

Graves Middle School

School Newsletter



Principal's Corner

I don't know where the time went; I say this as we wind down the 2012-13 school year. This year went by very quickly, and it was a great year for Graves. One of the things we are most excited about is the 21 point increase we received on our API. The API is the tool the state of California uses to inform parents and students about our public schools. After adding the 21 point increase a few weeks ago, GMS' improvement was 62 points last year and by 104 points over the last two years. Just as a point of reference, this is the highest in the Whittier and Santa Fe Springs area and one of the highest in the entire L.A. area. This type of growth is virtually unheard of, so we are very happy. We are also proud of our 8 similar schools ranking. What this means is that when compared to schools that are similar to ours, we have an 8 out of 10 ranking (we are better than 80% of all schools like our own). Although we are happy about this success, we want to stay humble, hungry, and work hard to improve even more!

Our New Computer Class

We are happy to announce that Graves Middle School purchased a new state of the art computer lab and we will be offering all incoming 7th graders a computer class/creative writing class so they can learn how to create PowerPoints, Prezis, learn to keyboard, do research, and write creatively. The computer class/creative writing class is a required course for incoming 7th graders and they can meet this requirement in one of three ways. First, they can take this course during the summer school

Save the Date!

8th grade promotion

June 12th

Please join us at the Cal High School Stadium at 5:00 pm for our class of 2013 8th grade promotion ceremony.

Last Day of School

June 13th

Please note that the last day of school is Thursday, June 13th and it is a minimum day. This is also the 8th grade Knott's field trip.

First Day of School

August 14th

Please notice the early start for the new year. Like the high school district, we start school on Wednesday, August 14th. See you there!



Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

As some of you may have heard, public education is about to undergo a major change in two years. We are transitioning to what is known as the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). About 46 states have decided to join the CCSS movement because we believe that it is an improvement over the current system we use. The information and skills that are required under the CCSS should make a big difference for our kids. Quite frankly, the CCSS era will be much more complicated for students and educators alike, but it will be better, more relevant, and more interesting for our kids. They will have to use computers more frequently to do research (which is why we are requiring the computer class), they will have to discuss and debate topics to prove they can think for themselves, and they will have to do more project based learning. Although this will be challenging for all of us, we are excited!



Computer program continued

session that will be held at GMS. They will take this course as well as Language Arts, Math, and Social Studies. They can also meet this requirement by taking a non-band class elective because they will receive this training during that class. The final way they can meet this requirement is to come to a 0 period class (from 7:20-8:05 am) for one quarter (9 weeks) during their 7th grade school year. Due to statewide financial difficulties, we will not be able to provide busing to the 0 period class and parents must get their children to GMS on their own. This class is critical and will benefit our students for the rest of their lives, so we look forward to their participation. If you have a question please give us a call at (562) 944-0135.



Spring Sports a Success

Our spring sports program concluded and our 8th grade boys' teams had varying levels of success. Our 7th grade boys' teams had some success too. Our 8th grade boys' soccer team played hard but lost some tough games due to injuries. Our 8th grade track team had some great individual performances and they were competitive as a team. Our 7th grade boys' soccer team had a great season and showed signs of dominance. The 7th grade track team had some great performances and finished in 2nd place at the track meet. The coaches and kids worked very hard this year, great job!

Our 8th grade girls' basketball team had a nice win streak going during the season and so did our 7th grade girls' basketball team. Both teams improved significantly during the seasons and finished strong. Both girls' track teams also had strong performances to close out the season. Their effort and tenacity made us very proud of our girls' track teams. We want to thank all of the coaches for their great effort and long hours, our kids for their good sportsmanship and great effort, and our families for supporting their kids' sports and academic endeavors at GMS. We'll continue with our strong commitment to the middle school sports program because we know that it is good for kids, it is good for school spirit, and it helps with socialization too. We look forward to the fall season when we will field volleyball and football. We'll see you on August 14th, our first day of school!

