

Graves Middle School

School Newsletter



Principal's Corner

This month I want to share information with you about one of our new programs, our STEM program. I think you will be impressed with our STEM program and the fun things our kids are learning and doing.

But I also wanted to share with you about the Parent Visitation we held last month at GMS. During the presentation I shared about our strong academics, our strict discipline program, and the fun programs and activities our kids enjoy. Our guests were treated to a continental breakfast, prizes throughout our program (including a free membership to Costco), and a panel discussion by some of our parents. I was most proud of our student panel, as the kids shared their thoughts about the changes they have experienced at GMS. It was a great event for Graves. I hope you enjoy reading about our STEM program and other aspects of Graves. As I have said before, "Come see the difference at Graves Middle School!"

STEM Program

The STEM program at Graves Middle School is a new program that is off to a fun and fast start. STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Our STEM teacher is Mrs. Sens-Morris, who also teaches Academy Algebra 1 at Graves Middle School. The class is open to both seventh and eighth graders and it serves as an elective for these students. Students who are in STEM are

Save the Date!

Academic Advisory

2/3/12

Students will receive their 1st semester grades. Parent conferences are Feb. 14-18, minimum days.

Academy/AVID Road to College Night

2/7/12

Set your college path early. Meet in the Field House from 5:30-7:00 pm.

School Site Council

2/8/12

Join us for the SSC meeting in the Parent Center from 2:50-3:50 pm.

GMS Panthers #1



bridge to see how much weight it would support. Their bridges held about 35-40 pounds, which is just 5-10 pounds less than some high school constructed bridges. Go to the photos section on our school website if you would like to see some pictures of this activity.

Our STEM kids used the same process to build a contraption that would support and protect eggs from a second story fall. After the research and presentations, our kids dropped their egg contraptions from the second floor in front of Mr. Kearney's classroom. We are proud to say that the eggs were safe in 5 out of 7 drops (one egg was safe on impact, but it rolled out and then broke).

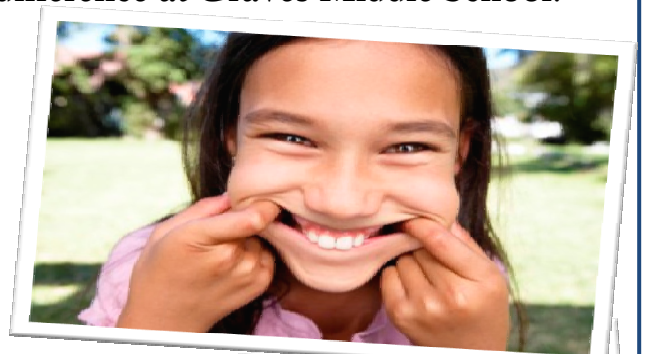
Our STEMmers are working on paper airplanes, as they have to ensure that their airplanes go at least 40 feet. These fun hands-on activities open the creative and mathematical minds of our kids. The STEM program sets us apart, so come see the difference at Graves Middle School!



STEM Program continued

strong in mathematics and science. In fact, they are all either proficient or advanced in math on their state CST test.

The students have done some fun and exciting projects so far this year. They started out the year by working in small groups to research the design and construction of bridges, then they had to choose one type to build out of pop sickle sticks. Once they researched the type of bridge they wanted to build, they had to find an example of this type of bridge in the community. Their next task was to construct their bridge and give a professional group presentation about their bridge. After presenting their bridge they had to “stress” the



Panthers Fight on during Winter Sports

Our winter sports teams continued to battle during league play. Our teams played Granada, Lake Center, Parks, Edwards, and Dexter. Our 7th and 8th grade boys' basketball teams battled tough Granada, Lake Center, and Parks teams and valiantly overcame Edwards and Dexter. Our boys' coaches were satisfied with the progress of their teams, even if they didn't win them all.

Our 7th and 8th grade girls' soccer teams also played Granada, Lake Center, Parks, Edwards, and Dexter. The first three teams were talented and gave our girls a run for their money. Our girls did a great job with victories over Edwards and Dexter. The girls' coaches were satisfied with their team's intensity level and ability to rise to the occasion during tough games. All of our teams look forward to finishing out the league schedule and then trying to win the middle school sports tournament at the end of the month. Continue to encourage our kids and their coaches as we close out the winter sports program. Good luck Panthers!

