

THE GMS GAZETTE

THE GIRARD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ORIN WEISS

By Gracie Peterson

GIRARD: Orin Weiss is an ordinary boy, with an extraordinary talent. Weiss, a sixth grader at Girard middle school, finds joy in playing the bagpipes. He has had his pipes for only a year, and already knows how to play an array of songs. One of his favorites being, "Castle Dangerous." To achieve this, Weiss usually practices a minimum of 30 minutes a day. The sixth grader got his bagpipes through his bagpipe teacher, who had connections with a person selling a set of David Naill Bagpipes. Along with the pipes, Weiss also plays the trumpet in band, and can, "Fake the piano and drums." The young boy was struck with inspiration to play when he was with his grandmother in Illinois. They were sitting in the backyard when the bagpipe band from Monmouth College started practicing. His grandmother mentioned that the college gives full ride scholarships to anyone who was accepted into the band. It became an ongoing joke with his grandparents that, "Orin could definitely play the bagpipes!" Weiss is planning on showcasing his unusual talent at the GMS talent show and honoring

WHAT'S IN THE ISSUE

Student Spotlight
Canned Food Drive
Veteran's Day
Teacher Spotlight
Basketball Cheerleaders
Basketball
The Hate U Give
Bohemian Rhapsody
Homework
Cell Phones
Fortnite

veterans with a rendition of "Taps." Weiss wishes that people knew there are many different types of bagpipes. Orin Weiss found a way to bring his love of music to people with a unique instrument.



CANNED FOOD DRIVE

By Hannah Warner

Girard Middle School takes helping out the community food pantry very seriously. Therefore, GMS holds some version of a drive every year. Last year, GMS did their drive in the spring. If you brought a can into your English class, you got extra credit. This year the canned food drive is coming back as a seminar competition. Seminars are encouraged to bring as many cans as possible. On Monday, November 19, the seminars faced off in a holiday can sculpture competition. The para's will judge the sculptures and the winning seminar will get an ice cream party. The students had been looking forward to and planning for the competition all week. After a fierce competition on Monday afternoon, Mrs. Arneson's Homeroom won with their sculpture of a fireplace (see photo below). The can food drive isn't just a fun thing for the students it also helps the Girard food pantry. The food pantry is a community food pantry. Community members and other people from churches around Girard volunteer there. Anyone who needs food is able to go there. The food pantry gets restocked by food donations. Goods that people donate are pasta, peanut butter, cereal, crackers, box dinners, and more. The food pantry also accepts donations money. However the pantry doesn't take expired food. Anyone can donate from 10-12 on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.



HONORING OUR HEROS

By Carlie Vail

Every year, Girard High School presents a Veterans Day ceremony. This ceremony is to recognize the people who served for our country and gave us the right to have freedom in our community. It is important to many families and people in the community. Girard's Middle School and Haderlein Elementary joins this event every year. The middle school dresses up in red, white, and blue. This is a tradition that has happened for many years. The ceremony started of with moving speeches by the GHS Drama Club that demonstrate the importance. Mya McLeod, welcomed and thanked all of the guests and attendees. Mr. Combs, a local veteran, gave a speech about his service and that today only 5% of Americans will want to join the forces. Comb's, served in the Army as a combat engineer officer. He helped armored units, such as tanks, and infantry to continue to defend themselves. After his moving speech, the GHS Multi-Media class presented their video to honor those in our community who have enlisted and served. Mr. Combs recommends enlisting in the military because, "No matter what military career or branch you chose, you will learn about patriotism, discipline, respect and the true meaning of brotherhood. You will acquire leadership and organizational skills that are in high demand by most employers. This Girard Tradition reminds us of those brave men and women who have fought for our freedom in our own backyard.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: MR. WATT

By Laney Miller

Mr. Willis Watt, former coach at Columbus High School, starts off his first year at Girard. Mr. Watt is the 6-7 grade Social Studies teacher. He took the place of Mr. Brad Herlocker, who is now the 7-8 grade Social Studies teacher. Mr. Watt started his teaching career in 2015 and has loved it ever since.

When did you realize you wanted to be a teacher?

"I would say two or three years into college. I was in the middle of changing majors, and I coached that spring at Pittsburg High and really enjoyed seeing the younger players improve over the course of the season."

Who inspired you to be a teacher?

"First and foremost are my parents. They are awesome parents and were great examples for me at the time. I saw how much they enjoyed what they did for a living and could see myself enjoying education as well. Who inspired you to be a teacher?"

"First and foremost are my parents. They are awesome parents and were great examples for me at the time. I saw how much they enjoyed what they did for a living and could see myself enjoying education as well. I had a few other coaches and teachers

growing up that had a great influence on me as well." Watt's parents are both Physical Education teachers.

When did you start teaching and where?

"I started teaching in the spring of 2015 in Liberal Missouri. They had a teacher leave over Spring Break and I just graduated. It was a great expo overall."

What other subjects/grades have you taught?

"7th grade Current Events- 7th grade Civics- 8th grade Geography- 8th grade American History- High School American History- High School

Government." If you could go back in time and witness any event, what would it be?

"I have always loved the old cowboy stories and movies. I think it started with all the cowboys and Indians I played with as a kid. So I would have to go with the Gunfight at the O.K. Coral. Mainly to see if Wyatt Earp and Doc Holiday were as cool as they seem in the movies."

What is your favorite thing about Girard so far?

"The people. The people in Girard are just my kind of people. I enjoy this area and look forward to learning more about everyone as the year goes on."

Mr. Watt is an awesome teacher, coach and great addition to GMS.



The people in
Girard are my
kind of people



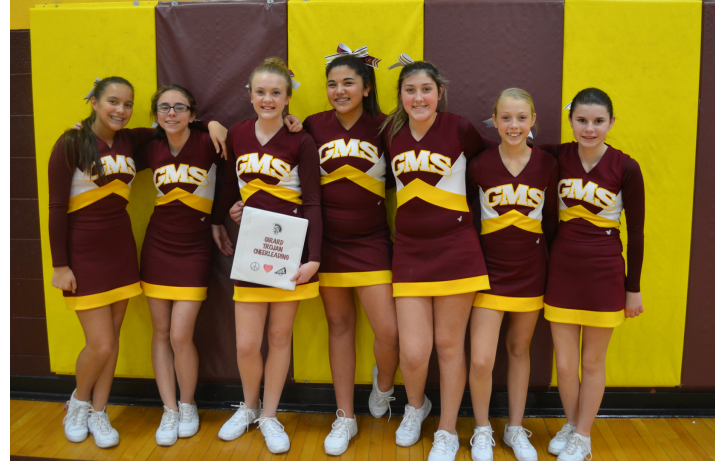
B-A-S-K-E-T-B-A-L-L CHEER

By Kennedy Delp

2018 girls basketball cheerleaders are cheering into a new season. This year's 8th grade cheerleaders are: Amiah Roberts, Hailey Schettler, Hannah Warner, Paloma Garcia, Kendra Johnson, and Emma Kendall-Barrett. This year's 7th grade cheerleaders are: Haley Phillips and Kimi Johns. November 1st was the first basketball game and the first time the girls cheered for the Trojan basketball players. Hannah Warner, who has been cheering at Girard Middle School for 2 years, said, "I have always wanted to be a cheerleader, but in 3rd grade, we got a paper that said something about cheerleading and how to sign up. I brought it to my mom and she signed it, and ever since I have been cheering."

The Basketball cheerleading coach, Mrs. Alex Childers, was asked what are her hopes for the girls to gain or learn from cheerleading, "I want them to understand that nobody is perfect, but that's okay! I want them to have faith in themselves and all they do. I want them to know they are talented, important, special. They are individuals and that is amazing!" Coach Childers also wants the cheerleaders to celebrate their individuality. "They don't need to be a copy of someone else, because who they are is extraordinary!" I wanted them to be happy and confident. I want the experience of being a cheerleader to teach them discipline." Her advice to the girls is to, "Keep working hard. Never give up... build each other up, not tear each other down. I want them to show the world the awesome people that I get to see every time we are together."

The basketball cheerleaders will conclude their season November 29 at Colgan. Let's go Trojans!



GIRLS BASKETBALL

By Brooklyn Mlekus

Girard Trojans 7th and 8th grade girls kicked off their 2018 basketball season with a non-league game against St. Mary's Colgan. The Trojans lost to the Panthers. The Trojans then took on the Frontenac Raiders for a non-league game, the score was very close but the Trojans still spilled under pressure. Then the Trojans faced the Riverton Rams, sadly they lost again. Then the Trojans took on the Bulldogs and swept the game 41-40. The 7th grade team consist of 18 girls and the 8th grade team consist of 12 girls. Coach Adamson, the eighth grade coach, told the Gazette Staff, that he is "excited and optimistic" about the season. He also told us about his goals for this year. He claimed that "Goal #1, I want the girls to continue to grow as basketball players, and goal #2 is for us to have a winning season." On Thursday the 15th the Trojans faced the Baxter Springs Tigers at home, the Trojans fought hard but lost 26-27. All though the season is tough, the girls are putting their all into the games.

On November 19, the 8th grade Trojans faced the Colgan Panthers again, but with a similar outcome. The 8th graders lost, but the 7th graders came out with a victory. With half the season over, hopefully the Trojans can pick up their momentum to close out the season. In the next issue, we will take a look at the 7th Grade's season.

THE HATE U GIVE

By Sam Brutchin

Angie Thomas approaches the issue of altercations between different race police officers and civilians in a stunning way. Starr Carter is a 16 year old African American who lives in the mostly poor and black neighborhood called Garden Heights, however, she is also the Starr Carter attends the mostly white private school of Williamson Prep. She feels like she's living a double life.

Just as Starr is reunited with her childhood friend, Khalil, tragedy strikes. They are pulled over by a white officer. The officer shoots Khalil, killing him. Starr's world turns upside down. As the only witness of the altercation, Starr decides to seek justice for Khalil. Throughout the course of the novel, Starr struggles with both sides of her life, not wanting them to get mixed up.

I would recommend this book for thirteen year olds and up. This book was captivating and breathtaking, all while addressing a pressing issue in our country.

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

By Jalia Humphreys

Queen is a British rock band that formed in London in 1970. Queen is one of the most top selling musical acts of all time. The band members consisted of, Freddie Mercury (lead vocals, piano), Brian May (guitar, vocals), Roger Taylor (drums, vocals), and John Deacon (bass guitar). Most people have heard Queens song but didn't realize it was them! Queens top 5 biggest hit songs are, "Bohemian Rhapsody," "Somebody To Love," "Don't Stop Me Now," "Killer Queen," and "We Will Rock You." A recently released movie called "Bohemian Rhapsody" came out Friday, November 2. This movie is about Queen's origin and their up-raising to fame. Most people in the 2000's now listen to Post Malone, Juice World, and Cardi B, so why did they make a movie based off of a band that originated 48 years ago? Unlike all the other bands in the 1970's, Queen stepped out of their comfort zone and made their music like nobody else's. They mixed opera with rock, which created the 6:03 long masterpiece Bohemian Rhapsody. Queen always made their songs different from the songs before. You'll never find a Queen song similar to the next. This is the reason why people loved Queen so much and still do to this day. So all the Queen fans out there, if you want some pure Queen entertainment and history, go see the heart warming, funny, loved by all "Bohemian Rhapsody" in theaters now.

"What's the point of having a voice if you're gonna be silent in those moments you shouldn't be?"

HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

By Caitlin Cranston

GIRARD, KANSAS: It isn't a secret how much students hate doing homework, and you often hear people complaining of the quantity they receive. But do middle school students really receive too much homework, or are we just imagining it all?

According to usnews.com, many studies of middle schools have said that kids receive up to 3.5 hours of homework a week, and go on to say that more homework may not be the worst for students considering high school students average about 17.5 hours a week, but the push back on homework from students isn't necessarily a secret. Recent studies of Girard Middle School students have shown different results than the studies from around the country.

A poll was taken by nineteen GMS students. They were asked two questions.

SHOULD PHONES BE ALLOWED?

By Ashley Sabine

GIRARD KANSAS: Girard Middle School kids argue continuously with their teachers about the subject of phones being allowed in our school.

In my opinion I believe that students having their phone on them during school would be a good addition to Girard. In the Girard Middle School handbook it states that, "students are allowed to carry communication devices, but must have them turned off while they are on school property." When asked, Hannah Warner said, "that phones can be a distraction in class, but can be useful in emergencies. Multiple students vocalized they would like to be able to have their phones out during lunch. Mr. O'Rand and Mr. Herlocker stated that they did not have an opinion on the matter. Mrs. Tucker, Mr.

Adolph and Mrs. Arneson said they don't believe the middle schoolers should be allowed to have their phones at lunch. Mr. Clevenger and Mrs. Jackman believe that "they could be a distraction." Mr. Clevenger also stated a pro would be that the students would be able to listen to their own music while working on assignments.

The first being, 'How many hours of homework would you say you had a night?' Out of the nineteen students answered, seven said they had 0-1 hour of homework a night, eleven said they had 2-3 hours, and one person said 4-5 hours of homework per night. The second question asked was, "'How many classes give you homework daily?' One person said at least one, seventeen people said 2-3 classes, and one person answered 4-5 classes per day. According to livescience.com, it is proven that schools whose students spend a majority of their time doing homework tend to score lower on standardized testing. A study taken from oxfordlearning.com states that too much homework can also have negative effects on students health, causing problems like lack of sleep, high levels of stress, headaches, exhaustion and weight loss. Along with their health it could affect their social life causing them to have less time to spend outside, with their families and friends, and can leave them feeling isolated, as for the students that work part time it could have a negative effect on their performance at their jobs. Despite the negative effects, homework is a necessity for students. It helps kids learn responsibility and it is extra practice. Homework should not be given excessively but it shouldn't be exiled completely.



Mrs. Jackman also does not see a need for students to carry their phones when there is a phone that they can use in the office. Mrs. Jackman and Mr. Clevenger also agree that they would not mind the students checking them between hours to see if there was an emergency.

As you can see, in our school, opinions vary. Some teachers are for it, some are against it, and some don't have a preference. Students are for the idea as well. I strongly believe that phones at lunch or between hours would be a great addition to Girard.

THE TRUTH ABOUT FORTNITE

By Brooklyn Mlekus

Every year, a new game comes along that gets attention from every age. It captures the heart, minds, and thumbs of gamers everywhere.

Fortnite: Battle Royal is the latest game in the category. 62.7% of Fortnite players in the U.S are from age 18 to 24 years old. This means that less than 50% of Fortnite players are teens. According to SuperData, the game made \$223 million just in March 2018 alone. Like Minecraft, Fortnite drops

100 people on a island and requires them to gather and search for resources. They build to protect themselves and keep them from getting assassinated. The game is free and playable on all gaming systems, computers, and mobile phones.

Players can purchase accessories and costumes for their characters, which costs money for gamers. While Fortnite can be played solo, it can also be played in squads. You can play with friends or strangers.

The main concern of parents is that their young children are playing with strangers and violence.

Fortnite is rated "T" for teens by the Entertainment Software Ratings Board. Players use guns and other weapons to attack their opponents, but the action doesn't feature the blood and gore you see in Call of Duty. Another concern for parents are playing with strangers. In its basic mode, players can play on their own, as a duo or with a squad of four. The squad mode is causing some parents worry and confusion on who exactly their children

are playing with. Of course, players can play in a squad with friends, but there is an option to be in a squad with random gamers. In my perspective, I think Fortnite is not a good game for kids. They get to the point where they are attached to the game.

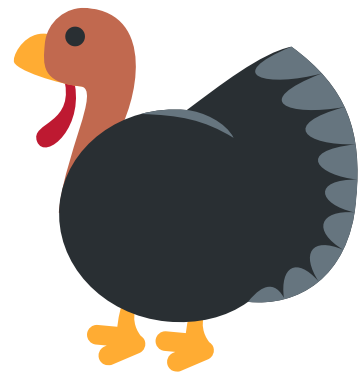
According to ABC 8 News, it was clinically proven that Fortnite is addictive like drugs.

ABC 8 claimed, "Fortnite gets kids' dopamine system involved and it releases addictive chemicals. These chemicals are very similar to a drug addiction, and the game creates cravings some people can't live without." No, it doesn't have gore or blood, and no, it's not like Call of Duty, but people get so attached to this game. I have a little brother that was so addicted to Fortnite, that he would never leave his room. He would always play with squads and I could hear people talking on his TV. My brother got so obsessed with this game to the point my mom had to take it away. He would also cry and scream because his team wouldn't get a "Battle Royal."

Fortnite isn't going away anytime soon, and despite its flaws, there are more violent game children could be playing.



ON BEHALF OF THE
GMS GAZETTE STAFF



Happy Thanksgiving