

THE DISCOVERY

GMS Magnet Monthly Newsletter
www.globalmediastudies.com



Dear GMS Parents and Guardians,

This is by far the most surreal ending to a school year that any of us could have imagined. We are sure that all our GMS families are still trying to adjust to this new reality, as are our staff members.

The only thing we know for certain is that we are all doing the best we can under very trying circumstances. We wanted to reach out to our families to find out first and foremost, how you are doing. PLEASE let us know if you have any questions or concerns about your child, our program, or our school in general. We will try to answer any questions to the best of our ability.

Much of what our teachers are doing academically right now is governed by either school or district

UPDATES

School Closed for the rest of Spring Semester

MORE RESOURCES AND INFORMATION ON PAGE 8

Seniors, send us your high school pictures for our Senior Events coming soon!

**E-MAIL THEM TO
JTL4524@LAUSD.NET**

Student Article on the GMS Career Day Panel

SEE PAGE 4

The campus may be closed, but learning is still happening!

PICTURED AT THE TOP IS CLEVELAND'S NEW 3-STORY BUILDING UNDERWAY!

***** For anyone who would like to join the GMS Remind
Text @gmsmagnet to 81010**

policies. Some of those new policies include:

- 1) A block schedule that has students “attending” their classes only on Mondays and Wednesdays, or Tuesdays and Thursdays. Many teachers are doing Zoom classes during those block days. On Fridays there is to be no new instruction, but we are to hold “office hours” for students or parents to reach us. The office hours schedule for all teachers is attached to this email.
- 2) A new grading policy that says no student may receive a grade lower than the grade that they had on March 13, when we began sheltering in place. Teachers were also told that the 10-week grades also could not be lower than the grade a student had on March 13. Grades can go up, however, at a teacher’s discretion. The 10-week grades should be mailed home soon.

In effect, students have already figured out that missing work will not be counted against them. If students had a high grade, they have very little incentive to keep working, although we are highly encouraging them to do so.

We can give students “unsatisfactory” marks in work habits and cooperation, but if a student is really having issues learning at home, it would seem unfair to do so.

Our grading scale has also gone from an A-F to an A-D scale. No student will fail the spring semester, no matter what grade they had before or after the school shutdown. However, our understanding is that if a student receives a D in a class, they will automatically be enrolled in summer school, which will be held strictly online this summer. Teachers will also have to document that they tried to reach the parents of any student receiving a D for the final semester grade.

Because many students stopped working once they found out that missing assignments will not affect their grades, it is more important than ever for parents to urge their children to keep working and learning. Fortunately, we were already three-quarters of the way through the school

year. But that is still a lot of time to miss in an academic year, and we expect that every student in the United States will fall behind in their studies to some degree because of this sudden transition to online learning.

Exactly how much a student falls behind will depend greatly on a student's individual motivation level, or a family's ability to provide a strong, supportive learning environment whenever possible. That means it is more important than ever for parents to sign up for the LAUSD Parent Portal (<https://parentportalapp.lausd.net/parentaccess/>) and log into Schoology to track student progress if at all possible.

Most teachers are putting in either full credit for an assignment, or a designation of "incomplete," which does not affect a grade one way or another. When students are not logging into Schoology or completing assignments for more than a week, teachers have been directed to contact parents to find out why. We have been told that the district has teamed up with Amazon to provide noise-canceling headphones to all students to help with one major learning-at-home issue, and that is a step in the right direction. But in order to make this online transition even somewhat successful, we realize that parent involvement is critical.

Many of us are having a hard time focusing, sleeping, or simply not worrying during this very unsettling time. We are primarily concerned about the physical and mental wellbeing of our students and their families right now.

Wherever possible, however, we will continue to teach and learn the best we can. GMS was off to a great start this year, and we don't want to go backwards...we want to look forward to better times.

With gratitude for your continued support,
The GMS Magnet Team

Reflection on GMS Career Day Panel

by Cloey Kim, a Cleveland High School student

On Feb. 20, 2020, five hardworking women came together at Cleveland to share their experiences and careers. All of them possess jobs in the entertainment industry, which is notoriously difficult to succeed in.

Donna Ross-Jones has earned the title of Entrepreneur of Excellence by Essence Magazine and “Inspiration of the Year” by the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO).

Jones is the founder and current CEO of the Transition Music Corporation, which is one of the top 100 music production companies in America. She has represented many artists, such as Eddie Murphy and Anita Baker.

Jones created the TMC when she was 21 years old. As for how she got there, she said, “Every bit of it was a mistake.”

Jones originally majored in psychology in college. However, after a very depressing and gloomy internship, she quit and was later hired at an employment agency as a job counselor, despite not yet having a job herself.

Three months later, she was one of the best employees in the agency. Then, she got a job offer in West Hollywood in one of the top music management firms in the business.

But she was fired because her boss’s wife believed that he liked Jones better than her. Although she was crushed, she marched on, firmly believing in hard work and ambition. Years later, she founded Transition Music Corp.

“Make sure you show up and you are your best person,” Jones advised students at the panel, adding, “I hire great people, amazing people. I drive them to be phenomenal.”

Marlene Sharp has been everywhere and anywhere when it comes to her employment. “I’ve done every job... in the show business,” Sharp said. She was a Production Director at LEVEL-5 abby Inc., the homeland of YO-KAI WATCH and other video game-based franchises. She also worked on the infamous Sonic the Hedgehog movie.



Photo by David Navarro

However, originally she wanted to be an Oscar-winning actress... which did not work out. Even though she still has a glimmer of hope left, she has been pursuing other careers.

Sharp is from New Orleans, Louisiana. Her education background consists of performance and broadcasting, as well as fine arts and musical theatre. This left her with the skills of a singer, dancer, and actress.

She ended up working at a talent production company for a year, then at a temporary agency, and finally at the company that produced Power Rangers. From there, she fell into a metaphorical wonderland of merchandise-driven children- and family-targeted TV shows.

“I really love toys,” Sharp said. ... when I fell into the kids’ business... it was a rude awakening,” Sharp commented about the companies that control the industry.

But, the greed of corporations never diminished her love for toys and children’s

TV shows. Now, Sharp runs her own company, Pink Poodle Productions, and also works as an independent consultant for Rainshine and Kinsane Entertainment in India. She scouts for books, video games, and toys that would make great TV shows. “It’s good to keep an open mind,” said Sharp, adding, “Put yourself out there.”

Rita Street is the founder of Women in Animation. She is an independent executive producer of cartoons under her business, Radar Cartoons. She is the co-producer of Space Chickens in Space under Disney and is currently working on an upcoming movie, 100% Wolf.

100% Wolf is a movie about Freddy, a boy from a long line of strong werewolves. However, instead of turning into a wolf, he transforms into a pink poodle.

“I can’t get animation out of my blood,” Street said. “If I see a really cool character design, I have to turn it into a cartoon.” The animation maven is always searching for books that can be turned into TV shows. Then, she sells her ideas and works on them for other animation studios.

Essentially, Street works behind the scenes to create new shows, which she often finds in books. If a story is from outside of the US, it can be an international co-production. This was the case of 100% Wolf.

More often than not, Street has to pitch her ideas multiple times, editing and mixing them up, until a company agrees to hire her. “Everything is a no until you turn it into a yes,” Street told the audience. “If you swim in the impossible pond...then there’s less competition.” She advised students to advertise themselves and their skills, no matter how daunting the task may be.

Yvonne DePatis-Kupka works as a freelance hair stylist and makeup artist. However, before her career in the film industry took off, she avoided it like the plague. She moved to Latin America, where she imported fabrics to make

money, but later returned to America for a family business.

“Everything that I did came back into play later,” she said. “I’m a singer, a dancer, and an actor. But the hair thing kept coming back.”

For three whole years, she picked up odd jobs for money, serving coffee and cleaning up trash. While she did, she observed other makeup artists.



Photo by David Navarro

Eventually, she quit scooping up trash and started working as a hair stylist and makeup artist. She worked on the Blues Brothers movies and more, such as Little Women, Marvel’s Thor, and the horror movie, Us. She also worked on HBO’s Westworld.

“I did things I didn’t know how to do,” she quips. Once, a crime show she was working on needed dog bite makeup. She taught herself how to get the job done.

“Do things that make you happy, even if it’s hard,” DePatis-Kupka said. “Enjoy every moment of it. Keep on plotting. If you’re a writer, write. If you’re a makeup person, do makeup.”

The Career Day Panel was a great opportunity to meet experts in their own fields. It was a success and an awesome way for students to begin envisioning their own future careers.

Resources & Information

SCHOOLGY and ZOOM: Make sure you and your child are regularly checking www.schoolgy.com for latest student work and class assignments, grades, and messages from teachers. Many teachers are using Zoom for on-line classes through Schoology.



CRISIS LINES & RESOURCES:

Teen Line - 1-800-852-8336 or text "TEEN" to 839863.

The Trevor Project - 1-866-488-7386 or text "Start" to 678678.

Didi Hirsch Crisis Counselor - 1-800-273-8255.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255.

National Disaster Distress Helpline - 1-800-985-5990.

GRAB & GO: All 60 Grab and Go Food Centers operated by Los Angeles Unified are open.

While the Governor and Mayor have both issued "Stay at Home" orders, they stated that they expect essential services like food centers to remain open. For a complete list of school locations and more information, go to <https://achieve.lausd.net/resources>

CHS INSTAGRAM: CHS is posting daily announcements, KCAV, and more on their Instagram page at [clevelandcharterhs](https://www.instagram.com/clevelandcharterhs). The school's website is www.clevelandhs.org.

GMS SOCIAL MEDIA: Follow us since we'll be posting new information as it becomes available:



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