

Graves Middle School

School Newsletter



Principal's Corner

It's early December and we are quickly approaching the holidays. This is my favorite time of the year because I always think about my blessings, my family, and to be honest, some vacation time.

I'm sure that for many of you, this is also your favorite time of the year. It's a great time to spend time with family and enjoy the season. I know that these are challenging times for many families, which makes this a great time of year to help others. During the Thanksgiving break my son and I had the opportunity to serve the Whittier community by assisting at the Interfaith Food Center. It was gratifying for us to help others during this holiday season, so please consider taking the time to bless others by serving them during this special time of year. From all of the staff at Graves Middle School, have a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Benchmark Assessments

The teachers at Graves Middle School have worked with Action Learning Systems (ALS) to develop and administer our quarterly benchmark assessments. Benchmark assessments are used by our teachers to see how our kids are doing with the content and material we are teaching them. The information we get helps the teachers to know if they have to re-teach the material, or if they can keep moving forward.

Save the Date!

<p>Band Concert 12/15/11 Come enjoy our Winter Band Concert, Field House, 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Winter Dance 12/19/11 Winter Dance, 1:30, Field House, kids must have their contract</p>	<p>No School 12/22/11-1/6/12 There will be no school during this time; school resumes 1/9/12.</p>
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GMS Panthers #1



do this is because we want to use the knowledge and expertise that our teachers already have to improve instruction and results for all of our kids.

Educational research tells us that when teachers collaborate with one another to write lesson plans and talk about effective instruction, the results for students improve. Our teachers worked hard to analyze data and write lesson plans to help improve the results that our students got on their first benchmark assessment. Our plan is to continue to use this process throughout the school year, as we will be giving quarterly benchmark assessments the entire year. We know that this will help prepare our students for the CST test in May. We encourage you to stop by Graves, you don't need an appointment, and see the excellent instruction that takes place every single day. Come see the difference at Graves Middle School!



Benchmark Assessments continued

Our teachers recently met in their departments to analyze the benchmark data to see where the students did well and where they struggled. Once they determined where the kids did well they discussed why the kids did well because we want to continue doing the things that we know work for our kids.

Our teachers also discussed what didn't go well and why it did not go well. Once they determined what their next steps were, they then wrote lesson plans together to re-teach the material that was lowest for our kids. Once they re-teach the material that was lowest for our kids, they will bring their materials and we will discuss those lessons too. The reason we





Success for 8th Grade Football

All of our fall sports teams were competitive this year, but our 8th grade football team had an outstanding year. They played every team close during the season and GMS won the league championship based on our record. Although it has been a few years since the 8th grade football team won the championship, this year it was in the cards. Our Panthers approached the Middle School Football Tournament with a desire to defend their league championship during the tournament. The tournament started out a little slow for us, as our kids lost a close one to Parks Middle School.

Faced with elimination if we lost a second game, our Panthers roared back and won three straight games. There were some close games and some come from behind victories for GMS. Those wins set us up for a rematch with Parks in the championship game. We battled Parks play for play during the championship game and pulled out a close one by a score of 15-14 to win the tournament. Good job coaches and team!

