

New This School Year...ROC Crews!

As a staff at Flour City, one of our goals is to create classroom environments that reflect our community and provide a sense of belonging for our students. We have thoughtfully built structures and routines for establishing a strong culture of crew in our classrooms, and we have intentionally promoted the GCCS Habits of Character with our students and staff. This year, we want to take it a step further!

Learning from other EL Education schools

During the last February break, Mrs. Farrell, Miss Barrett (K), and Miss Hayes (I) traveled to Escondido, CA to visit another EL Education school that has seen many great results by focusing on Character. We brought back a lot of ideas, but one of them was especially intriguing! This school had multi-grade Crews that would meet monthly. The students at the school beamed as they told us about these crews that they called, “Dens”, after the homes of their school mascot. We got to observe the convening of these “Dens” where students in older grades went to escort their younger “Denmates” safely to their assigned Den room. They had pre-K-6 graders in these Dens and it was inspiring to witness the excitement on campus as students eagerly attended their monthly meeting with this crew that was clearly so special to them!

As a staff, we agreed that we wanted to develop a similar structure at Flour City, and then the other GCCS Campus agreed they would too! Therefore, we will be assigning students to multi-grade ROC crews and hold these Crew sessions monthly at both campuses. ROC leaders will facilitate student discussions around GCCS habits of character and ask students to promote the habits in their classrooms and beyond as Representatives Of Character.

How this impacts traditional GCCS Community Circle

Because we needed a time when the entire school could dedicate to meeting without missing out on core academic time, we will be holding monthly ROC Crews on the last Wednesday of each month in lieu of Community Circle. We think that this special Crew time will have a positive impact on building a sense of community and belonging among students and adults in our school, which is the ultimate goal of holding Community Circles. We look forward to our first ROC Crew meetings on Wednesday September 25th!

New Daily Snack Policy at GCCS-Flour City Campus

For the past several years at GCCS we've tried to provide snack to all students by asking parents/caregivers to provide a snack for their child's class around once per month. When we opened the Flour City Campus we continued that snack model. However, it has been clear over the past couple of years that this policy is not working as well as envisioned. The Family Association officers and myself have had many discussions about how to remedy not getting enough snack for classes on a regular basis. We acknowledged how expensive it can be to buy snack for 30+ students. We also acknowledged the burden for families to drive to purchase snacks, but also to deliver them to the school rather than relying on a very young student to transport large boxes on a school bus. We ultimately decided that we should try a new policy where each student must bring their own morning snack if they want one.

To help you determine if or how much of a snack your child might need, these are the meal times at Flour City: breakfast is served in classrooms daily from arrival to 8:15am. Breakfast is only served after 8:15am if there was a delay in school transportation arriving on time. Many children bring their own breakfast and they eat during the same timeframe. Then, all classrooms have lunch scheduled at these times daily::

Kindergarten - 11:15 - 11:45

1st grade - 11:00 - 11:30

2nd grade - 11:45 - 12:15

3rd grade - 11:45 - 12:15

4th grade - 12:00 - 12:30

Please know that if you would still like to provide a **store-bought** snack for the whole class on a special occasion, just because, or if you found an especially good deal on a favorite class snack or local fruit, please feel free to contact the teachers to arrange for this. Special class snacks are always fun for a class to experience together!

Celebrating Holidays/Special Occasions at GCCS-Flour City

As a Diverse-by-Design school we strive to embrace all cultures throughout the school year, and recognize that not everyone celebrates all of the holidays that the popular U.S. calendar includes. Therefore, it has been a long-standing policy that GCCS will not recognize or celebrate any religious holidays in school. We also do not recognize or celebrate Halloween, Valentine's Day, or St. Patrick's Day. However, students are encouraged to verbally share their personal customs and traditions around certain holidays, and they are permitted to wear clothing that depicts connections to these popular occasions, with the exception of Halloween costumes which are not permitted. Please know, that there will not be any school-sponsored parties or celebrations of these events in class. We would appreciate your cooperation in not sending in treats, valentines, etc.

We do allow students to share a **store-bought** treat with the class to recognize their **birthdays**. Please make arrangements with the teachers about when would be best time/method to receive this treat so that the flow of the academic day is not too disrupted.

Some history about why we say "Crew" so much...

"We are crew, not passengers" is a quote by Kurt Hahn, founder of Outward Bound and an expert on experiential learning. Expeditionary Learning, which then evolved into EL Education, has continued to be influenced by the educational values and beliefs of Hahn. Therefore, this quote is a motto of all EL Education schools. It has varying interpretations, but at GCCS we encourage students to be active learners and agents of change who work together to make positive contributions in their communities. This motto is a metaphor for that.

When your child will be absent from school, will be tardy, or will be picked up instead of riding the bus...

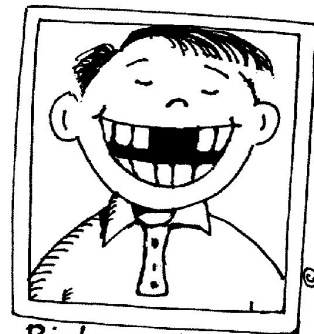
Please contact Melissa Fanizzi in the main office at 585-417-7020 or via email mfanizzi@gccschool.org. She will let the teachers know. If you only email the teachers, they may not see the message as they oftentimes check their email and SeeSaw messages after school. **If you do not let us know your child will be picked up, we will assume they are riding the bus home.**

Reminders About Drop Off at Arrival...

1. Please say goodbye to your child at the front door in the morning and allow them to walk to their classroom by themselves. So many parents going to classrooms in the morning is a distraction...especially when your child is tardy!
2. Please know that we treat the "driveway" like it's a road. Look both ways before exiting the carline. We had some close calls recently! 😬
3. If your child (or you) are experiencing separation anxiety, dropping students off in the carline between 7:35 - 8:00 is always best!

We appreciate your cooperation with this!!

Don't Forget About Picture Day!



Picture Day!

Tuesday
September 24th

Calendar of Events

Notable Upcoming Community Circles

Whimsical Wednesdays

October 2 - GCCS Pride - wear GCCS gear of blue and/or green

November 6 - Hat Day - wear your favorite hat (that isn't too big or distracting)

December 4 - Pajama Day - wear your favorite pajamas or comfy clothes

R.O.C. Crew Days & Habit of Character Focus

(Families are not included on these days)

September 25 - Responsibility

October 30 - Initiative

November 20 - Compassion

Other Notable Events at CC


November 13 - School-wide Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament


December 18 - Capoeira Share with 6th graders from River Campus


- September 24** School Picture Day!
- October 10*** GCCS Flour City Curriculum Night
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
**This date was changed from October 3rd to observe Rosh Hashanah*
- October 14** Indigenous People's Day
No school for students or staff
- October 16** School Picture MAKE-UP day!
- October 18** Family Association sponsored Movie Night at Flour City!
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
- October 25** Staff Professional Development
No school for students
- November 5** Election Day
No school for students
Staff Professional Development
- November 11** Veteran's Day
No school for students or staff
- November 18-22** Fall Exhibition Nights (exact dates for each grade level TBD)
- November 25-29** Thanksgiving Recess
No school for students
Staff professional development 11/25 - 11/26
- December 6** Family Conferences
11:45 dismissal for students
- December 23-
January 2** Winter Recess
No school for students or staff
- January 3** Staff Professional Development
No school for students

Stay Connected!

 www.GCCSchool.org

 @GeneseeCharter

 Genesee Community Charter School

 585 - 417 - 7020 - Main Office