

GMS Principal's Corner

Sarah Shannon



GMS Update: May 22, 2020

Hello Galvin Families!

Happy Memorial Day weekend! As we remember those who gave their lives serving our country over the next three days, I'd like to also thank those of you who are active or retired members of the military. We appreciate your service.

I'd like to remind everyone that this is a three-day weekend and that Monday is a day of no school. Teachers will not be assigning work or holding virtual meetings. Everything will resume as normal on Tuesday.

Beginning today, we are starting to see signs of our state re-opening and are entering new territory. Everyone I know is excited about this, anxious for us to move through the four phases and nervous about the impact and implications of re-opening. Our adult reactions to the phased approach are both rational and emotional. We struggle with not being able to

return to work, not being able to access all of the businesses we rely on, remembering our masks, worrying about the health of our family and others, and more. If we, as adults, struggle with some of this, I can't help but think about how our teens are going to manage it - and then how we, as their parents & caregivers, will manage our teens. Have you tried to convince your teen to wear a mask and keep it on yet? Have you had to say no to social gatherings yet? It is not easy and will be hard for a while. To support you in this, I am sharing a great resource from the ChildMind Institute about guiding our children through this time: [Teenagers and Reopening](#). I hope you find it useful.

Also, after a conversation this morning, I am reminded of the power of patience and how it might be the number one skill that we need to possess right now. As adults navigating the reopening and as parents & caregivers supporting our teens as they figure out how to walk in this new world, patience may very well be our most useful tool - if we can remember to use it.

Wishing you well,
Sarah

Time to Apply! ~ GMS 2020 – 2021 Student Leadership Council

As we look forward to next year, we want this year's 6th & 7th grade students to consider becoming next year's Student Leaders. Students interested in applying for the 2020 - 2021 Student Leadership Council should complete the [online application](#) form. Completed applications must be filled out by Friday, June 5th. All applicants will be notified of acceptance prior to June 23. ***If you are currently a member of the SLC you do not need to reapply.*** Please reach out directly to Ms. Dineen (dineenj@cantonma.org) or Mr. Fuller (fullerj@cantonma.org) with any questions.

Becoming Seedfolks

Many of our 7th grade students have been engaged in interdisciplinary work tied to the novel [Seedfolks](#). As part of the unit, students have been encouraged to start or think about gardening. During this time at home, many have turned to gardening as a way to pass time, destress and add beauty to the world. Gardens can be big or small - outdoor or indoor.

We've recently discovered that Stop & Shop believes in the power of gardening as well and is launching their [Grow & Learn Program](#) aimed at teaching young gardeners how to grow their own vegetables and herbs. So, whether you have a 7th grader or not, we encourage you all to take advantage of this opportunity and, between May 29 - June 11, pick up a [free](#) kit. Together we can all become seedfolks!

GMS Virtual Book Clubs

Ms. Stockwell-Alpert, our GMS Librarian, will be holding Book Club Zooms for all interested students at the following times:

Monday 2:00

Wednesday 2:00

Thursday 2:00

During these times, students will meet and discuss books they've read and want to read. The sessions are open to all students. If the group is too large, more sections will be added based on interest and schedules. If your child wants to attend a Book Club Zoom please write to Ms. S-A at stockwellalpern@cantonma.org. Once she receives the email, she will respond with the Zoom link and password for the meeting. If these dates/times don't work for your child, please let Ms. S-A know and she will try to find a time that works.



GMS Team Resources: One Stop Shopping

In an effort to streamline information for families, each team has created a one-stop shopping type of resource for you. Clicking on your team name will take you directly to their Google Site: [Galaxy](#), [Meteorites](#), [Supernova](#), [Grizzlies](#), [Macaw](#), [Sharks](#), [Green](#), [Silver](#).

Spread the Word: 2-1-1

The state of Massachusetts would like to remind people that they can call 2-1-1 for help in a number of areas, particularly now when many people are feeling stressed, anxious or depressed. Please, if you need help right now, reach out. There are people ready to help you.

Parents Guide to Google Classroom in 2020



GMS Library Without Walls

GMS Library Without Walls



GMS Computers

Resources Fun and Games Typing Websites

Ms. Milstein's Computer Corner



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.

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>