

September Highlights

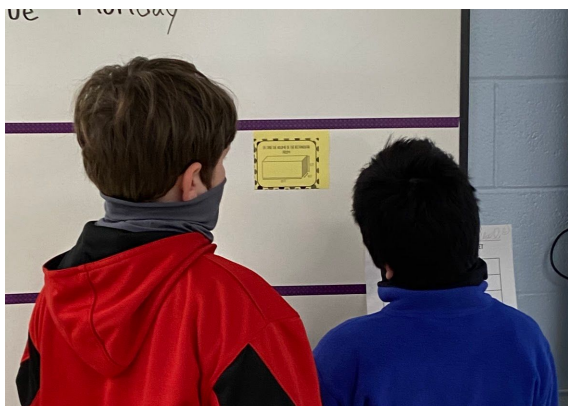
6th grade students have transitioned well into middle school. They have adapted to the new routine, and they are enjoying having their own lockers. Read on to find out what they have been learning.

Math

6th graders have been reviewing basic multiplication facts, as students will use these in various contexts throughout the school year. Students are encouraged to practice their math facts at home as well as at school. After we reviewed how to solve multi-digit multiplication problems, we moved on to long division.



Combining their math and science skills, students have been measuring rectangular prisms and calculating their volumes. Applying this knowledge to real world problems, students traveled around the room answering various volume questions.



Science

Sixth graders are starting Science class this year with a unit called Properties of Matter. They've learned about extensive properties (those specific to the object) and intensive properties (those specific to the material) as well as physical and chemical properties. "Clayton the Clay Man" has been a good tool to illustrate these different properties. They've had some lab experience with measuring mass with a balance and measuring blocks to determine the volume of each block. This is helping to reinforce their work on volume in Math class. Next up, they will be studying density and how it relates to floating or sinking in water, as well as classifying matter using terms like element, compound, and mixture.



Along with science skills, students have been working on keeping an organized binder and completing homework assignments on time. They have used both paper copies and Google Classroom to hand in work. Learning how to apply what they have recorded in their notes and how to fix or redo an assignment are also some of the skills we have been introducing.

Social Studies

Social Studies has kicked the year off with our "Map Skills" unit. Students have spent time working with maps to better understand how to read and use maps. We will put this skill to use throughout the year as we study groups from around the world and find where they were on various maps!

We have also discussed how the United States elects our president in order to set up a great chance to observe democracy in action with this fall's Presidential, state, and local elections.

English Language Arts

Students have taken advantage of the classroom library! Students eagerly pursued the bookshelves to find a book that piques their interest. Several new novels were purchased this fall.

Students began the year with a lesson on email etiquette. They then began preparations for an argument essay. After reading a few articles, students used text evidence to compose an essay on school start time.

School Counseling

It's been fantastic to welcome the 6th graders to middle school. Their confidence has grown as they have become more comfortable getting around to each of their classes, organizing their materials, and learning how to handle lockers, etc..

All 6th graders start the year with a rotation called Study Skills where they learn ways to handle many of the changes that come along with being a middle school student including computer logins & passwords, knowing how to look up grades in Skyward, organization, note taking, homework habits, etc..

Also, recently, we've talked about bullying and ways to treat each other well in middle school. Everyone has a right to feel safe and respected at school! I will be seeing your 6th grader in classes, along with meeting with students in my office too. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Contact Information

You may contact us anytime with questions or concerns.

For ELA or Math, email Mrs. Minor (emily.minor@gcsd.k12.wi.us).

For Science, email Mrs. Anderson (ann.anderson@gcsd.k12.wi.us).

For Social Studies, contact Mr. Score (jake.score@gcsd.k12.wi.us).

To speak with the middle school counselor, email Shelly Laffin (shelly.laffin@gcsd.k12.wi.us).