



Ways to get involved and collaborate. . .

Community Engagement Committee (CEC):

The Community Engagement Committee (CEC) is responsible for building and sustaining relationships with future and former students and parents, community partners, public servants, and friends of GCCS.

The CEC serves as external-facing support to the school for current and long-term efforts to ensure that information about GCCS in the public realm is accurate and current. We meet monthly and we are looking to establish, nourish, and extend relationships within the communities of Rochester where our students and families live. Open to all families and caregivers, as well as members of our community.

Keep a look out for more information about the CEC in backpack mail or email.

Diversity and Racial Equity committee (DRE):

In June 2020, the Diversity Committee at GCCS became the Diversity and Racial Equity (DRE) Crew. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the deaths of George Floyd and Daniel Prude, and racial reckoning within the Rochester community, GCCS parents/caregivers and staff began coming together to engage in intentional dialogue about race, racism, and the influence of such within our school community.

Since then, the DRE Crew broadened its focus to not only include a celebration of the school's diversity but to partner with the school in becoming more equitable so that the academic and social-emotional needs of every child are met. Guided by three principles--accountability, collaboration, and community--we grapple with the question, how does GCCS consider diversity and uphold equity?

We seek to develop intentional partnerships between school staff and families/caregivers, as well as meaningful relationships among families/caregivers. We want to understand how racism is perpetuated in our interactions individually, interpersonally, and at the school-wide level. This group offers support for those interested in addressing personal challenges to antiracism, white fragility, and systemic oppression in a non-judgmental, empathetic, and encouraging environment.

2020-2021 Highlights include: Monthly Community Circle features, partnering with teachers to provide teaching resources for expeditions, supported the school's first acknowledgment of Black History Month, and reading the book *My Grandmother's Hands*.

The DRE Crew is co-chaired by a GCCS parent and a staff member. The Crew's membership is a mix of Board members, GCCS staff, and current family members.

If you would like more information, email shillman@gccschool.org

The Family Association (FA):

All parents and adults caregivers of GCCS Students are a part of the Family Association. The FA promotes community and connections among GCCS families. The FA provides support to GCCS to assist in the care and education of the children at the school. The Family Association and GCCS encourage all families to volunteer for, and participate in, at least 1 FA sponsored activity each school year. The FA is led collectively by elected representatives (officers) who serve as co-chairs, secretary, and treasurer. The Family Association holds at least 2 open meetings each school year, where all adult caregivers are encouraged to attend. Family Association Committee members meet as needed to plan and implement various programs for the families and students at GCCS. A calendar of FA-Sponsored Events is available via the FA Newsletter and online. Notices of upcoming events will be sent home via backpack mail and promoted through email and Grade Level Facebook Groups.

To connect with the Family Association, email gccs_fa@gccschool.org

Volunteer with the Family Association:

The Family Association welcomes all GCCS community members to join us in organizing ideas and bringing them to life! Past events have included: movie nights, board games, dance parties, ice skating, rock painting, winter clothing swaps, book swaps, the GCCS Community Table gathering, End of The Year Picnic, and more. We welcome all to share their ideas and take initiative in bringing our school community together. We regularly seek out volunteers for events and hope that you will join us!

To learn about available volunteer positions year, email gccs_fa@gccschool.org

Important Community Building & Support:

Grade Level Caregivers (GLC) are volunteers for the FA who are the main connection between teachers and families/caregivers in each grade-level. Grade Level Caregivers use social media and email to share messages from classroom teachers, GCCS, and the FA with families. GLCs are available as a connection between families and school and are a contact for families at each grade level. Consider being a GLC for your child's classroom as a way to support community at GCCS. For more information, connect with the FA at gccs_fa@gccschool.org.

GCCS has a policy for in-school volunteers and chaperones. All in-school volunteers and chaperones must attend training to ensure that all school values and policies are met during classroom and field study opportunities. The Volunteer & Chaperone Training is organized by Lisa O'Malley and held every fall. For more information, email lomalley@gccschool.org.

Every week our school comes together to celebrate learning and nurture a strong, positive, and caring school community. Students, teachers, and families gather together with music playing, participate in a variety of activities, and leave singing a medley of goodbye songs to wish us well until we meet again. Families are active participants in Community Circle. Community Circle will take place on each campus on Fridays during the 2022/2023 school year. Please note, COVID-19 protocols may alter family participation. Communications about Community Circle come from the GCCS Staff.