

# THE GLEN ESTE GAZETTE

October 2008

Kevin S. Thacker, Principal \*\* Glen Este Middle School \*\* 4342 Glen Este-Withamsville Rd. \*\* Cincinnati, Ohio 45245 \*\* 947-7700  
GEMS website: www.westcler.org/gm

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

With the school year under way, our staff is committed to returning Glen Este Middle School to "Excellent." Glen Este Middle School saw dramatic improvements in student achievement on the OAT across all tested subjects. Overall, our students passed 8 out of the 9 tests, missing the mark on the 8th grade social studies test. What was most impressive about our results from last school year is that not only did we get the minimal 75% of our students to pass the 8 tests, but in all 8 of the tests, more students scored in the "accelerated" and "advanced" categories. In other words, the data shows that at GEMS a higher percentage of students are achieving by passing the tests and that GEMS is doing a good job of pushing all students to achieve at a higher level than they did the year before. Over half (51%) of our students scored accelerated or advanced on the OAT math and reading tests last year. This is up from 35% the year before. Additionally, GEMS met AYP (Adequately Yearly Progress) on all identified categories. Each year we have to show progress in reading and math for subgroups such as Special Education, Economically Disadvantaged, and ALL students, by reducing that number of failures by 10% each year. I'm happy to report that we met that requirement with relative ease.

Our goal this year is to improve by meeting all 9 subject indicators and to move more students into the accelerated and advanced categories.

### 2007-08 Highlights

#### 6th Grade Reading

- All students passing went up from 82% to 92%.
- Students scoring accelerated or advanced went up from 31% to 50%.
- Special education students passing went up from 51% to 69%.

#### 6th Grade Math

- All students passing went up from 78% to 91%.
- Students scoring accelerated or advanced went up from 50% to 71%.
- Special education students passing went up from 33% to 69%.

#### 7th Grade Reading

- All students passing went up from 81% to 84%.
- Students scoring accelerated or advanced went up from 35% to 42%.
- Special education students passing went up from 31% to 63%.

#### 7th Grade Math

- All students passing went up from 81% to 84%.
- Students scoring accelerated or advanced went up from 28% to 36%.
- Special education students passing went up from 44% to 60%.

#### 8th Grade Reading

- All students passing went up from 84% to 88%.
- Students scoring accelerated or advanced went up from 40% to 60%.
- Special education students passing went up from 51% to 61%.

#### 8th Grade Math

- All students passing went up from 79% to 88%.
- Students scoring accelerated or advanced went up from 28% to 49%.
- Special education students passing went up from 35% to 59%.

#### 8th Grade Science

- All students passing went up from 66% to 78%.
- Students scoring accelerated or advanced went up from 32% to 42%.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### September

26 - NO SCHOOL, Teacher In-Service

30 - Interim Reports Sent Home with All Students

### October

2 - PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Library

15 - PTO Fall Fundraiser Kickoff

15 - 8-3 Live Oaks Visit

16 - 8-2 Live Oaks Visit

17 - 8-1 Live Oaks Visit

17 - 7th/8th Grade Dance, 7-9 p.m., MPR

24 - End First Quarter Grading

28 - Washington, D.C. Trip Meeting, 7 p.m., Gym

31 - Report Cards Mailed Home

## HOMEWORK REQUESTS

Homework requests may be made when students have missed two or more days. Parents can request homework on the 24-hour Attendance Line (947-7704) on the second day of absence. Please allow 24 hours notice for teachers to prepare assignments. Students will be allowed two days for each day missed to complete assignments.

## School Fees Due Now!

Please don't forget to pay your school fees as soon as possible. School fees are \$40.00 per child. Checks should be made payable to Glen Este Middle School (or GEMS). **Note: school fees must be paid before students can attend skating parties, dances, etc.** If you need to make arrangements to pay the fees in installments, contact Mrs. Terris at 947-7708.

## First Meeting for FCA

Thursday, September 25, 2:15-3:30 p.m., Room 302

FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) is a group of students, headed by Mrs. Erin Brewer, who do service projects at school and in the community and have loads of fun while doing it!

FCA is open to all students. Come join the fun!

---

**Important Reminder:**  
**Mandatory Washington, D.C. Trip Meeting**  
**Student and Parent Must Attend**  
**Monday, October 28, 7:00 p.m.**  
**In the Gymnasium**

---

***Please Support the PTO Fall Fundraiser!***  
***Tasty Batters Cookie Dough***  
***October 15 through October 31***

---

## Get Connected!

The West Clermont connection, a weekly email newsletter, has been launched. The Connection will be sent out with news about the district not only to district staff, but to interested members of the community. If you would like to subscribe go to [www.westcler.org](http://www.westcler.org) and click on "Click here to subscribe" or call Sharon Oakes at 943-5053.

### Glen Este Middle School Mission Statement:

The Glen Este Middle School staff is committed to empowering all students in a safe environment for changes and challenges of the 21st century, through a shared responsibility between home, school, and community.

## SPORTS NEWS

### Football

The 7th and 8th grade football teams are doing very well: The 8th grade team is 3-1 and the 7th grade team is 2-2. The final two home games are on October 9 and October 16, starting at 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 for students, senior citizens free.

### Cross Country

The two-mile distance runners have shown well at Loveland, Western Brown, Mason, Ross, Bethel-Tate, Winton Woods and New Richmond. While the entire team has improved since pre-season time trials, **Jamie Thomas** and **Raven York** (7th grade girls), **Dana Jones** and **Rebecca Cass** (8th grade girls), **Jesse Cupp** and **Brandon Baker** (7th grade boys), and **Trey Adkison** and **Zach Thompson** (8th grade boys) have been running at the top of the pack. We wish the teams good luck as they prepare for the FAVC Championship on October 4 at Winton Woods and at the City Championship on October 13 at Colerain.

### Volleyball

Volleyball tournaments will be held on Saturday, October 18. The 7th grade team will play at Loveland and the 8th grade team will play at Little Miami. Times to be announced.

### Basketball Open Gym

Open gym times for 7th and 8th grade girls starts on Tuesday, October 7 from 6-8 p.m. Open gym for 7th grade boys starts the week of October 20. Students should listen to announcements for more information.

### Basketball Tryouts

Girls 7th and 8th grade basketball tryouts begin on Monday, November 3. Boys 7th grade tryouts will begin Monday, November 10 and 8th grade boys begin on Tuesday, November 11. Times to be announced. Students should listen to announcements for more information.

---

Background Checks for Volunteers  
at the District Office  
**MONDAY through FRIDAY**  
**8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

---

### WEST CLERMONT MEDICATION POLICY

**It is the West Clermont School District policy that no student is to carry medication with them, whether it is prescription or over-the-counter medication. Written authorization from the physician and parent on a West Clermont medication form is required. All medication must be brought to and picked up from school in the original container by a parent/guardian with the exception of cough drops. Students are permitted to carry cough drops for their personal use only. Students with chronic health problems are allowed to carry and self medicate for asthma, diabetes, and anaphylaxis. A West Clermont Medication form signed by the physician and parent must be on file in the school health office. Call Sharon Scott, Health Aide, at 947-7703, if you have questions.**

### DID YOU KNOW.....?

Many kids experience some stress and anxiety about school, especially at the beginning of the school year. Letting your child know that you understand his/her feelings and that you are there to support him/her can help ease some of that stress.

Here are some easy tips for parents to assist in easing academic-related anxiety:

- Stay involved in your child's school life, including assignments and school experiences. Ask your child what he/she is learning in class, what the class requirements are, and what makes him/her nervous about the class.
- Offer to spend extra time with your child in the evening answering questions he/she may have about an assignment.
- Encourage your child to talk to his/her teachers about any concerns or questions they may have about a class.
- Help your child think of strategies for dealing with the situation on their own and reward him/her for trying them out.
- Show confidence in your child's ability to cope with his/her feelings and with the classroom work. Kids often reflect their parent's feelings and anxieties, so, if you are worried about your child's school performance, they probably will be, too.
- Don't forget the value of eating a good breakfast and getting enough sleep!

## PTO NEWS

*Next PTO Meeting:*

**Thursday, October 2, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m.**

**GEMS Library**

### 2008-2009 PTO Board Officers

**President - Joy Hickey**

**1st Vice-President - Melanie Sturgeon**

**2nd Vice-President - Kelly Shahan**

**Corresponding Secretary - Angel Warf**

**Treasurer - Allison Jones**

### Membership Drive

The PTO membership drive is still underway! Please join us by being active in our school through the PTO. Membership is only \$5.00 for a family. Pick up a membership form in the office or on the school website under the PTO link. PTO meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the school library.

### Fall Fundraiser

The Tasty Batters Cookie Dough Fundraiser will begin **Wednesday, October 15**. Students will bring home order packets and information on that day. Orders **MUST** be turned in between Wednesday, October 29 and Friday, October 31 to be eligible for prizes. Orders will be accepted after Friday, October 31 but students will not be eligible for prizes. **Volunteers are needed to stuff the fundraiser envelopes.** You can volunteer online or in the school office. Please support GEMS in this highly successful fundraising program!

### 7th/8th Grade Dance

The 7th/8th grade dance will be held on **Friday October 19th** from **7:00-9:00 p.m.** in the multi-purpose room. Tickets will be on sale Monday, October 15 through Friday, October 19 during 7th and 8th grade lunches. **Volunteers are needed for ticket sales and to chaperone on the night of the dance.** You can volunteer online or in the school office.

### Email PTO!

**Contact PTO with any questions or concerns by going to [www.westcler.org/gm](http://www.westcler.org/gm) and clicking on the PTO link!**

---

### IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR PARENTS:

Students are not permitted to be in the school building after 2:15 unless they have adult supervision. Teachers will be asking students to report to the office if they are not supervised.

---

### After-School Bowling League

Cherry Grove Lanes after-school bowling league begins October 2. Students will bowl after school every Thursday for 10 weeks. Transportation will be provided by Petermann Bus Service, picking the students up at the school gymnasium and transporting them to the bowling center. Parents must pick the students up by 5:30 p.m. Registration forms were previously sent home with students. More forms are available in the school office. Registration ends September 29.

### Need Help with Homework?

Homework Club meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:15-3:15 p.m. in room 323. Teachers are present to assist students. This service is free to students and is sponsored by **Glen Este Middle School PTO**. Students must bring a permission note with them signed by a parent plus a desire to work! Students are not required to come to every session. Just show up as needed!

### 8th Grade Career Exploration

Many activities are planned this year to start 8th grade students thinking about their future career paths. Students will complete an assessment to help identify their interests. These results will help students select a career field to explore on the Ohio Career Information System which will be available on our website. This system provides detailed career and college information, including financial aid. **On October 15 (Team 8-1), October 16 (Team 8-2) and October 17 (Team 8-3)**, eighth grade students will tour the Live Oaks campus, giving them an opportunity to explore additional high school alternatives. Students will tour the school and individual labs will be organized so students see the range of vocations offered at the Great Oaks schools. This helps them make informed choices as they begin high school scheduling in February. **Parent volunteers will be needed for the tour.** If you wish to volunteer, please call Mrs. Llamas, 8th grade guidance counselor, at 947-7711.