

F A L L 2 0 1 6

Graves Middle School

School Newsletter



On the Path to AVID National Demonstration Site Status

We are very excited to mention that Graves has applied to become an AVID National Demonstration Site. We have worked very hard for a few years to be able to pursue this tremendous distinction, as only 4% of AVID middle schools throughout the nation have secured this distinction. We will not be visited until the spring of 2017, so we will take some time to prepare for the visit. But if all goes according to plan, this would mean two things for GMS and our kids. First, we will be a model program, and when new AVID schools start up, they can visit Graves for guidance about how an AVID

Principal's Corner

I want to welcome you to a new school year at GMS. We have many exciting things for the 2016-2017 school year that we want to share with you. You will read about our AVID programs, our Chromebook program, and our school sports program. But we also want to share some of the other important programs at GMS too.

We are piloting English/ Language Arts textbooks and we are very excited about the new resources for teaching our kids Language Arts. We also implemented a new history program, it's called DBQ (Document Based Question). The teachers and students love it because it gives them interesting questions about great topics and lets them talk about it and write about it. We are excited about our new programs at GMS. As I have said many times in the past, "Come see the difference at Graves Middle School!"

Save the Date!

Thanksgiving Break

November 21st-25th

GMS is closed the week of Thanksgiving, enjoy time with your friends and family!

Trimester 1 Ends

11/9/16

Our first trimester ends Nov. 9th, so please be on the lookout for advisory cards and report cards shortly after Nov. 9th.

School Site Council

11/17/16

Join us for the SSC meeting in room 301 from 3:00-4:30 pm.



GMS Rolls Out Chromebooks and iPads in English Classes

We are excited to share information about the roll out of technology in our English/Language Arts (ELA) classes. As part of our technology plan we are using Chromebooks and iPads in most of our English/Language Arts classes. We have a 1-1 take home Chromebook program with our 7th and 8th grade traditional AVID students and our 7th and 8th grade AVID Excel students. They can keep them for the two years they are at GMS as long as they take care of them.

Our other ELA classes either have a classroom Chromebook or iPad cart or they have access to our library, where we have a full lab of desktop computers. We are piloting two new ELA textbooks this year, both of which have online and web based components that allow kids to learn using some pretty awesome materials. This puts our kids in a position to enjoy 21st Century educational tools every single day. For example, our students are learning to use Google Classroom, Google Apps for Education (GAPE), and they are making presentations on their Chromebooks/iPads. This gives us the opportunity to become a paperless school in the near future. Our online textbooks and resources, our use of GAPE, and Google Classroom put us well on the road to our goal of preparing every kid for the 21st Century, and for their future.



AVID National Demo continued

program should properly operate. It also means that GMS has one of the strongest AVID programs in the entire nation.

We have done a lot of professional development for all of our teachers where they are learning WICOR strategies and strategies that help English Learners. We know from the educational research that these strategies help all students get organized, read and write effectively, ask and answer high level questions, and help kids collaborate effectively. We have also focused on helping our EL kids. These have been our Professional Development focus points for a few years and all of our teachers are using these strategies, and we can see the difference it has made for our kids already. We want to strengthen our systems so every teacher and every student continues to grow from this focus. So we are excited and equally humbled by this great opportunity, as it will help us to help every student. But we want to stay hungry and always improve so our kids benefit academically. We look forward to the rest of the school year and we will keep you abreast of our progress, and how the visit goes in the spring of 2017.



GMS Goes Head to Head

Our fall sports program is beginning and our football and volleyball teams are in the midst of a competitive season. Our 7th and 8th grade football teams are off to an even start, as we have had some exciting victories against Dexter and some tough losses to Rancho Starbuck. We have upcoming games against Granada, Lake Center, and we will battle Buena Park, amongst other schools. We want to introduce our new Athletic Director, Mr. Caleb Rouse. Mr. Rouse played basketball at the college level and he coaches basketball too. He is also a seventh grade history teacher. Mr. Rouse and our coaches have been pleased with our kids' effort and look forward to the upcoming games in our evenly matched league. Go Graves Middle School football players!

Our 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams have also been working hard and are off to a solid start this year too. Our 7th grade team beat Dexter on the road. Our 8th grade team is off to a slow start, but they look forward to getting on track. We are very excited about the season this year. All of our sports teams, the students and the coaches, would like to encourage you to come and cheer on our school as we vie for the league championship this season. You will notice that our kids exhibit good sportsmanship, give great effort, and work hard. We look forward to a great season, go Panthers!

