

# GMS Principal's Corner

Sarah Shannon

## A March 24, 2020 COVID-19 Update

Hello Galvin Families!

How is week two going? I'm finding it seems more real this week. We seem to be getting into a little bit of a routine in my house. My kids seem to have accepted that they will have to do at least one chore a day and that they need to get outside to be active and get some fresh air. Last week, we determined that the boys would have to do work that, at first, I provided and then, when their school started sending work, that their teachers provided. My sixth grader happily sat down to do it, asked for help, and did some of what was asked of him. My eighth grader, on the other hand, kept telling me "this isn't school", "they said the work is optional", "I'm not doing it". Despite his protests, he did some of the work assigned and last night we had a long talk about the new normal and why doing some school work each day was good for him.

I tell you all of this as a way to introduce this phase of what the school closure work plan will look like. We know that every family, and every child within that family, is different. We know that every home situation is different. And, we know that maintaining structure and routine, keeping childrens' brains engaged, and providing ways for students to feel connected to peers and teachers is a necessity during this time of school closures. This is why you have started to hear from teachers and why we are recommending the schedules below for you to use at home.

Please remember, we are not trying to recreate the school day. Per the Commissioner of Education, we are providing "continuity of learning". The work teachers will share with students will reinforce or extend concepts/content already taught, it will not advance the curriculum. That said, some of it will be challenging and some of it will be fun. On some teams, you will see distinct subject assignments (math, English, science, social studies, etc). On other teams, you may see interdisciplinary assignments. Either way, our goal is that each student engages in their brain each day and over the course of the week practices thinking critically, problem solving, and being creative. Please look at the schedules offered below and work with your child to figure out what's right for them. One schedule is very general - for those students who need more flexibility or can be more independent. The other is more structured for those who need that. In your house, you may adjust it even more. Some of you

want your child to do more than three hours of work; some want less. We do think three hours of work/reading is a reasonable expectation for most middle school students.

When your child starts to do their work, they will inevitably have questions. We know that you aren't teachers and that homeschooling is not your choice. We also know that many of you are working full-time from home and can't be available all day. We've seen the same memes and videos making the social media circuit as you have! This is why every teacher at GMS will be hosting office hours. If they haven't already, teachers will share with your child when their office hours are. This is an hour a day dedicated to connecting with students. Some will be available to email at that moment and answer questions, others may hold virtual chats, and some may invite students to Zoom with them so they can all see each other virtually. No matter what form it takes, this is an hour each day for your teacher to be there for your child. Should you have questions for a teacher, we ask that you email rather than use this time that is reserved for students. Teachers will be checking email twice a day and will respond to you within 24 hours.

As your family decides what "school" will look like in your house, please remember to look at their whole day - where are they getting their time to virtually connect with friends? Time to address their emotional well-being? Time to be active and move? Time to explore or dream? Time to learn that thing they've always wanted to learn? Time to give to the community in some small (from home) way?

As always, please reach out to me with any questions. As we learn to live life and do school differently, we are all learning together. This is what community is about!

Be well and keep socially distancing,

Sarah



## GMS Student Schedule #1



	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<b>Morning Work</b> (1.5 - 2 hours)	Math Social Studies	Science 6: Reading 7/8: Language	Social Studies Math	Science Math	Social Studies Science
<b>Break</b> (10 - 15 min)	Move, have a snack, breathe :-)				
<b>Active Work</b> (30 - 45 min)	Specials (Music, Art, Tech, Computers, Wellness) **Check work from Semester 2 specials teachers**				
<b>Lunch</b>	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
<b>Physical Activity</b>	Be active for 20+ minutes!				
<b>Afternoon Work</b> (45 - 60 min)	English	English	6: Reading 7/8: Language	English	6: Reading 7/8: Language
<b>Afternoon</b>	<p><i>Explore a topic or activity on your own.</i>            What have you always wanted to do/learn about?            Play virtual games with friends            Spend time outside            Read</p>				



## GMS Student Schedule #2



	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<b>Morning Work</b> (1.5 - 2 hours)	Learning Time	Learning Time	Learning Time	Learning Time	Learning Time
<b>Break</b> (10 - 15 min)	Move, have a snack, breathe :-)				
<b>Active Work</b> (30 - 45 min)	Specials (Music, Art, Tech, Computers, Wellness) **Check work from Semester 2 specials teachers**				
<b>Lunch</b>	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
<b>Physical Activity</b>	Be active for 20+ minutes!				
<b>Afternoon Work</b> (45 - 60 min)	Learning Time	Learning Time	Learning Time	Learning Time	Learning Time
<b>Afternoon</b>	<p><i>Explore a topic or activity on your own.</i>            What have you always wanted to do/learn about?            Play virtual games with friends            Spend time outside            Read</p>				

## The Human Side of COVID-19

Please take five minutes to watch the video below on your own and with your child(ren). It helps children understand more about the human component of what's happening in our world.

Ep.6.19.5 Rooted In Love

ROOTE  N LOVE

*Jestens*



## 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>