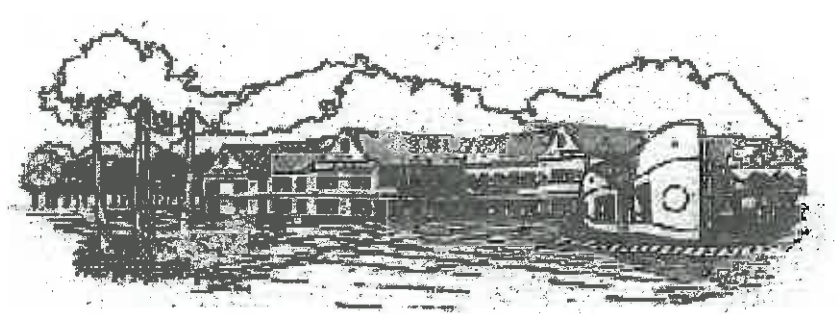


GRAY-NEW GLOUCESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

31 Libby Hill Road
Gray, ME 04039
207-657-4994



Rick Hogan, Principal
Kristin Dacko, Assistant Principal

December 21, 2018

Hello GNGMS Families:

On behalf of the entire staff, I want to wish you a restful holiday season. I hope you all are able to spend time with your families and friends and enjoy this time of year.

Shortly after our return from the break in January, we will be making a change to our daily operations. As you may know, the current daily class schedule was just started in the fall. In the rush to design and implement it last spring, the majority of our staff were unable to view it and spot potential problems. It became apparent very quickly this fall that the new schedule was causing stress for both students and staff due to a class block being removed. We went from having five class blocks a day to only four. As a result science and social studies were only offered every other day, even though we had just invested heavily in a new science curriculum. Lunches were changed so that students had lunch by team rather than grade level, which had a negative effect on Band and Chorus participation. Special Education, Gifted and Talented services, and Spanish 1 were also affected negatively, as was planning time for our unified arts teachers. Our overall flexibility as a building was diminished.

Starting on January 22, when the third quarter begins, we will be returning to the schedule that was in place last year. This will add an additional block to the day. Each class block will be 55 minutes in length. Science and social studies will again be offered every day in addition to math, language arts, and unified arts. Your children will still have the same UA rotation and UA classes during the same block they do now. In addition, lunches will be done by grade levels and not teams. As a staff we will be working with the students to make the transition as smooth as possible.

A group of staff will also be getting together to see if there is a better way to plan the school day when we return from break, with the expectation of implementing anything new in the fall of 2019. Our goal is to review the schedule and be sure we are providing enough time and flexibility so that we can support those students who need it, as well as provide extension opportunities for those students who are ready for them.

We understand that changing the schedule in the middle of the year is not the optimal time, however we feel the need to make adjustments in order to best support our students. We thank you for your patience as we try to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Rick Hogan, Principal