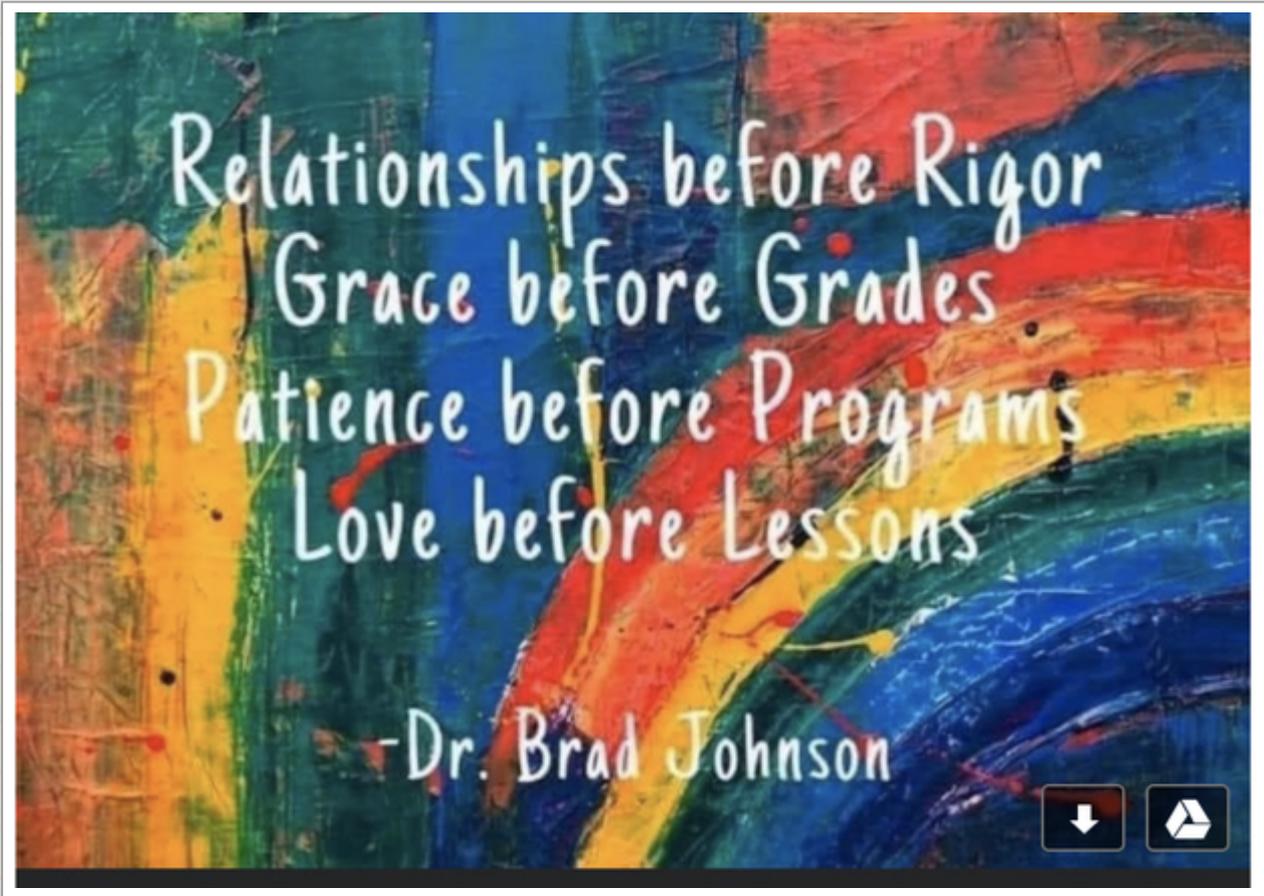


GMS Principal's Corner

Sarah Shannon



April 10, 2020 COVID-19 Update: Phase 2

Dear GMS Families,

Whether it be in 5 weeks, 5 months or 5 years, when the COVID-19 crisis is over, we are going to look back and draw many conclusions about our time at home. If, at that time, we can say that our Galvin families felt like we prioritized relationships and extended grace, patience and love, then we will have done our jobs. Our priority as a district and as a school is to ensure that all of our students and families feel connected to us and that we are caring first for your safety, health and emotional well-being. One of the many ways we are meeting those goals is by providing a consistent and quality remote learning experience for every student at the Galvin.

Given that our priority is relationships, the task before us is to look at learning opportunities through our students' and families' eyes. We know that each and every one of you is in a different place right now, and that even within one home, individuals are handling this crisis differently. The Phase 2 Remote Learning plan at the Galvin is designed to provide engaging, challenging and consistent work for everyone. And, unlike the work we have been putting out, it is no longer optional. ***It is our expectation that all of our students will complete the work assigned by their teachers.***

When we started online learning, our students (and families) began receiving emails and assignments from upwards of 10-12 Google classrooms. Many felt like the firehose had just been turned on. To address this concern, teachers are creating new learning opportunities that are streamlined, unified and as interdisciplinary as possible. We believe that this approach will slow down the stream so it's drinkable and digestible. Students will be better able to access and understand what they are supposed to do, parents will have a clearer sense of what their child should be doing, and teachers will be better able to collaboratively wrap their arms around their students and support their well-being and safety first and then their academics.

With this project based approach, we are trying to strike a balance with our remote learning plan. For so many of our students, their way to connect with friends right now is through games and social media. We don't want to pile on screentime hours, so we're thinking hard about remote learning and defining it as both on and off screen, and as synchronous and asynchronous. We're also thinking about learning that can occur both in and outside. The more we can create opportunities for students to be outdoors, the better we believe it is for their mental health.

As we enter Phase 2, you can expect that your child is assigned approximately three hours of work each day, inclusive of ALL (academic and specials) assignments. Some of that work may still be content specific and designed to support the goals of the project. Other assignments may be interdisciplinary and address more than one subject. At the start of each week, you and your child will receive an email from the team outlining the work expected. Teams will also offer a suggested schedule for students to follow. We know that every child is different so the suggested schedule can be adapted for your child if that's what works. Asynchronous learning can be done when it makes sense for your student.

We know that this shift to expected learning will be hard for some. We also know that keeping students connected to school, their teachers and their peers, as well as deepening and moving students' learning forward is both what is good for them and what is expected (and morally appropriate) for us as a learning institution. As you read in Superintendent Fischer-Mueller's email, we will not be grading students during this time at home on their work. Teachers will, however, be giving frequent and appropriate feedback on work submitted to continue to support each child's academic growth and ability to meet the standards. If students aren't participating in the work assigned, teachers will be emailing parents and caregivers. The intention of these emails will be two-fold. First, the email will let you know that we aren't receiving work from your child. I know, personally, how an email like this can help bridge the gap between what a child is telling you and what the reality is. Second, the email will ask how we can better support you and your student. We will be asking how we can help. If you need technology support, if you need additional academic support, etc, please tell us. That is what we're here for.

I know, with regard to grades, that some students and families are wondering about Term 3. Some of that answer depends on when we return to school. No matter what happens, we are keeping the following core value at its center: ***no student will be harmed academically by the time we are learning from home.*** The situation we find ourselves in right now is a circumstance outside of our control. Students cannot control if they or a close family member gets sick, they cannot control if they have reliable wifi, they cannot control if their caregivers lose their jobs, etc. Therefore, we will not put our student at academic risk as a result of a situation they cannot control. Students should continue to put forth their best efforts during this time and know that learning continues to be important even while they are home.

The core value identified above is driven by our priority for this time of school closure to build strong connections with and support the safety, health and emotional well-being of every GMS student through a strong and consistent academic experience. In the spirit of this goal, we hope that those of you celebrating Passover or Easter this week find some comfort in being with the family in your own home and, possibly, with family far and wide with the use of technology. And, whether you are celebrating or not, I hope that today provides a chance for your child to take a small break, breathe and regroup as we head into the next three weeks.

Thank you, all, for everything you are doing to support your children right now! We appreciate all of your efforts and know it is not easy. Remember that we are here to help and support you. Please reach out with any questions.

Wishing you all good health,
Sarah

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.

 *Fresh Ink* 
is looking for your...

short
stories



artwork

POETRY

April Vacation and Last Day of School Decision

As a reminder, April vacation has been canceled and remote learning will continue through that week (Tuesday, April 21 through Friday, April 24, 2020). What is usually the first day of April vacation, Monday, April 20 is and remains a state holiday - Patriots' Day; therefore, no remote learning and communication will be provided on that day. With this change, the last day of school for the 2019-2020 school year will be Tuesday, June 23, 2020.

A HUGE Hello and We Miss You from the Staff at GMS!

Galvin Strong



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>

