year-long "hot topic," review the core curriculum, describe the new Passage process, discuss social-emotional learning in 6th grade, and start chatting about Four Cities. We look forward to seeing you in a few short weeks to learn about the year ahead.

Exhibition Date Change



Without giving away too much, we wanted to let you know that sixth grade exhibition night will be integrated into the GCCS Family Association's Potluck Dinner on **Friday, December 14th, at 6:00 p.m.** Our students will serve as Emcees and facilitators as well as share some active and invigorating entertainment. As always, students are expected to participate in exhibition nights so please let us know if you might need assistance with transportation to and from the event. Our first exhibition of the year often features an arts-integrated flavor and this year will be no exception (and may in fact set the bar high for future years!). More updates coming soon.



Simon Says...

- ✓ **Arrival Reminder** - Students are marked tardy if they arrive in our classroom after 8:15 a.m. Students arriving late need to be signed in by an adult in the office and receive a pass to enter the classroom. Doors to GCCS open at 7:55 a.m.
- ✓ **Everyday data** - Our first math investigation is understanding how data can tell a story. We are starting with ourselves - collecting, organizing, analyzing, and visualizing data about what makes a "typical" sixth grader. Over the year, we will make connections to real-world topics and see what story these data tell.
- ✓ **Home Learning** - As sixth graders, we are placing more of the responsibility of recording HW assignments in agendas on the students and as a general rule, do NOT sign agendas (we make exceptions for a few friends who benefit from greater supervision). We also try to post home learning on the [class webpage](#) BUT your student is primarily responsible for this task.
- ✓ **Retreat departure, 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 11.**

Retreat Reminders



We are looking forward to our annual leadership retreat this week and hope your sixth grader is, too. Hopefully you checked your packing list and have everything you need (the packing list can also be found [here](#)), but please contact us ASAP if you have questions. A few "musts" for the trip are a refillable water bottle, two pairs of shoes (including one that can get wet - these can be old sneakers or sandals/ water shoes), and a sleeping bag. We usually need some snacks to nourish us to and from the Adirondacks (and a few extras for hiking trips). Fresh fruit, individually wrapped granola bars, snack crackers, and gummies are popular with the kids). We could also use a few packs of bottled water - just in case we forget or lose our own bottles. These can be brought the day of the trip. We depart from GCCS 8:30 a.m. and will meet on the Eisenhart patio. We will text parents as we get closer to GCCS on Friday for a definite pick up time, but plan for a 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. window.

Your Sixth Grade Team

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