



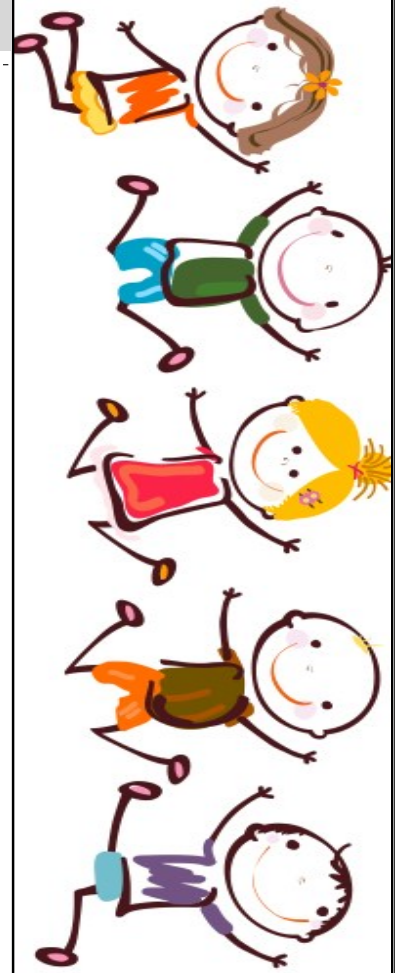
# Falcon Flyer

## GCMS PRESCHOOL BEGINS IN AUGUST OF 2017

Beginning next fall, the Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley School District will provide a preschool program for children who qualify. The "Preschool for All" Grant from the Illinois State Board of Education was awarded to GCMS Schools to fund this new preschool program. The GCMS Preschool will be a half-day program with both morning and afternoon sessions offered. Instruction will occur in a classroom at the GCMS Elementary School and the teacher will be an elementary school staff member. The goal of a Preschool for All program is to enhance the development of children through exploration of stimulating activities in a healthy learning environment.

All children ages 3 through 5 who reside within the boundaries of the GCMS School District are eligible to be screened for participation in this program. A variety of eligibility criteria will be utilized to determine which students are admitted to the GCMS Preschool. Admittance will not be solely based on socio-economic status nor academic performance. Representatives from the Ford-Iroquois Preschool Cooperative, Ford County Public Health Department, Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley CUSD 5 and the Ford County Special Education Cooperative will consider a variety of factors when determining eligibility.

If you are interested in the GCMS Preschool program, then the first step is to ensure your child attends the screening on Monday, April 10 at the First Christian Church. This screening is the only opportunity to get your child screened before the next school year starts! At the screening, children three to five years of age will receive screening for vision, hearing, speech and overall preschool skills. Please contact GCMS Elementary School (217-784-4278) today to schedule an appointment.



### DID YOU KNOW?

- According to recent consensus, there are 324 children under the age of 5 living in the GCMS School District
- GCMS Elementary School currently has 447 students enrolled.
- GCMS Middle School currently has 219 students enrolled.
- GCMS High School currently has 321 students enrolled.

## ACHIEVEMENT TESTING

### What can you do to help your student during testing?

- \* **Talk to your child about the importance of doing his/her best on the test. Everyone must take these assessments seriously.**
- \* **Make sure that your child gets a good night's sleep before testing.**
- \* **Be sure that your child gets a good breakfast on testing days.**
- \* **Make sure your child has taken any needed medication.**
- \* **Be sure that your child gets to school on time on testing days and try to avoid doctor appointments if possible.**

During the spring of this school year, students across the state will participate in achievement testing as required by federal law. At GCMS, students in grades 3-8 will take the PARCC test to assess English-Language Arts and Math proficiency, while high school juniors will take the SAT test for this purpose. The Illinois Science Assessment will also be administered to students enrolled in fifth grade, 8th grade, and high school Biology.

Teachers and administrators use the results of these assessments to reflect on our curriculum and teaching practices. Individual student scores are included as one piece of the puzzle when we are considering student growth and abilities. Achievement test scores do not give a complete picture of a student's strengths and weaknesses, nor can the results be considered an accurate reflection of the district's performance. However, GCMS students have traditionally scored well on state-mandated tests because our students value learning and have respect for our system. If you have any questions about achievement testing at GCMS, please feel free to contact a building principal or the curriculum director.

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- \* April 3-April 12: PARCC Testing for Grades 3-5
  - \* April 5: SAT Testing for Juniors
  - \* April 14: No School
  - \* April 17: No School
  - \* April 18-28: PARCC Testing for Grades 6-8
  - \* April 27: Open House @ Elementary School
  - \* May 5: Student Dismissal at 11:30
  - \* May 15: Senior In-service
  - \* May 26: Last Day of School and End Quarter 4
  - \* May 27: High School Graduation
  - \* May 29: Memorial Day--No School
  - \* May 30: Teacher Institute Day

