



Montessori Moments

Winter 2022



Administrative News

A new year is upon us and allows for both reflection of the past and anticipation for the future. At GMCS we began our year by reflecting upon all the amazing accomplishments of our students and staff and look to the second half of the year with hope for greater accomplishments, increased academic exploration, and strengthening friendships!

November and December seemed to fly past us with many school-wide activities to enhance our students' days. Our students participated in a school-wide food drive, field trip to see A Christmas Carol at the Majestic Theater in Gettysburg, each class shared holiday songs to the rest of the school during their music class, and of course students participated in the Scholastic book fair and holiday shop!

As we transition back to school after a much needed break, the second marking period will come to an end on January 14, 2021 and report cards will be live on your family FACTS portal on January 21, 2021. GMCS teachers will also begin mid-year benchmark testing the second week of January. Students in all grades will be assessed in both math and reading. Individual reports will be sent home to parents upon completion of testing. Please reach out to your child's teacher with questions about their individual scores. Benchmark testing allows teachers and administrators to analyze the growth of GMCS students and assess the overall curriculum. Earlier analysis indicated that our core instruction lacked resources to differentiate students' reading. We added additional decodable readers, both hard copies and electronic to all K-4 classrooms to allow for extensive differentiation within each grade band to meet this need. We also provided teachers professional development and training in Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) with the help of experts from IU12 to strengthen our reading and writing instruction in grades 3-6. Additional Montessori Works have finally arrived and students will have more opportunities to use these new works during WIN (What I Need) time as well as during choice time. Montessori Works help students put into practice the skills and strategies they are learning in the classroom as well as allowing students to work together, collaborate, and reflect upon their learning.

In addition to our mid-year benchmark scores, 2020-2021 PSSA scores should become available by the end of January. As the Department of Education releases these scores to local schools, they will be made available to parents. We will keep you updated on the availability of scores as we are given more information. Speaking of PSSA's, teachers in grades 3 through 6 have begun preparing students for taking these assessments later this year. Simple reviews of key concepts periodically will help students prepare for these assessments over time while reducing the anxiety of "cramming" reviews prior to taking the tests. We want our students to do well on these assessments but also to have confidence in their abilities while taking the assessments, distributed practice helps build such confidence!

January also brings with it the threat of snow and possibility of FID (flexible learning days). Please remember these days are not optional and students are expected to participate in learning activities provided by their teachers. Paper packets are not an alternative unless families experience power/internet outages. If outages occur, a note to that extent must accompany the completed packet for students to receive credit for attendance. FID expectations are always available for review on the GMCS website. A special note about computers at home. Although teachers monitor the use of computers virtually during school hours, they do not once the school day ends. Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's use of computers throughout the FID time as well as after school hours. Also, as a gentle reminder, school computers are to be used by the student for academic purposes only and should not be used for social media or other activities by students, family members, or friends.

We are looking forward to an exciting new year and as always welcome parents to reach out to administration with any questions or suggestions to enhance our students' learning experiences!

Sincerely,

Faye Pleso, MEd, PhD & Christine Kirkpatrick Ed.S.

Office Reminders:

NO SCHOOL GMCS will be Closed:

- February 18 & 21 in observance of Presidents' Day
- March 18

EARLY DISMISSAL:

- March 4 at 12:00pm

Save the Date:

- **Yearbook order forms due:**
by April 22, 2022
- **Spirit Store open until:**
February 24, 2022
- **Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser:**
Orders due by March 14, 2022
- **Read Across America:**
Dr. Seuss Day -
Tuesday, March 2, 2022
- **Science Fair:**
Thursday, March 17, 2022
- **Ag Literacy Week:**
March 14-17, 2022
- **Kindergarten Enrollment:**
Please have enrollment forms
to the front office by
March 31, 2022.
- **Re-enrollment Forms:**
Re-enrollment forms need to
be completed and returned
to the front office by March
31, 2022. Forms need to be
completed and turned in by
the due date to secure your
spot for the 2022/2023 school
year.
- **Spring Parent/Teacher
Conferences:**
March 28-31, 2021
Please mark your calendars.
More information will be sent
about conferences from your
teacher.

Please contact the office with any questions.

Classroom Updates

Kindergarten

Mrs. Fleurant & Mrs. Lawrence - Our kindergarteners have experienced some exciting activities during quarter two. The Mobile Agricultural Lab visited our classroom, to learn about how vegetables grow, how to make a pizza and the role farms play in providing food to the community. We also enjoyed doing winter themed activities throughout the month and at our Winter Celebrations before break!

Let's have a great start to the New Year! Our Kindergarteners are showing responsibility and habits of lifelong learning as they challenge themselves with new works in the classroom. In Eureka Math, we have wrapped up a unit of study focusing on measurement and weight. We will be continuing our studies on the attributes of numbers, using the terms "more than" "less than" and "are there enough" as we compare sets. Coming up we will be working on addition using number bonds. In Language, we have learned many new sight words and are applying our knowledge of words and phonics to reading and writing stories. At home, practice rhyming by saying a word and allowing your child to come up with a word that rhymes.

We are looking forward to celebrating our students' 100th day of school coming up soon!

Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared for outside recess in winter weather. Warm winter jackets, hats, and gloves are a must. If your child wears boots to school, we recommend sending sneakers in their backpack for inside use.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

1st & 2nd

Mrs. Needham - The second quarter has been so exciting in room 141! We are continuing to work on meeting class expectations by using whisper voices, raising our hands when we have a question, and doing our best work. Our class earned a Stellar Stone reward this quarter. After reading *The World According to Humphrey* as a class, the students have been asking for a class pet. Two aquatic frogs are now making their home in our classroom for the next several weeks.

A thrilling part of the second quarter was our field trip to a local theater to see the play, *A Christmas Carol*. The children couldn't stop talking about it for days. We had a blast completing a Kahoot when we returned to add to our discussion. During Language Arts, first grade has been learning about time, cause and effect, jobs in our community, and reading plays. Second grade has been learning about different types of animals, fables, solar power, and the weather. During Math, first grade has been learning place value, adding numbers within 20, and different ways to subtract single digit numbers from teen numbers. Second grade has been working with place value, adding and subtracting within 200, and carrying and borrowing.

During Science and Social Studies, both grades experimented with magnets and the magnetic field. Both grades also compared and contrasted life from the past with life today.

We are looking forward to next quarter and are eager to see what it brings!

Mrs. Lansford - Second quarter in Room 145 has brought with it opportunities to have fun while learning!

We are continuing to work on meeting classroom expectations by doing our best work, whispering in class, raising our hands when we have a question, and controlling our bodies. Our class has earned two stellar stone awards and is working hard toward another. For our last award the students voted to make slime. I loved seeing the different color combinations and add-ins the students chose. This was a great opportunity to see how different materials can combine to create something so fun. We also worked in groups to design, create, and test a paper rocket. We had rockets launching throughout the classroom!

A highlight of the quarter was our annual trip to the theater to see *A Christmas Carol*. Since we weren't able to attend last year it was a new experience for all

the students. We also read a classic version of the book and watched *A Muppet Christmas Carol* to compare and contrast the three. The students enjoyed talking about how Scrooge changed from the beginning of the story to the end.

In 1st grade Language Arts we have been learning about contractions, how to measure time, how maps help us, and what jobs need to be done in a community. In 1st grade math we have been learning different methods to subtract single-digit numbers from teen numbers, place value and adding numbers within 20.

2nd grade has been working hard as well. In Language Arts we have learned how animals survive and what we do at school. We have also studied fables and how they use animals to teach a lesson. In 2nd grade math we have continued our work with place values, counted and compared numbers to one-thousand, and the methods we can use to add and subtract numbers up to 200.

We are looking forward to next quarter and are excited to see what it will bring!

Miss. Stowman - We are glowing and growing in room 143! Quarter two has been filled with endless opportunities, new concepts/skills and several additions to our classroom!

Around November, we got our first classroom pet. A White Opal Betta fish named Koi! The kids absolutely love watching and taking care of him. There is even a new classroom job dedicated to helping take care of the fish: The Fish Assistant!

After a very generous donation from a classroom parent, we received a second fish tank! The kids did even more research about Bettas! Discovering their ideal living environment, what they eat, how to care for them, etc. After Christmas break, we came back and all of the new fish tanks were full! Each tank filled with a new colorful Betta fish and even a couple of snails! The kids were very excited to say the least.

In December, we got to see the *Christmas Carol* play at the Majestic Theater! It was an amazing show and the kids really enjoyed getting out of the classroom for the morning. It was a great learning experience and made for a lot of meaningful conversation when we got back!

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We are very excited for the next quarter and ready for what's to come!

3rd & 4th

Mrs. Bechtel, Ms. Dohler & Mrs. Taylor - The ¾ team teachers would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy new year. Welcome 2022!

Students had their second Stellar Stone Award on January 14th.

The students took an afternoon to challenge themselves to STEM Lego Building. Students were able to complete this challenge by themselves or with a partner. They drew a Lego STEM card that had a scenario involving our students to become engineers who built a solution to solve the problem. Students had one hour to discuss, plan, and build their creation. After they were finished, students had the chance to walk around to each ¾ classroom and look at each other's creations. Students were very excited to do this reward.

Classroom Updates

We are excited to announce that our next reward that we are working towards is a field trip to the Conococheague Institute which will tie in with our unit in Social Studies/Communities Then and Now. Students will be able to experience the colonial lifestyle.

ELA: Happy New Year everyone! Welcome to 2022! We have been working hard in ELA class practicing our grammar skills, developing critical thinking and reasoning skills, expanding our vocabulary, and improving our fluency and reading comprehension. We are excited to continue using Reading A-Z program, ECRI (Enhanced Core Reading Instruction), and working on learning the multiple roles of participating in literature circles. Students will soon begin to conduct literature circles on a chosen text on their own!

Each class has been excited to learn a new word of the day, be able to apply it to everyday situations, and even teach others new vocabulary words! Around the holidays, students were able to read and learn about the history of evergreen trees and learn about traditions around the world for Thanksgiving in the countries of Korea, Germany, and Sri Lanka. We look forward to the New Year and all the wonderful reading opportunities it will bring us!

Math: Math class in the second quarter was a very exciting time for the 4th graders! We learned long division and double digit multiplication. The students worked so hard to master these concepts. The expectation is for students in 4th grade to be able to divide a four digit number by a one digit number, and many of them have gone well above and beyond that. I am so proud of all the effort they put into their learning.

Third graders have been busy as well. We have circled back to multiplication and division facts and they are getting much more fluent. This is so important to their success in the next few years, and they have been showing how much they can learn when they put all their effort into doing so!

We have also begun introducing some PSSA problems and talking about what the tests will be like at the end of the year. There is always a lot of concern from third graders about PSSAs, and my goal is to help them feel confident and prepared.

Science/Social Studies: In Science and Social Studies, during Quarter 2, students completed our Embryology Unit. Students absolutely enjoyed this hands-on experience. Students were able to participate in candling the eggs, turning the eggs, and preparing the mini coop for the arrival of the chicks.

Congratulations to Noah S. in 4th grade!

His family adopted the 5 baby chicks that hatched and gave them a home on a farm. Noah has been giving us daily updates and I hear they are growing bigger and bigger every day. Our students and I want to thank the PA 4-H and Penn State for making this happen. We can't wait to do it all over again next school year!

During Agriculture Week, students in 3/4 were able to have the Mobile Ag-Lab step into Mrs. Bechtel's Science Class to complete two very cool experiments.

Students once again became hands-on scientists and worked together in groups to make cream into butter! They were able to enjoy the butter that they made on a saltine cracker as a delicious snack!

The second lab that students were able to experiment with was called Fungi Fun.

Students were able to dissect mushrooms and investigate what a mushroom looks like inside. This was perfect as it integrated with our Life Cycle of a Pumpkin and Sunflower Unit!

Thank you to the Coordinator of the Mobile Ag Lab and to all the parent volunteers that helped to make this a fun, successful learning opportunity for our students!

Next, we moved on to our first Social Studies Unit this year- The 50 States of the United States of America. Students were each assigned a state that they had

to research and complete a poster. This State Poster project was their second quarter project and the students did an outstanding job on the poster and presenting them to the class. These posters are hung up around the school for everyone to view.

As we neared our Winter Break, we moved on to our Holidays Around the World Unit. Students had a suitcase and for every country we traveled to they received a stamp which they placed on their suitcase. First, we studied our Culture and traditions practiced here in the United States. We next traveled to Iceland, Poland, Netherlands, Czech Republic, and ended in Greece. The students were able to make an ornament representing each country.

We are now ending quarter 2 with our Communities Then and Now Unit. Students will look at how transportation, communication, housing, and schools have changed. They will look at some artifacts and see how these things have evolved from then to now. Students will also interview someone from the year 1985 or earlier and then ask themselves the same questions and compare the two.

As we move into the third quarter students will be getting ready for our Science Fair which will be held in March. We will be studying Force and Motion, Blizzards and Snowflakes, STEM Activities, and we will revisit The Scientific Method to do some experiments.

I am very proud of each and every one of the students. They all work very hard and put great effort into their work. They continue to grow each and every day and I love watching them get excited and passionate about learning!

5th & 6th

Mrs. Gulden, Mrs. Naugle & Mrs. Sauter - ELA: In 6th grade, students wrapped up their Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief unit. This has been a long unit, but students have worked very hard and really enjoyed the story. We will begin Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream as our non-fiction unit. I look forward to their work with this unit.

Fifth graders have finished up one of two novels, Esperanza Rising or The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Students seemed to enjoy both books and were always wanting to read more. I love this about our students! One group has begun their work in Stone Fox and the other group is getting ready to begin Hidden Figures.

Science/Social Studies: In fifth grade, we continue to review the regions of the United States and landforms found in each of these regions. We completed our study of the Early Settlements of Jamestown, the Lost Colony of Roanoke and Indian Nations including Hopi, Iroquois, Powhatan, and Sioux per the regions of the US. Students shared thoughts on what it would have been like to be on the Susan Constant and discovered at first thought it would be a great adventure to conclude it was not. We will be reviewing Pennsylvania history before moving onto the New England, Middle Colonies and our Government / Civics unit for the third marking period. Third marking period will also bring a study of the Physical Sciences. Students will explore units on Electricity, Sound, and Magnetics.

In sixth grade, we are wrapping up our unit on Russia. Students completed analysis of what it would have been like to be a child laborer during the Industrial Revolution, took a virtual tour of Russia on the Trans Siberian Railroad, and studied the rich cultural arts of the people. We completed mosaics, a Russian Art form, and we forwarded our work to be shared in the community. The third marking period we will explore Africa and Asia geography, history, and influence of today. Science will have our sixth graders studying the Earth with it's Continental Drift, Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes. It will be an exciting third marking period full of hands on learning experiences.

Math: In the second quarter, 5th grade focussed on multiplication. They practiced their basic facts, multiplied multi-digit numbers (up to three digits in the multiplier), multiplied by powers of 10, and even multiplied with decimals. Currently we are working through the skill of division. Students are learning how to divide by powers of 10, estimate quotients, and divide with multi-digit divisors. In the third quarter we will focus heavily on fractions.

The 6th graders learned about multiplying and dividing fractions. This skill was very involved as students learned how to draw out visual models and relate them to the standard algorithm. Students also reviewed multi-digit decimal operations, long division, and statistical analysis (mean, median, mode, and range). In quarter three, students will learn about number theory and move into learning about positive and negative numbers.

Projects: The students worked extremely hard on their Market Day projects during the month of December. The students were able to present their projects to their peers and teachers. We learned so much about the continent of Africa and saw some great costumes that represented specific regions. Everyone did such an amazing job on this project!

Upcoming projects: Keep an eye out! Students will be completing a book report as their next big project. Guidelines on the book report will be given out January 31st, and the project will be due March 11th. Please encourage your child to read their book and work on the project at home as it will be due in just a few short weeks.

MUSIC NOTES

We had a great quarter! We had our Winter Concert. It was done a lot differently than originally planned, but the students did an amazing job performing their songs for school. All classes talked about Audience and Performance etiquette around concert time.



Kindergarten - They learned about Long and Short Sounds and Loud and Quiet Sounds.

1/2 Grade - They learned about Tempo, Dynamics, and started talking about the Instrument Families.

3/4 and 5/6 Grade - They learned about Tempo, Dynamics, Timbre, and started talking about International Music.

I'm excited about what is in store for the next quarter!
Have a musical day! - Mr. Swiger

ART

Our students never cease to amaze me with their incredible talents!



Kindergarten has been learning about shapes and practicing their tracing, cutting and gluing skills. We made basic shape collages and now we are learning about abstract shapes. Students are making abstract shape monsters and coloring them with oil pastels! First and second grade students learned about Pueblo Native Americans and made pinch pots, decorated with pictographs. Before the holidays, students heard the Mexican folk tale of the first Poinsettia and made their own Poinsettias with construction paper. When we returned from break, students learned about paint expectations in the art room and painted pictures with water. We are just beginning to make winter scenes, based on the concepts of warm and cool colors, as well as color tints.

Third and fourth graders learned about the Pomo Native Americans of California before winter break. Pomo Native Americans are exceptionally talented when it comes to weaving. Students cut strips into Solo cups and are weaving between the strips with colorful yarn. Some students have already finished and their cups are beautiful! Fifth and Sixth grade students looked at artwork by Pop artist, Robert Rauschenberg, who did mixed media collage art. Students looked through magazines for pictures to cut out and glue onto white paper. Their goal was to create a picture around the cut outs. Right before winter break, students learned about the Aurora Borealis, also known as the Northern Lights, and what causes them. They then made their own Northern Lights pictures on black construction paper with oil pastels. These skylscapes turned out to be utterly gorgeous! Now, we are beginning a unit on visual perspective.

The results from the Original Works art fundraiser are in! We made an astounding \$1,055.85! I want to extend my sincere gratitude to those who were able to contribute to the fundraiser. All of the earnings will go towards art supplies in the very near future!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Happy New Year! The new year has been in full swing in wellness class and we are looking forward to the next couple months of school. So far for the month of January, students have been learning and practicing badminton. Even our kindergarteners have joined in on the badminton fun using lollipop sticks and birdies. For students in first through sixth grade, we will be completing the fastest class in the school running challenge for the second time. The winning class will receive a class trophy to keep in their classroom until we have our third and last running challenge of the year. We will be learning about heart health for the month of February and we will be raising money for the American Heart Association. During the month of February, we will also be learning about taking care of our teeth and how important our oral health is. I look forward to providing fun learning opportunities as the next couple months of school continues. We will be learning how to play basketball, floor hockey, and even tennis. I hope you all have a happy and healthy new year.

LIBRARY

Hello parents! We've been having a great time in library class. We've read lots of books together and had lessons on such topics as the Dewey Decimal System, maps, globes and atlases, author spotlights, and Native American Heritage Month. The students have been able to check out books each week and are doing a fantastic job of remembering to bring them back! Please help your kids to keep track of their books by keeping them in their backpacks when they're not reading them.

Happy Reading!
-Emily Windover, Librarian

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Our processes for identifying students who may be eligible for special education services include, but are not limited to, school-wide benchmark assessments, Multi System of Tiered Support (MTSS) including Response to Intervention (RTI), Speech and Language screenings, Occupational Therapy screenings, Physical Therapy screenings, teacher referrals, and parent requests. Gettysburg Montessori Charter School currently provides itinerant and supplemental level services to all IDEA eligible students, which may include but is not limited to Learning Support services, Speech and Language services, Occupational Therapy services, Physical Therapy services, Vision Support and Deaf and Hard of Hearing services. Brochures reviewing the student identification process, the parents request for an evaluation process and additional topics are available to all parents and guardians in the lobby. For further information, feel free to contact our Special Education Coordinator, Rebeka Black, at becky@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org.

RTI

Does the winter weather get you down? For parents with little ones, winter days can feel like an eternity. Cold temperatures, snow days, weather hazards, the dreaded cold and flu season, and the onset of cabin fever can lead to a frustrating loop of, "I'm bored" and "What are we going to do NOW?" However, it IS possible to keep your kids healthy and happy this winter season without losing all your marbles.

A good way to spend quality time with your children is to read together. Make some time each evening to read and to talk about the books you read. Reading a longer chapter book or children's novel out loud to your child could also be a way that you read together. You will enjoy being together and discovering good stories.

Additionally, another way to spend quality time together with your children is to tell stories from your own childhood. You can ask relatives and friends to share their own stories as well. Storytelling helps children become better readers. Family stories are also an important part of your child's heritage.

For more ideas on how to keep your child reading through the winter, go to www.colorincolorado.org/article/winter-vacation-10-reading-ideas-parents

HEALTH NEWS

I hope the winter break brought you time to gather close, howl with laughter, play with exuberance and watch-over one another lovingly.

The information regarding Covid continues to evolve as we learn and gather more data. The shortened 5-day isolation and quarantine periods are the result of the current information. Just a reminder, that these are different. Isolation is for those positive for Covid. Quarantine is for those exposed. For homes which do not allow for completed separation from one-another, quarantine begins once the positive persons' isolation ends. If you do not have on-going contact with the Covid patient than quarantine begins the day after you were last with them.

Our on-going mitigation efforts as well as targeted and quick quarantine of close contacts have prevented any transmission from school exposures. I inform only those families or staff who are directly affected.

I am grateful for the cards and gifts from students and families. Your kindness is much appreciated.

Good Health, Happiness, and Humor to you all! scoliosis. I will contact you only if your child needs further evaluation.

I am impressed with the number of families who have already sent mandated grade doctor and dentist reports. Here is a list of the grade and exam due this year.

- Kindergartners - physical, vaccine, and dental records
- Third grader's - dental exam
- Sixth Grade [rising 7th graders] physical with scoliosis, booster vaccines, and dental exam

I need loaner pants for spills and muddy falls. I would like gently used sweat pants or leggings, 3 pairs each for Upper Grade level boys & girls Sizes 8 and up. I have more than enough for kindergartners. I also have plenty of shirts and tops.

Check our website for updated information regarding illness, absence, and mitigation efforts.

I wish you all good health and good spirits,
Nurse Adrian

FROM THE BOARD

Upcoming Board Meetings:

GMCS Board meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to attend. Upcoming board meetings will be held at 888 Coleman Rd. at 6:00 pm on the following dates:

- Thursday, January 27, 2022
- Thursday, February 24, 2022
- Thursday, March 24, 2022
- Thursday, April 28, 2022
- Thursday, May 26, 2022
- Thursday, June 23, 2022
- Thursday, July 28, 2022
- Thursday, August 25, 2022



COUNSELORS CORNER

Greetings GMCS families. I hope everyone had a great Holiday break. Wow! I can't believe it is January and we are returning from our Holiday break. The school year is flying by. As I'm reflecting on the school year this far, I wanted to write something for the newsletter to let the GMCS community know the different things we have been covering in guidance this year. In the next few paragraphs, I will tell you what has been discussed in each of the grade bands from the beginning of the year till now.

In grades kindergarten through second, we began the year discussing topics such as back to school, diversity, impulse control, and mindfulness. In the weeks following that we discussed growth mindset, perspective taking and kindness. We also had a few holiday lessons such as Halloween safety, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Additionally, we discussed the benefits of positive relationships, super strong feelings (and how to deal with them), and being able to tell the difference between a big deal and a little deal. I also taught problem-solving in the last week before our Holiday Break.

Finally, we just concluded a six-week small group covering emotional intelligence, with ten participants, for grades kindergarten through second grade. Since concluding the emotional intelligence small group, I have started my social skills small group which has six participants.

In grades three and four guidance lessons were equally important. We discussed topics such as back to school, diversity, organization skills, and mindfulness in the early weeks of returning to school. We then went on to discuss growth mindset, study skills, goal setting and good decision making. Grades three and four also had lessons themed around the different Holidays that took place during this time frame as well. Holidays such as Halloween, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Grades three and four also had guidance lessons on controlling emotions and the different parts of the brain that deal with different types of stress.. We also had a discussion on being overwhelmed and how to deal with that.

Finally, I held a small group, with seven participants, on how to deal with anxiety. Since concluding the anxiety small group, I have started my social skills small group which has four participants.

In grades five and six lessons had a high degree of focus on the upcoming biztown trip on February 9, 2022. Unit one was all about the economy. We discussed topics such as the circular flow of the economy, free enterprise, and public goods and services. Unit two we discussed financial literacy. We covered financial services, checking accounts, savings accounts, and debit cards. In unit three we discussed work readiness. Topics included interests and skills, applying for jobs, job interviews and we will be holding Biztown elections in the near future. Prior to beginning our Biztown lessons, we also discussed some back-to-school topics in the early weeks of the school year. We discussed back to school, diversity, and organization skills as well.

Grades five and six also recently concluded their small group for dealing with anxiety. This group had five participants. Since concluding the anxiety small group, I have started my social skills small group which has five participants.

I have covered a lot in the first semester and I have enjoyed working with our kids here at GMCS. I look forward to continuing to provide the best service I can. Going forward, I intend to have lessons on topics such as de-escalating situations, conflict resolutions and changing negative self-talk. Additionally, I intend to hold small groups on dealing with ADHD and anger management.

Mckinney Vento Act:

Homelessness is not only living on the streets. If you are living in a shelter, motel, camper or doubling up with someone, you are considered homeless. We are here to help! Please reach out to us!