



January 2024

Hello GCE Families,

ASSESSMENT

Students will be taking FAST Assessments in the next few weeks. The Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST) is a set of reading and math assessments that we use to measure student learning. Students are screened three times during the school year. We use this information to make curriculum, instruction, and assessment decisions in an effort to make sure we are meeting the academic needs of our students.

Our winter screening window is January 15 through February 15, 2024. The spring assessment is scheduled for April 23 through May 17, 2024.

These assessments are important in ensuring that students achieve. Our teachers look at the screening scores immediately after the testing and compare their students' scores with classroom performance on daily work and assessments. Instruction is adjusted based on each child's individual needs. Please encourage your child(ren) to put forth their best effort on these assessments. It is helpful to remind students why they take these tests. Open and ongoing conversations with your child about how these assessments help them, their teachers, and their school to better understand their strengths and weaknesses is critical to their academic growth. **Upon completion of these assessments you will receive a FAST Family Report.** It is our goal to communicate and work with families to support student's learning.

WINTER TEMPS

Winter temperatures have arrived. Please make sure children come to school dressed for the weather (hats, gloves, mittens, boots, warm jackets and snow pants). Please know that children have outside recess unless it is raining or we experience extreme cold. **To ensure that belongings are accounted for, it is helpful that clothing is labeled with the child's first and last name.**

As we have colder weather please note that our doors do not open until 8:05 AM. Hilltopper Hangtime is available daily if you need to drop your child off prior to 8:05 in the mornings. If you would like information regarding Hilltopper Hangtime care contact Beth Davis, Program Coordinator at beth.davis@gcsd.k12.wi.us

ILLNESS

We are seeing increases in **student illness** including fevers, ear aches, vomiting and colds. Please follow screening guidelines prior to sending children to school. Keep students home if they have one of the following symptoms;

- Fever, sore throat, congestion, nausea or vomiting

Please be sure to call the elementary office to report attendance. It is helpful to have a doctor's note for extended absences due to illness. Thank you for your support in keeping everyone healthy and safe at school!



GCE PARENT TEACHER CONNECTION (PTC)

Join us for a GCE PTC Valentine's Day Family Sweetheart Dance on Thursday, February 15 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM for some SWEET Family FUN! More information on this event will be coming home with students very soon!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR SCHOOLS EVERY TIME YOU SHOP!

Use the Box Tops app to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add cash to your school's earnings online. Your school can use this money to help teachers and students get the supplies they need.

To see participating products visit:

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/Participating-Products-Page>.

Please keep in mind if you are sending receipts to school we need them within 14 days of purchase.



Reminders for Parents, Grandparents, and Caregivers

- **GCE Yearbooks** are on sale now for \$16.00. You can order online at <http://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A09298030>

Important Dates:

January 15	No School Teacher In-service
January 15 - Feb 15	FastBridge Winter Screening Window
January 19	Child Development Days (Preschool Screening) Call with questions (715) 265-4213
February 15	GCE PTC Family Sweetheart Dance- RSVP forms coming home soon.

- **PARENT/GUARDIAN/VISITORS** - Visitors are asked to check in to the elementary office and will need to have a valid driver's license or another valid. Visitors will receive a "visitor" badge that is worn once they have checked in.
- **DROP OFF / PICK UP** - Please continue to follow our lower lot process for drop off and pick up.



Cars are NOT allowed to line up or park on 320th street.

Please use our lower lot if the lane in front of school is full.