

JULY 2023 ISSUE

# THE DISCOVERY

GMS Magnet Newsletter  
[www.globalmediastudies.com](http://www.globalmediastudies.com) | IG @gms.magnet



## Looking Back, Looking Forward

The middle of summer is a nice time to reflect on all that GMS accomplished during Spring Semester, knowing that it is also a preview of the year to come. We were so busy "doing" during the last semester that there wasn't much time to stop and write about it all. We hope you enjoy this look back (that's the Spring Picnic in the photo above) whether it is to reminisce or for a preview of what you have to look forward to. We also introduce the newest member on the GMS team, Social Studies teacher Amanda Zepeda!

Starting with the most recent event, we saw our first four-year class of GMS students graduate. It was an incredibly emotional time for all of us. We wish the class of 2023 an amazing journey to college and careers.

We will also look back at the Senior Portfolio Defenses our seniors presented, the Mock Interviews our juniors participated in, the film programs students applied and were accepted to, and the enriching field trips GMS was able to offer. In addition, we'll take a look at the many valuable internships GMS students took advantage of.

We couldn't have done any of this without our entire GMS family. We are so grateful for our community!

## UPCOMING:

**New Student Orientation**

**WEDNESDAY AUG. 2 9:30 A.M.**

**First Day of Instruction**

**MONDAY AUG. 14**

**GMS Booster Club Meeting**

**THURSDAY AUG. 24 AT 7 P.M.  
ON ZOOM**

**Student ID Pictures**

**MONDAY AND TUESDAY AUG.  
21-22**

**Admission Day - No School**

**FRIDAY SEPT. 1**

**Labor Day - No School**

**MONDAY SEPT. 4**

# GMS Class of 2023 'Walks the Stage'

We could not be prouder of our first, full-four-year graduating class! [Click here](#) for more photos (and a few videos) from before and after the ceremony. You may be gone from campus, but you'll always be in our hearts. ❤️



# College-Bound Grads Name Their Schools

GMS graduates are headed to a number of prestigious universities and colleges to pursue their diverse passions. We had students accepted to UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Barbara, UC Irvine, CSUN, CSU Long Beach, Cal Poly (San Luis Obispo and Pomona), and many more. Students will also be attending a number of private art schools, including Otis College of Art and Design, California College of the Arts, and Goucher College.



**Pramuditha Madigapola**  
UC Santa Barbara, Zoology



**Jonathan Lopez**  
CSUN, Broadcasting



**Jeremy Taylor**  
UC Irvine, Black Studies



**Elizabeth Bartolo**  
California College of the Arts,  
Illustration / Game Arts

# College-Bound Grads Continued



**Enzo Buonomassa**  
CSUN, Film and Television



**Katelyn Shewfelt**  
CSU Long Beach,  
Political Science



**Bianca Mae Fernandez**  
CSUN, Broadcast Journalism



**Zion Ballard**  
Otis College of Art and Design

*Way to Go  
GMS Grads!*

## *Amanda Zepeda Joins GMS Staff*

Amanda Zepeda (she/her) is an Ethnic Studies and History teacher. She is a second-generation Chicana who grew up in the San Fernando Valley. As a former Cleveland student, she was excited to return as a teacher after completing her undergraduate education.

Zepeda obtained her bachelor's degree as a double major in Latinx Studies and History with a minor in Race and Resistance and her teaching credential from Cal State Long Beach.

When not teaching, she enjoys exploring different places, going to the movies, reading fantasy, and relaxing at the beach. Ms. Zepeda will join the GMS family in the fall.

We are so excited to welcome Ms. Zepeda on board!



# *GMS Fest A Huge Success!*

GMS celebrated student work and creativity at our annual film festival on May 23 in the new Performing Arts Center at CHS. Now dubbed "GMS Fest," the event featured live student performances, a raffle, a photo booth, a student showcase in C Hall, and a show reel screened in the PAC. Watch the animation reel, or a quick recap of the event created by GMS Junior Javier Molina. We appreciate all the support from our admin, students, GMS and CHS staff, Booster Club, and GMS families to make this event possible!



# Reel Start Ends Year on a High Note

The Reel Start program, which saw nearly a dozen GMS animation and film students come together to create an animated film, ended the year in June with a professional feedback session on Zoom with industry giants **Evan Goldberg** and **Seth Rogan**.

The non-profit program, founded by **Ethan Shapanka** and others to increase diversity in Hollywood, pairs students with an industry professional, in this case **Tim Schechmeister**, who walks them through more than 20 weeks of lessons, industry guest speakers, and expertise to help them create an animated film.

Students come up with a "look book," a story line, and give creative input every step of the way. The final film, "Tree's Blood," about an environmental blogger whose world is turned upside down (literally and figuratively) by Mother Nature, will be screened at a red carpet event in the fall. We were lucky to get a preview of the "animatic" at GMS Fest!

Students who continued with the program throughout the year are: **Jorge Ramirez, Chris Rubinstein, Sophia Oh, Abbie Zamora, Sarah Breiche, Kayla Verdugo, Zion Ballard, Eden Wolfenson and Nathan Dana**.

We will find out who the generous supporters of this program are at the red carpet screening in the fall. GMS is incredibly grateful for this opportunity for our students, who had to apply and be accepted to the afterschool program. A special thanks to our CTE Linked Learning Work-Based Learning Coordinator **Roberta Vann** for connecting us to Reel Start!



**Above, students interact with Evan Goldberg and Seth Rogan on Zoom. Pictured right, teacher and industry expert Tim Schechmeister conducts class.**



# *GMS Senior Banquet Celebrates Students*

GMS celebrated our seniors on May 15 in the campus Dining Hall, which was beautifully decorated by the **GMS Ambassadors** class. Ambassadors also served an Olive Garden feast to our superlative seniors. Students and staff reminisced while enjoying a slide show and raffle for board games. A good time was had by all! Thank you to the **GMS Booster Club** and our **GMS families** for funding this special event (and Junior **Javier Molina** for photos!).





# Seniors Present Portfolio Defenses

With much help from our CTE Linked Learning coach **Jennifer Nikopoulos, CHS Administration**, and of course our amazing **GMS teaching staff**, all of our GMS seniors successfully completed their Senior Portfolio Defenses in May.

Linked Learning is an educational approach that integrates rigorous academics with real-world experiences and career-focused pathways. It aims to prepare students for both college and career success by providing them with relevant, hands-on learning opportunities. One of the key components of Linked Learning is the **Senior Portfolio Defense** process, which serves as a culminating activity for students in their senior year.

The Senior Portfolio Defense process involves the following steps:

1. *Career Pathway Selection*: Students choose a pathway that aligns with their interests and aspirations (the GMS Magnet program).
2. *Project-Based Learning*: Throughout their high school journey, students engage in project-based learning experiences that allow them to apply academic concepts to real-world challenges related to their chosen pathway.
3. *Portfolio Creation*: Over the course of their high school years, students compile a portfolio that showcases their learning, achievements, and growth in both academic and career-related areas. The portfolio may include academic transcripts, projects, essays, certificates, and reflections on their learning experiences.
4. *Preparation for Defense*: Leading up to the Senior Portfolio Defense, students receive guidance and support to prepare for the presentation of their portfolios. This involves practice sessions, feedback from teachers and mentors, and workshops to develop presentation and communication skills.
5. *Portfolio Defense Presentation*: In the Senior Portfolio Defense, students present their portfolios to a panel of educators, community members, and potentially industry professionals. During the presentation, students discuss their learning journey, growth, accomplishments, and how their experiences have prepared them for their chosen career pathway.
6. *Questioning and Feedback*: After the presentation, the panel may ask students questions about their portfolio, experiences, and future plans. This questioning allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding while receiving constructive feedback.

# Portfolio Defenses Continued

**Proven benefits of the Linked Learning Senior Portfolio Defense process for students include:**

1. *Demonstration of Skills:* The defense process allows students to showcase their academic and career-related skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and project management.
2. *Career Readiness:* By linking academic learning to practical experiences, students gain a deeper understanding of potential career paths and develop the skills needed for success in those fields.
3. *Confidence Building:* Presenting their portfolio and answering questions in front of a panel helps students build confidence in their abilities and public speaking skills.
4. *Authentic Assessment:* The defense process provides a more authentic assessment of students' abilities than traditional standardized tests, as it assesses their real-world application of knowledge.
5. *College and Job Applications:* A well-structured portfolio and successful defense can serve as valuable assets for college applications and future job interviews.
6. *Reflection and Growth:* Reflecting on their learning journey encourages students to recognize their progress, set future goals, and make informed decisions about their educational and career paths.
7. *Community Engagement:* Involving community members and industry professionals in the defense process fosters meaningful connections between students and potential mentors or employers.

Overall, the Linked Learning Senior Portfolio Defense process is designed to provide a more comprehensive and meaningful learning experience for students, bridging the gap between academics and the real world and better preparing them for future success.



Elizabeth Bartolo presents her defense.

# Portfolio Defenses Continued



Above, Hilary Litton presents her defense. Below, Jorge Ramirez discusses his future.



## THESIS

My time in the Global Media Studies Magnet has provided me with skills that have helped me understand the world around me: leadership, problem-solving, and the ability to analyze, interpret, and create work I take pride in. Through my assignments, I have exhibited my social responsibility and media innovation. With the skills and outcomes that I have acquired throughout the program, I know how to use my capabilities to ultimately gain success in my future, attending UCSB for my bachelor's degree in zoology.



Above, Pramuditha Madigapola's thesis slide. Below, Elizabeth Bartolo's challenges slide.

### Challenges

When I got a chance to look at it again with fresh eyes I realized my proportions were off. The top of the head was too long and narrow.

I was also worried that I wouldn't be able to accomplish realistic hair since this was my first time attempting realism.

A pencil drawing of a woman's face. Two red circles highlight the forehead and the hair. Arrows point from the text boxes to these areas.

# *Mock Interviews Prepare Juniors*

This spring, our juniors had the wonderful opportunity to experience interviews conducted by professional adults who gave them immediate feedback on their performance and helped them prepare for future interviews with much higher stakes.

GMS teachers helped the students prepare resumes and cover letters for the experience, and coached them in interview planning and techniques. Then, for a week in March, students were called to the library individually to interview with a volunteer. (We are grateful to our librarian **Paula Fonseca Costello** for the use of the library!).

Our volunteers included industry professionals such as a working set designer, working actresses, parents with knowledge of the business side of industry, teachers and our amazing Linked Learning Coach.

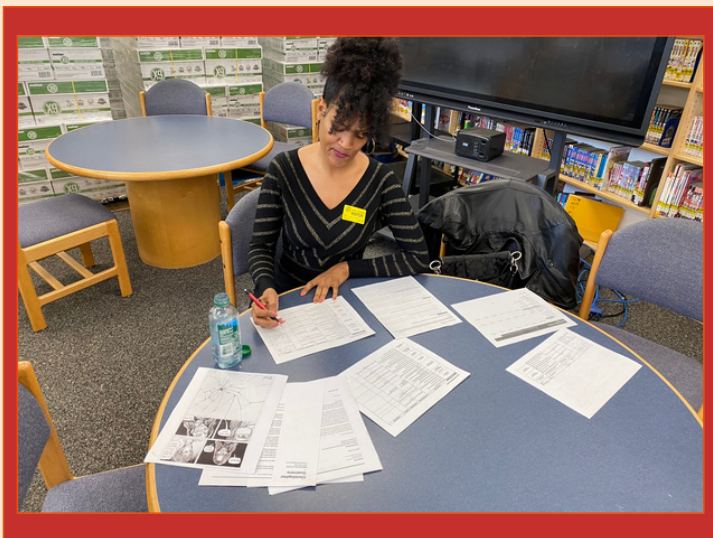
Students often say this is the single most practical activity they experience in high school, and we couldn't do it without the support of our entire CHS/GMS community. Our students thank you all!

This year's interviewers were: **Cynthia Allen Bey, Michael Boerum, Cherrelle E'lan, Sasha Kerbel, Mia Howard, Charlie Lagola, Jennifer Nikopoulos, and Elias Rodriguez.** You are all rock stars to us!

For many more photos of the interviews, [click here](#). For videos, [click here](#).



# Mock Interviews Continued



# Mock Interviews Continued



# *GMS Students Learn By Interning*

GMS has been fortunate to be able to offer our students a number of internships that are only available to schools that are part of the LAUSD CTE Linked Learning program. During the past school year, we had two students participate in helping create the first-ever districtwide LAUSD film festival. In addition, Linked Learning paid for eight GMS students to mentor our own students, holding workshops on a variety of academic topics and assisting GMS with many of its Linked Learning initiatives.

We also had students apply for and receive internships with the LA Rams Pathway to Success program, and with Aim-N-Inspire, which prepares students for internships at professional media companies.



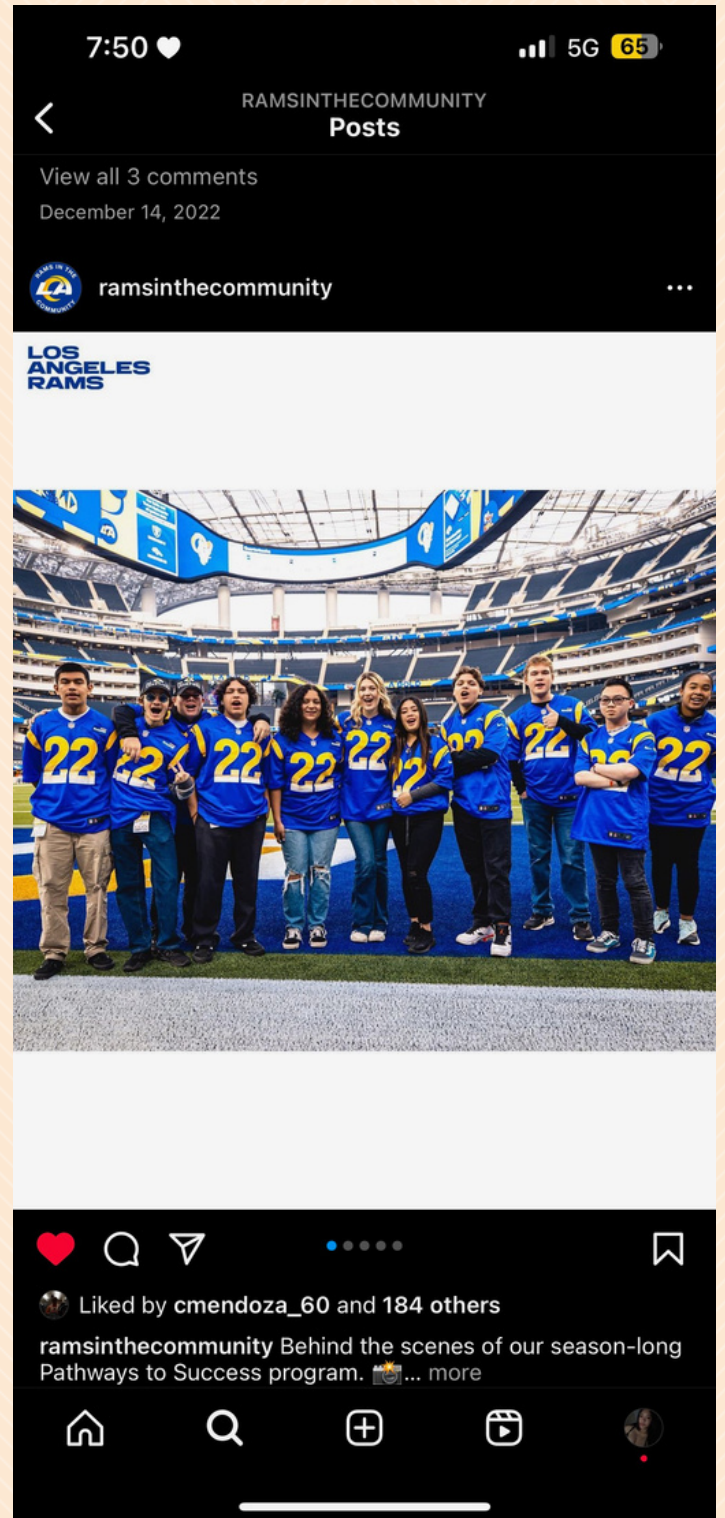
Mia Velasquez, above left, served as a member of the Guest Relations team for LAUSD AME Fest. Jonathan Lopez, right, was the Media Director. Both students were paid to help plan the May 6 event at the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts.





# Learn By Interning Continued

Below, Bianca Fernandez, GMS Class of '23, participates in the Rams' Pathways to Success program, which earned her a paid internship with the NFL team this summer.

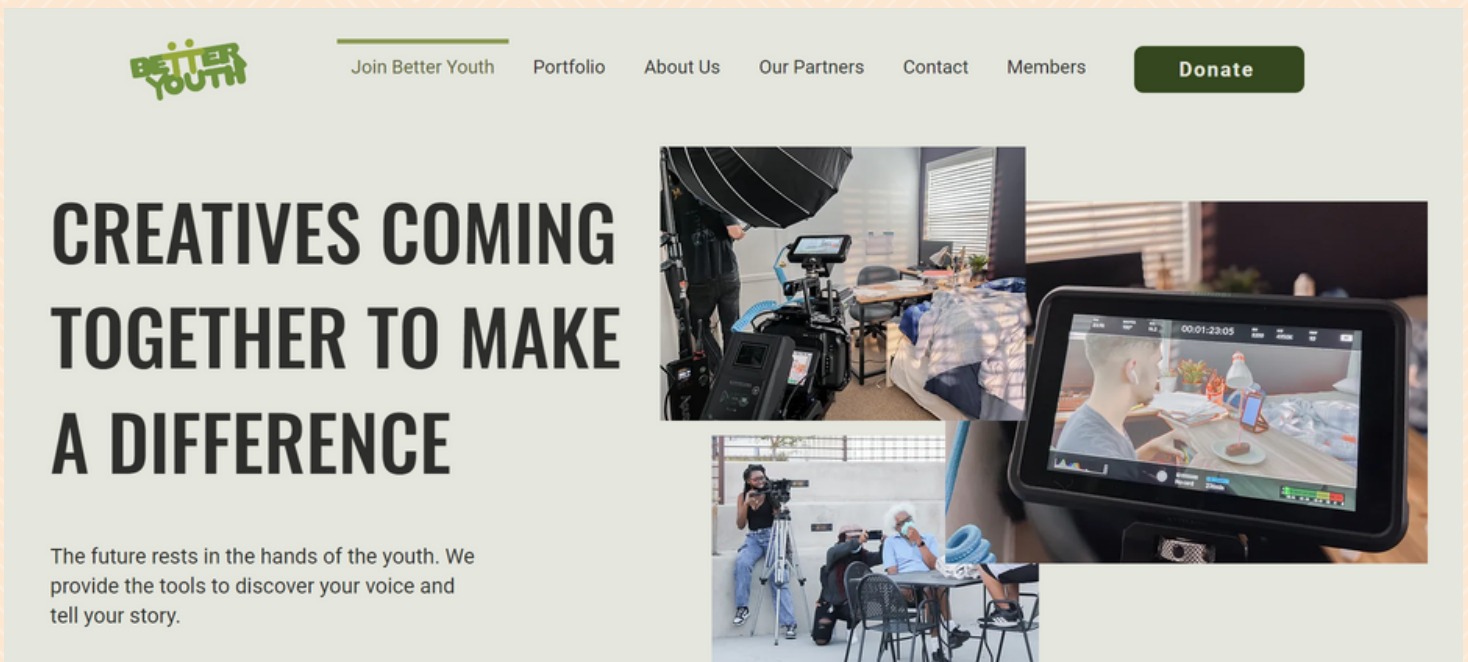


# Learn By Interning Continued

GMS Junior Danielle Batac won acceptance to the Aim-N-Inspire pre-apprentice program, sponsored by Better Youth, which offers an exciting chance to delve into the world of media at a professional level and gain valuable work experience while getting paid.

Through this program, students can unlock their possibilities via the creative disciplines of animation, interactive gaming, media production, and virtual and mixed realities. Participant resources provided include computer devices, software, transportation support and paid work experiences.

Danielle is currently a proud member of the Animation cohort!



The image shows a screenshot of the Better Youth website. At the top left is the 'BETTER YOUTH' logo. To its right is a navigation menu with links for 'Join Better Youth', 'Portfolio', 'About Us', 'Our Partners', 'Contact', and 'Members'. A green 'Donate' button is positioned on the far right of the navigation bar. The main content area features a large headline on the left: 'CREATIVES COMING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE'. Below this headline is a sub-headline: 'The future rests in the hands of the youth. We provide the tools to discover your voice and tell your story.' To the right of the text are three images: a top-left photo of a person operating a camera on a dolly in a room; a bottom-left photo of a person operating a camera on a tripod; and a large photo on the right showing a tablet displaying a video recording interface with a timestamp of 00:01:22:05.



# *Field Trips Offer New Perspectives*

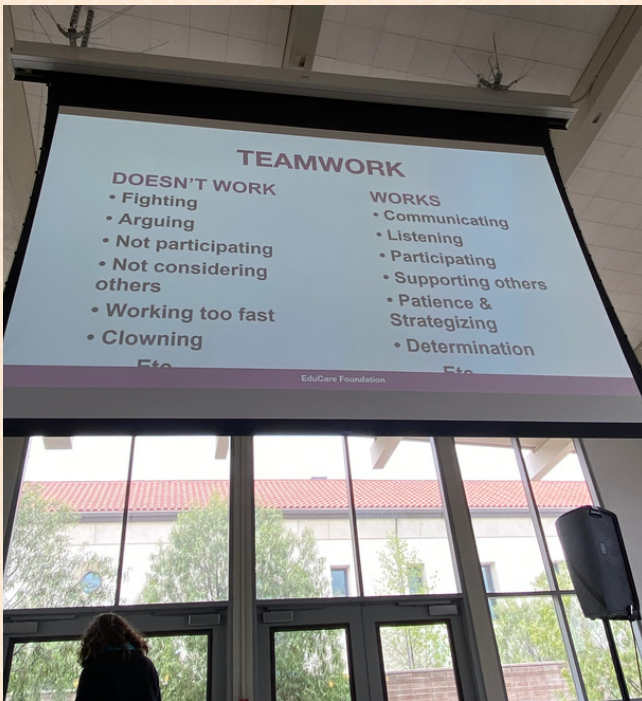
GMS students visited universities, museums, professional offices and more this year. Here is a quick look at our Spring Semester field trips.

## **10th Grade: Amazonia Exhibit at the California Science Center (See [more photos](#))**



# Field Trips Continued

## 10th Grade: ACE Educare Community Building Workshop at Pierce College (See [more photos](#))



# Field Trips Continued

## 11th Grade: Academy Museum's Regeneration: Black Cinema 1898–1971 Exhibit



# Field Trips Continued

## 11th Grade: UCLA Campus Tour



# Field Trips Continued

## All Grades: GMS Invited to Special Screening of 'To Kill a Mockingbird' at Academy Museum



# A Field Trip For Educators, Too!





GMS Magnet Coordinator Coleen Bondy and Film/KCAV Teacher John Crossley visited Netflix with nearly 100 other educators for the **Education Industry Foundation's** Roundtable event in April. The organization aims to connect educators with industry partners to create a more diverse talent pipeline into film and television careers.

The program is led by a collaboration of studios, networks, and career pathway providers and focuses on entry-level, below-the-line and corporate entertainment opportunities. EIFCP was formally announced in May 2021 in Variety and Deadline Hollywood. Thank you to CTE Linked Learning Work-Based Learning Coach **Roberta Vann** for inviting GMS to this event!



WHAT WE'RE HEARING FROM THE FIELD

## Industry Opportunities

-  Across the country, \$84 billion in wages were earned by workers in the entertainment industry.
-  Salaries in the entertainment industry are 47% higher than the national average.
-  There are 65,000 below the line production jobs that exist in the industry.
-  95% of industry jobs are technical.

**Jobs on the rise in the industry include:**

- Producers and directors
- Audio and video equipment technicians
- Film and video editors
- Production, planning, and expediting clerks
- Fashion designers
- Camera operators
- Multimedia artists and animators
- Photographers
- Makeup artists, hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists
- Sound engineering technicians

1) Royal Film and Television Magnet  
2) IEG Survey Offers Inside Look at Industry Discrimination, Diversity, Pay and More; 3) Inclusion in the Director's Chair: Gender, Race and Age of Directors Across 1,700 Top Films from 2007 to 2018; 4) Entertainment Digital media in the Los Angeles Basin; 5) A Hollywood union tried to promote diversity. Then things got complicated; 6) UCLA Hollywood Diversity Report; 7) 2023 CREW Culture Report



# Spring Picnic a Fun Time

GMS picnics never fail to bring students, teachers, and family members together for a memorable time. Our Spring Picnic in April was no exception! We had pizza and other yummy snacks for sale, games, a raffle, a water balloon toss and an old-fashioned water balloon fight. All in all it was a great day at the park!



# GMS Booster Club Board Takes a Bow



From Left: Sasha Kerbel, Diana Chulak, Vinta Jhingan, Coleen Bondy, Taniya Goshert-Hossain, and Sally Durham.

The 2022-23 **GMS Booster Club** finished the year with an impressive list of accomplishments. From the Fall and Spring Picnics, to constant fundraising, to organizing and executing events including GMS Fest, our board really stepped up its game this past year.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to outgoing Board President **Taniya Goshert-Hossain**, outgoing Treasurer **Sally Durham**, and outgoing Secretary **Diana Chulak**. **Vinta Jhingan** will step down as Events Coordinator, and continue on as President. Incoming members are **Maggie Sepkowitz** as Secretary, **Luci Guerrero** as Treasurer, and **Lisa Walco** as Events Coordinator.

**Sasha Kerbel** will continue on as our unofficial raffle coordinator and volunteer extraordinaire, and **Diana Chulak** and **Sally Durham** have promised to help out regularly.

We could not do all we do without all of you! Please consider joining our Booster Club Board this year! We have an unfilled Vice President position, and welcome parent involvement!

# 2023-24 Bell Schedule

## Updates to the 2023-24 Bell Schedule

- Every school day, period 1 begins at 8:30 AM (there are NO late start Mondays).
- Every Tuesday, we will be on the professional development (PD) bell schedule with period 6 ending at 2:38 PM. There will be no late school buses on these days.
- On minimum days, period 6 ends at 1:13 p.m. Minimum day bell schedules are in effect for the following dates:
  - August 31
  - October 4
  - October 18
  - December 15
  - February 28
  - March 20
  - March 22
  - May 1
  - June 10
  - June 11

This calendar is subject to updates. Please check the calendar available on the [school website](#) for changes.

## CHS 2023-24 Bell Schedules

REGULAR Day Schedule		
P	MIN	TIME
0	56	7:26-8:22
1	56	8:30-9:26
	8	9:26-9:34
2	63	9:34-10:37
Nut	15	10:37-10:52
	8	10:52-11:00
3	56	11:00-11:56
	8	11:56-12:04
4	56	12:04-1:00
Lun	30	1:00-1:30
	8	1:30-1:38
5	56	1:38-2:34
	8	2:34-2:42
6	56	2:42-3:38
7	56	3:46-4:42

PD Tuesday Schedule		
P	MIN	TIME
0	56	7:26-8:22
1	46	8:30-9:16
	8	9:16-9:24
2	53	9:24-10:17
Nut	15	10:17-10:32
	8	10:32-10:40
3	46	10:40-11:26
	8	11:26-11:32
4	46	11:34-12:20
Lun	30	12:20-12:50
	8	12:50-12:58
5	46	12:58-1:44
	8	1:44-1:52
6	46	1:52-2:38
	8	2:38-2:46
PD	52	2:46-3:38
7	56	3:46-4:42

MINIMUM Day Schedule		
P	MIN	TIME
0	56	7:26-8:22
1	35	8:30-9:05
	8	9:05-9:13
2	38	9:13-9:51
	8	9:51-9:59
3	35	9:59-10:34
Brunch	30	10:34-11:04
	8	11:04-11:12
4	35	11:12-11:47
	8	11:47-11:55
5	35	11:55-12:30
	8	12:30-12:38
6	35	12:38-1:13
7	56	1:21-2:17

SHORTENED Day Schedule		
P	MIN	TIME
0	56	7:26-8:22
1	46	8:30-9:16
	8	9:16-9:24
2	48	9:24-10:12
Nut	15	10:12-10:27
	8	10:27-10:35
3	46	10:35-11:21
	8	11:21-11:29
4	46	11:29-12:15
Lun	30	12:15-12:45
	8	12:45-12:53
5	46	12:53-1:39
	8	1:39-1:47
6	46	1:47-2:33
7	56	2:41-3:38

FINALS Day Schedule		
P	MIN	TIME
0	56	7:25-8:21
1/2/3	122	8:30-10:32
Brunch	30	10:32-11:02
	9	11:02-11:11
4/5/6	122	11:11-1:13
7	56	1:22-2:19