

# THE GMS GAZETTE

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## EBOOKS ENTERING GMS

By: Caitlin Cranston

GIRARD, KANSAS; Ebooks have finally made their way into the Girard Middle Schools social studies classes, quickly replacing the out of date textbooks with interactive pictures and the promise of using the iPads to their maximum capacity. There has been several glitches in the Ebooks, but despite the issues many people had great things to say about the new books.

Mr. Herlocker has been a teacher at Girard for over 12 years. He recently moved to the position of seventh and eighth grade social studies teacher, after the hiring of Mr. Pruitt as principal. In addition to the new principal, they obtained brand new technology in the form of Ebooks. Mr. Herlocker is ecstatic over the digital

textbooks and all the new ways to learn with it. He does acknowledge that there are some glitches in the ebooks, but says that anything new will possess problems that need to be worked out. When asked if he had any complaints he said, “Not really beyond the glitches, the app seems to have some glitches but long term it will be a great thing for the students and is much more interactive and will allow us to utilize the iPads to their full extent.”



An anonymous student was asked for their opinion over the ebooks. They said that they liked that it isn't photocopied like last year and that it's an “actual” book, but would prefer the old system for its reliability. They enjoyed the newfound resources that it provided, but said there are some difficulties when getting into the Ebooks to access them. They also stated that they would rather have textbooks made with paper than with pixels on a screen.

They were questioned on whether or not their grades were being affected by the new system, “It is causing me to get lower scores on my homework. It is also harder to study because you don't really know what the questions are about and you don't always have all the information you need.”

Although the Ebooks present some problems that need to be addressed, they possess many more positives, vastly outweighing the glitching and lengthy load times. Because the world around us constantly changes and expands, it's only fitting that Girard Middle School's learning experience joins in.

## GMS WELCOMES NEW VENDING MACHINES

By: Carlie Vail

This year, Girard Middle School decided to bring in flavored water machines into the building. This idea captured the attention of students. The students are allowed to get drinks during anytime of the day. The options in the vending machines vary from a wide variety. Some of the drinks include Propel Water, Vita Ice, Pure Leaf Unsweet Tea, and Übr Water. In total, there are three machines. One near the hallway in front of the 8th grade ELA classroom. The other two being by the band room and the commons area. Some of the students are very leery about this idea. However, Janet Jackman, the seventh grade math teacher, said she personally liked the idea of the machines. She said if they were soft drinks, she would not be okay with that because they are sticky and messy. Although the machines are popular with students, over 100 students and teachers said they have not used the flavored water machines yet.



Though there are many complications with them. A few of them include the money getting consumed without it giving the buyer anything back. This has caused some students to get furious. The other issue is it sometimes never works. The machine would start to drop the drink and it would get stuck. In the end the vending machines are a good resource to keep the students hydrated during the day. They might not work all the time but it is a privilege to have them.

## GMS GETS A NEW PRINCIPAL

By: Jalia Humphreys and Laney Miller

Every year for three years, GMS has changed principals. For 15 years it was Mr. Randy Heatherly, then Mr. Brannon Kidd, and, now this year's former social studies teacher, Mr. Bj Pruitt. Students are very excited with our new principal. His leadership in the first month has captured everybody's attention. The students are ready to plunge into the new school year with our new principal.

GMS Gazette members Carlie Vail and Laney Miller sat down with Mr. Pruitt and interviewed him about how his feelings and opinions are about being the new principal.

*What made you want to become principal?*

“One of the reasons I wanted to get into administration was to help kids and to establish relationships.”

*What are some goals that you have set for this school year?*

“To provide a safe and positive climate that kids can be successful in.”

*What's the best part about your job so far?*

“It's good, it's a lot of responsibility, but I really enjoy establishing relationships with different groups of people.”

*What is your biggest responsibility?*

“Letting people know that I'm available to them and being out and about in the building.”

Every single teacher has lots of responsibilities, but we all know Mr.

Pruitt has the most. All of the students loved Mr. Pruitt when he was teaching and now we can all agree that we like him more as a principal. I know that we all hope that he is here to stay!

Pruitt hopes that he can continue with this job for a long while.



Photo Credit: Kim Pitts

## GIRARD MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

By: Kennedy Delp

At Girard Middle School it's that time for the annual science fair. The science fair has been going on for 17 years. The students bring supplies from home and run trials. This year's projects range from cereal, magnets, all the way to popping popcorn. The eighth grade science teacher, Mrs. Pitts who has been teaching for 21 years, she was asked why she thinks the science fair is important. “It allows my students to pick their own projects, so they can get excited for science a little bit. It also helps my students review the scientific method, which will be

on the state assessment." She also stated, "I hope it gets them excited about science a little bit, since they get to pick their own projects and know how to set it up step by step of the scientific method they can solve some problems or questions they might have on their own." Last year's 3rd place winner, Brooklyn Mlekus who did the "Protein eating pineapple" expressed that, "The science Fair is a great opportunity for kids to interact with other kids being able to have a partner or not if they don't want too, and being able to run trials and have fun while getting a good grade." She said her favorite part was spending time with her friend Sam.

A group of volunteers will be selected to judge on the projects later in the school year.

## IPAD LOCKDOWN

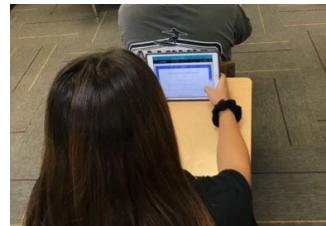
By: Hannah Warner

GIRARD; GMS and GHS decided to ban games so kids would be engaged in their school work and not games. "It's great for education," believes Mrs. Tucker, the 6th and 7th grade reading teacher at GMS. When asked whether or not students should be able to access games with restrictions, Darrel McLeod, an 8th grader at GMS, said, "Yeah, some games shouldn't be on there, but we have to have a little fun."

Some teachers say things run very smoothly in class and others say they have to redirect students more. Mrs. Arenson, the 6th grade math teacher says, "You have a less chance of getting in trouble." Teachers say they haven't given any strikes out for iPad violations, which is a change from previous years.

Students say they don't really know how they feel about the new system. They understand teachers don't want students playing games during class, but they also miss games like Fortnite, Minecraft, and some coloring apps. "It's something to keep us occupied, not just something for us to always be on," says Trey Collins, a 8th grader at GMS.

Even though the students wished they could play games, this could be the best way for them to focus on their education.



## GMS VOLLEYBALL SETS UP THEIR SEASON

By : Ashley Sabine

GIRARD: The GMS Trojans have set up a great season for themselves. With 2 wins under their belt already, their season is looking good. The Trojans won their first game against the Galena Bulldogs. Their next game, at home, they took on the Riverton Rams. The Trojans fought hard, but lost after 3 very competitive sets. Next they went to Baxter to take on the lions, they lost, but still fought hard. The Trojans most recent game was at home, where they took on Southeast, and won.

When interviewed, the 8th grade volleyball coach, Rob Adolph, said he was proud of how much the girls had improved from the beginning of the of the season. He also

said that when he saw the girls practicing during the first weeks of the season he was "afraid it would be a very long year."

Coach Adolph said he would still like to see some more improvement in the girls' serving, control of the ball, and consistency of getting their serves over, and in.

Also interviewed was Sara Goble, #34 a setter for the eighth grade team, she said, "We all have roles and they all work out in the end, and those roles affect how we play together, and bond." Sara also said that as a team, there were different things we needed to improve on, but the biggest in was sportsmanship."You need to have sportsmanship to play any sport correctly. Even in practice when we are having a bad day, we need good sportsmanship, even if it is just a simple good job," Goble stated.

As you can see the Trojans have already had a good season, and hope to continue this, but in the end, we all learned you need sportsmanship to play was a team. The Trojans hope to continue to win games, and keep playing as a team. The Trojans season ends on October 4th at home against the Colgan Panthers.



*Photo Credit: Carlie Vail*

## GMS GETS TOUGH ON NEW TURF

By: Samantha Brutchin

**GIRARD:** On Thursday, September 6th, the new turf was finished being installed, just in time for Girard Middle School's first football game. The Girard Board of Education met in late May and early June to discuss the approval for the new turf. The project cost more than half a million dollars, and benefits the whole district. Girard had received donations from individual donors and businesses.

With the middle school's 8th grade team getting the first win on the new turf, coach Mr. O'Rand agrees that the turf was a good move for the school. Mr. O'Rand said, "I think that the turf motivates the players, and is intimidating to the other teams." However, the turf benefits Trojans of all ages, with flag football teams being able to practice and play on the turf as well. 2nd grader Cade Peak also enjoyed the new field, claiming that it was "squishy."

With the new turf, less maintenance on the field is required. Practice and playing time is also increased. Physical education classes can go on the field year round to play. The artificial turf benefits the school in many ways.

Cheerleaders, players, and the whole town of Girard can't wait to see the turf sparkle under the lights for years to come. The Trojan in the middle of the turf doesn't just represent our school, it represents the whole town.



*Photo Credit: Heather Peak*

## TROJANS FIRST WIN AGAINST BAXTER

By : Brooklyn Mlekus

**GIRARD KANSAS:** Girard kicked off their 2018 Football season at home against Baxter Springs. Girard defeated the Lions 32-6. All though,

Baxter scored in the first minute, Girard didn't give up hope. Girard came firing back not letting them touch the end zone one more time. The Trojans ended the first quarter 0-6.

In the second quarter, the Trojans struck back. Dawson Stegman and Aiden Damman both scored a touchdown, making the score 12-6. Plus 2, two point conversions made by Alex Coester and Raysean Ellis. At halftime the score was 16-6. In the third quarter Coester caught a 40 yard touchdown pass, thrown by Luke Niggemann, the quarterback. Ellis completed the two point conversions.

In the fourth quarter Niggemann threw a 30 yard touchdown pass to Ellis. The Trojans shut down the Lions and defeated them 32-6. "I expected for us to get that win and I expect a lot more wins" O'Rand told the Gazette staff. Girard Middle School had a B game against Nevada Tigers on Tuesday the 11th. They defeated the Tigers 38-0. The Trojans next game is the 26th at Columbus.



## PETER RABBIT: MOVIE FULL OF HIJINKS AND HILARITY!

By: Bailey Troike

Peter Rabbit is a family friendly movie that was released early 2018. Peter, (James Corden) is the main character, along with Flopsy, (Marget Corden) Mopsy, (Elizabeth Debicki) and Colton Tail, (Daisy Ridley). Peter loves snatching food from Mr. McGregor's garden. Mr. McGregor is a crabby, grouchy, hermit that hates wildlife, especially rabbits. Next door lives Bea, (Rose Byrne) along with Peter and his family. Bea is the exact opposite of Mr. McGregor. Mr. McGregor's nephew ends up taking over his estate. The antics of Peter and his gang proceed in this classic, but hilarious tale.

If you want to see a funny and enduring animated movie, then the tale of Peter Rabbit is for you. I truly enjoyed this movie, one because it was very humorous, and also because it had a good moral. The moral being that all people can change for the better. I highly recommend this movie!

## COLIN KAEPERNICK CONTROVERSY

By: Gracie Peterson

**GIRARD:** Recently there has been a tremendous amount of controversy over the occurrence of Nike hiring Colin Kaepernick. Kaepernick, previously a player for the football team 49ers, decided to kneel in protest during the national anthem. Naturally, many people had different reactions to the situation, so I decided to seek out fellow pupils' opinions.

In my opinion I do not sit in a very good place to have a great input on which side. I have not lived the life of an African American or a soldier, so I do not know personally that level of disrespect. I can't speak and say it's disrespectful when I have seen former army members kneeling in protest. But I don't agree with the people taking this situation way out of hand, on either side of the argument. It's ridiculous to see the Internet in such a feud over something like this. No matter how much you argue and throw hate towards another, just for having a different opinion, most people will just walk away with more hatred towards the opposing side. I interviewed Zoë Rhodes, and Garrett Humble to see what they think of the situation. Humble, who opposed Nike, said "I don't support Nike because they are promoting disrespect" although Humble does not support Nike, he stated that he would never burn his clothes because he has spent money on them. Rhodes, with a similar opinion to mine said, "They have the freedom to do it, and who am I to know if it's disrespectful." Rhodes still wears Nike because "he's just a spokesperson, he's not forcing us to kneel." When I took a poll of the class 21% said they support Nike, and 35% said they opposed Nike. After seeing everybody's opinions, I think it's ridiculous that people fuss so much about what

other people think. There is no reason to make fun of people and hate them, but the second they say something back, people get upset. Everybody is so hypocritical and the fighting is worse than just letting people voice their opinions.



*Photo Credit: The New York Post*

## ABOUT THE GMS GAZETTE

By Anna Drenick

**GIRARD:** This newsletter was designed, written, and published by the Explore 800: Journalism elective. Because of the vast number of 8th grade students this year, GMS introduced new elective options for 8th graders including Construction, Art, and Journalism. Students interested in exploring new writing techniques chose this course in order to expand their technical and creating writing skills.

I believe that reading, comprehending, writing, and forming opinions about what is happening in the world is a crucial skill. Students need to understand issues, avoid bias, and become informed citizens in order to function successfully in this media driven world.

The class consist of eleven girls with strengths in writing and storytelling. In addition to learning about the basics of journalism, the first amendment, and photography, the class will write, revise, and produce a digital newsletter sent out monthly to GMS parents and students. All articles are the idea and work of the students, and I am incredibly proud of our first issue. Be on the lookout for our next letter in late October. Thank you so much for taking the time to read our work.