

GMS Principal's Corner

Sarah Shannon

April 6, 2020 COVID-19 Update

Dear GMS Families,

How are you all doing? We've closed the chapter on the original first three weeks of school closures and are headed in to the second chapter. I hope that you have started to establish some routines in your house. I know that for many it's been and is getting harder. There are still so many unknowns, worries and adjustments to be made. As adults we are carrying so much stress and are trying to hold it together for the children in our lives. How are your children? Are they holding up okay? Where do they need support? How might how they're acting be an indication of a worry they don't even know they're carrying around? How can we help?

Schools, in general, and the Galvin Middle School, specifically, are, everyday, about so much more than academics. School is where your children come to socialize, learn to be independent of you, and discover who they are or who they want to be. It's where they find mentors and adults they can trust outside of their home. This is why we want your children to check in with their teachers online. We want your children to feel like they still have a place they can "go" and be connected with others during this time. While we are in the final stages of preparing Phase 2.0 of Remote Learning in Canton, which, as Superintendent Fischer-Mueller mentioned in her letter, will shift learning from "optional" to "expected", our priorities at the Galvin for connection and our school community's emotional well-being will not change.

On Friday, I attended two team Zooms. I was able to "see" over 100 students and many pets - including a very cute hedgehog! I was also able to see students playing guitar, violin and harmonica while some danced. Others showed off their technical and creative skills as they changed their virtual backgrounds to represent them! All the while their classmates and teachers were supportive and encouraging. This is why we are here. **Please, if your child isn't connecting with school daily, encourage them to do so.** While connection in a virtual world can feel uncomfortable at times, it gets easier. Trust me, this is new and uncomfortable for many adults as well! In addition, many of the assignments teachers are providing are hiding subtle, yet essential, social emotional supports and outlets. As we navigate the shift from "optional" to "expected" learning, please reach out if you need technical help getting online.

As we continue to fine-tune what Phase 2 of Remote Learning will look like at the Galvin, we are listening to feedback. We know that it can feel like a lot, so teams are thinking about how to create a more streamlined approach for families and students. As learning in this virtual environment evolves, we continue to iterate so the students/family experience continues to get better. We appreciate your patience as this happens. We are witnessing the design process in action. Each and every one of us - teachers, students and families - in the GMS community is exemplifying the qualities of the [GMS Learner](#) right now!

Moving in to this next week, we want to show some school spirit so our GMS Student Leaders have created a **Remote Spirit Week** (details below). I can't tell you how much we miss your children. Every time I talk with a teacher they tell me the best part of their week is when they are interacting with their students. This is who the GMS teachers are. This is who GMS teachers will continue to be throughout this school closure. Below is a video from all of us sharing that spirit with you. We hope you'll show it to your children. #allinthistogether

If you need us, please reach out. Stay well and stay connected!

Sarah

Galvin Strong



SCHOOL SPIRIT

GMS REMOTE SPIRIT WEEK

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

PAJAMA DAY

COLLEGE DAY

CANTON DAY

SPORTS SPIRIT

TEAM SPIRIT



1. Direct Message @gmsslc on **Instagram** with your pictures!
2. **Tag** us in your pictures! Use #gmsquareteens on social media!
3. **Email** them to Ms. Dineen dineenj@cantonma.org

GMS & CHS Norms and Expectations for Online Learning

The Galvin Middle School and Canton High School hold four, shared core values:

- Academic Excellence and Rigor
- Inclusive Community
- Respectful and Responsible Relationships
- Continuous Improvement

These core values guide how we work and act as a community, whether in person or online.

It is important for all students to remember that on-line learning is still a classroom, and certain behaviors are expected when communicating with teachers and classmates as outlined in our Core Values, the [GMS](#) and [CHS](#) student/family handbooks and the [Canton Public Schools Responsible Use Policy](#). Students should conduct themselves according to the following norms during video conferences:

- ***Don't audio record, video record, or take pictures/screenshots while in a videoconference; MA law requires consent from all parties before doing any of these things.***
- Find a quiet place to join and stay there. Don't walk around.
- School rules apply: Be respectful. Dress appropriately. Be kind.
- Be focused on learning. Don't play games, watch videos or surf the web.
- Mute your microphone unless you are speaking.
- Follow your teacher's instructions for speaking, asking questions, and turning your camera and microphone on or off.

Thank you for your cooperation in following these expectations.

Riverside Community Care Center

The Riverside Community Care Center is open and available for new and existing families during this time of COVID-19 for anyone who may require their services. Please reach out to them if you need support during these stressful times.



Riverside Outpatient Now Virtual.pdf

[Download](#)
1.2 MB



FREE Internet Access: Comcast's Internet Essential Program

If you need internet access: Please use the following links for information regarding Comcast's Internet Essential Program for any families in need of internet access.

<https://www.internetessentials.com/>

<https://corporate.comcast.com/covid-19>