



Falcon Flyer

GROWTH MINDSET

Written by: Erin Nuss, Curriculum Director

In 2016, the GCMS schools community continued our focus on growth mindset. Researcher Carol Dweck, states that “growth mindset is based on the belief that your basic qualities are things you can cultivate through your efforts”. Professional learning for teachers has focused on expanding our understanding of how the brain works and how the language we use impacts student self-perception. Classroom learning has also focused on giving students opportunities to expand their growth mindsets.

Assemblies in each building have highlighted grit and determination through real-world examples and personal testimonials. Classroom activities have also introduced students to an array of tools they can use to reflect on their personal growth. For example, some elementary school students track their own reading stamina on growth charts while high school students set personal learning goals for English class based on the results of their pretests. Teachers also model growth mindset for their students by offering opportunities for students to evaluate their courses and by walking classes through the process of their own self-reflection.

A significant way in which we have focused on cultivating growth mindsets in our students is through the language we use when giving feedback. When responding to student work, teachers strive to praise the process and effort the student put forth. The teacher might say, “Look at how much progress you have made using that strategy!” or “Mistakes are welcome here!”. Even when students successfully complete a task or accomplish a goal it is important that we provide feedback they can use to continue growing. Questions such as “How can we make this a challenge for you next time?” and “What topic would you like to learn about next?” instill the importance of determination and value of learning in students’ minds. Parents can definitely use similar language at home when responding to their student’s effort in school. For more ideas about reinforcing growth mindset at home please visit <https://www.mindsetkit.org/growth-mindset-parents>.



DID YOU KNOW?

- * The inaugural Falcon Walk Fundraiser took place at GCMS Elementary School. The event raised \$11,515.98 for programming for the PTA.
- * GCMS Middle School staff had the highest number of participation in the 2016 Monster Dash.
- * GCMS High School, along with a majority of Heart of Illinois Conference schools, teamed up to raise funds to relocate one family from war-torn Syria during the winter of 2016.

A NEW REALITY IN 2016

Written by: Julie Briney, HS Computers teacher

VR (Virtual Reality) in the technology world is a way to generate sounds, images and sensations through a device. The Web Design students make their own Google Cardboards to experience the virtual world through apps on their phones. App development is the step after web design using HTML code for making websites. Using the goggles, students can experience different virtual worlds like riding a roller coaster or being in a haunted room. Students put their phone in the goggles and begin the app by merely looking at it to trigger the app to start. By moving their heads up and down on the VR roller coaster the student feels like they are on the roller coaster and going faster! In the Haunted room the students can move their heads all directions and turn their body 360 degrees looking around the room and experiences bats flying and things moving along with scary sounds. While students are in the VR haunted room



Google cardboard made and decorated by Maddie Price

and listening to the sounds they can be frightened by spooky things going on in this environment. The students really like experiencing the virtual world right in front of their eyes!

2016 AT GCMS BY THE NUMBERS

1020 Students Learning in GCMS Classrooms
Enrollment in GCMS School holds steady with 67 seniors graduating in the spring of 2016.

85 Teachers Educating GCMS Students
88% of teachers returned for another year at GCMS and 40% hold a master's degree.

69,754 Meals Served in the GCMS Cafeterias
Delicious and nutritious meals are available for breakfast and lunch on all full attendance days.

43,133 Books Checked out from GCMS Libraries
New books are constantly added to each library to ensure that students always have access to interesting and engaging reading material. Magazines, newspapers, reference materials, and computers are also available in each library.

140,505 Miles Driven by GCMS School Buses
Bus drivers transport students from as far north as Sibley and as far south as Fooseland, safely to and from school 176 days of the year.

311 Student Athletes Leading GCMS Teams
57% of middle and high school students play on an athletic team and many student athletes participate in more than one sport.

From all of us here at the GCMS Schools, we wish you a wonderful holiday season .

- * December 5-16: MAP Testing ES and MS
- * December 7: Junior Parent Meeting on the SAT
- * December 20: Elementary Christmas Program at High School
- * December 21:
 - 2:20 Dismissal for Christmas Break
 - End of Quarter 2
- * December 22-January 2: Christmas Break
- * January 3: Teacher Institute Day--No Student Attendance
- * January 4: First Day of Second Semester
- * January 16: MLK Day-- NO SCHOOL
- * January 17: ACCUPLACER Testing from Parkland College for Seniors
- * January 26: Junior In-service at Gibson City Bible Church

