

GMS Principal's Corner

Sarah Shannon

GMS Update: April 26, 2020

Hello Galvin Families,

How was this week for you? For your household? I know that for me and many others, though it was expected, Governor Baker's announcement about not returning to our physical school location through the remainder of the year was still hard. Education is a profession and passion built on relationships and human connection. We miss our in-person interaction with our students. The staff at the Galvin feels it and we know our students feel it too. When we can connect online over Google message, email or Google Chat/Zoom, it's the highlight of our day! I hope that your children enjoy those moments too!

This weekend I listened to a piece by the New York Times called "Teens in Lockdown". Truthfully, I was looking for some insight on parenting teens right now. One quote from that piece that resonated strongly with me was about school. They shared that for our children, school right now feels like they've been given "all the vegetables and no dessert". They're missing all of the fun stuff that surrounds the learning - seeing their friends, the back-and-forth of a class discussion, their teachers asking how the weekend was. It's hard to replicate those experiences in a remote setting. I think this is part of why so many students are feeling like school is hard right now. Galvin teachers are trying to provide some of the fun in addition to the academics in a variety of ways though - through weekly team Zooms/Chats, daily or weekly challenges, or with regular email check ins. When at all possible, please encourage your child's participation in these events as much as you are encouraging them to do their academic work. It's in these moments where we keep the human connections strong so our students keep feeling connected to the work.

With the Governor's announcement on Tuesday, we are entering Phase 3 of remote learning that will bring us through the end of the school year. This weekend, The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Commissioner, Jeff Riley, published new guidelines for districts and schools to follow as we begin this next chapter. The good news is that the Galvin is already doing so many of the things that he recommended. I don't anticipate many shifts with the new guidance, however, we are continuously trying to provide a better experience for the Galvin students and families during this time. As we make any necessary changes based on the guidance, we will keep you informed.

In that same spirit of feedback, reflection and continuous improvement, we want to check in with you to see how you are and what you need from us. We have designed both a student and a family survey to gather that information. Teachers will be asking students to complete the survey through their Google Classrooms this week. [The parent and caregiver survey can be found here.](#) We hope that you will take a few minutes to complete it by the end of the day on Friday, May 1. The information you provide will help us better support our school community. We appreciate your help with this.

As we move into this next phase, I am reminded of the movie *Thor Ragnarok* (can you guess what my family has been doing?!) when the character Odin tells Thor that "Asgard is not a place, it's a people". That's exactly how I feel about the Galvin. Though we are not physically in our school building, the GMS community continues to thrive, to be strong and connected, and to learn together, even in this remote learning world. School at the Galvin has not been cancelled; only our ability to gather in person has.

Stay well,
Sarah

Lockers

When the announcement to continue remote learning through the end of the year was made, we started to get emails about students being able to access and clean out lockers. At this time, our buildings are closed in accordance with local and state guidance. When that guidance changes and we are able to bring people back in to the buildings, we will create and share a process for students to access their belongings. Until then, we ask for your patience as we prioritize everyone's health and safety. Thank you.

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. In some cases this is a Google Site and in others it's a comprehensive email sent at the start of each week; some teams are providing both. This one location is where you and your child can access all the information needed about projects, assignments, schedules and specials. We hope that this list will help make accessing the information easier and support your efforts to help your child. Please email your team leader or your child's teacher with questions about specific assignments.

[Galaxy](#)

[Meteorites](#)

[Supernova](#)

Grizzlies (Google Site coming soon! Watch for a weekly email from Ms. Cormier for the info you need.)

[Macaw](#)

[Sharks](#)

GMS Library Without Walls

The GMS library and Ms. Stockwell-Alpert would like to introduce you to our new "Library Without Walls"! Click on the picture below to access information about free downloadable books from local (and beyond) libraries and research data based to help you with your school work. In addition, stay tuned for book talks given by GMS staff and students. It's a great place to visit if you are looking to read more during this time at home. Thank you, Ms. Stockwell-Alpert, for bringing the GMS Library to our homes!



Ms. Milstein's Computer Corner

Students, do you need some tips on using Google Classroom? Are you looking for some great websites that are fun and educational? Are you looking to improve your typing skills? If so, check out Ms. Milstein's new website, The Computer Corner! (Click on the picture below to access the site.) Thank you, Ms. Milstein, for creating this great resource!



FRESH INK SUBMISSIONS

Fresh Ink is tradition at the Galvin. Each year students submit original works of writing and art to create a literary journal. The students' pieces are curated and published in the Fresh Ink journal and then the authors and artists present their work one evening in the spring at Barnes and Noble. This year, we won't be able to present at Barnes and Noble but hope to host a virtual event for our students and families. So, encourage your child(ren) to use their time

creatively and submit their work to Ms. Canavan or Ms. Johnston and participate in this year's Fresh Ink. Click on the image below for more details.



is looking for your...

short
stories



artwork

POETRY

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>

