

Welcome to 8th grade with the GMSL team!

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Sign up for E-mail communication and text message reminders!

E-MAILS: All parents should sign up for this!

To receive e-mails from the team and Mill Creek, go to <http://dexterschools.org/millcreek/> and select "Mill Creek Email Sign Up" in the "Quick Resources" box.

Text message reminders: Primarily for students

To receive text messages with reminders, text the appropriate class code to **205-618-8731**.

Team/History/Science:	@teamgms
Grant English:	@granteng
Schlanderer English:	@schlaneng
Algebra:	@milleralge
Pre-Algebra:	@schlanmath

Drop-In Assistance:

We are typically available at lunch to help any students needing extra time or assistance. We are also glad to meet with students at other times by appointment. Students can also choose to voluntarily attend the after school Academy on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Team Website:

<http://gmsteam.weebly.com>

Homework Calendar:

<http://gmsteam.weebly.com/hw-calendar.html>

Team Policies

2014 - 2015

THE Rule:

We will all do our best to respect and help ourselves and each other.

Schedule:

- 8:15-9:25 Focus (Art, PE, Tech Ed, Life Skills)
- 9:30-11:01 First Block Core Class
- 11:06-11:36 Lunch
- 11:41-1:26 Second Block Core Class
- 1:31-2:16 6th Hour Elective
- 2:21-3:06 7th Hour Elective

Tardies:

There is a school-wide policy on tardies. Any student who is tardy to the same class four times in a given reporting period (4 1/2 weeks) will receive an N in citizenship for that class. This means a student who is frequently tardy may lose the privilege of attending dances, field trips, sporting events, etc. Students will be notified after their third tardy to a core class.

Passes:

Passing time between classes is the students' opportunity to get prepared for their next class, and to take care of their personal needs. Passes from class are a disruption, and should be minimized. Passes may be limited if students are not using passing time wisely.

Food & Drink:

Students may bring water in a closed reusable container for their own consumption. No other food or drink is allowed in class or in the hallways.

Grade Reporting:

Paper copy progress reports and report cards are sent home eight times during the school year. If you have a question about a particular grade or mark, PowerSchool is the best place to look for relevant information. If additional information is needed, the appropriate teacher can be contacted by telephone or e-mail. A parent conference may be arranged, if necessary.

Student grades and assignment information will also be frequently updated and accessible online through the district software, PowerSchool. We hope that both you and your child will be checking these postings regularly. We will update PowerSchool at least once a week. If you do not have the password necessary to access your child's classes online, please contact the school office to arrange for a new password.

In PowerSchool, you can click on anything in **BLUE** to get more information!

Class	Grade	Q1	Q2	Y1	Absences		Tardies	
					S1	09-10	S1	09-10
1(A,C) 2(A)	Science 8	F	--	--	0	0	0	0
1(B) 2(B-C)	Pre-Algebra 8 Dever, Melanie	--	--	--	0	0	0	0
3(A,C) 4(A)	History 8 Grant, Amy	--	--	--	0	0	0	0
3(B) 4(B-C)	English 8 Grant, Amy	--	--	--	0	0	0	0
5(A-C)	Phys Ed 8 Anderson, Joel	--	--	--	0	0	0	0
5(A-C)	Art Lutton, Louise	--	--	--	0	0	0	0

Grading System and Criteria for Evaluation:

Academic grades represent the level of mastery of instructional objectives. Instructional objectives for 8th grade core subjects are aligned with the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs), High School Content Expectations, or Common Core State Standards. Objectives address the skills required for successful performance in the next grade or in a sequence of courses. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, homework, and other activities are designed to allow students to demonstrate their level of mastery of the designated objectives.

Mill Creek Academic Grades:

Each classroom will have the same grading system and categories for consistency for students. Each grade book will have two categories that factor into the academic grade. The two categories are:

1. PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS (Summative) - 85% OF FINAL GRADE

These are assessments OF learning that indicate how well a student has demonstrated knowledge of content. Items in this category include:

- unit (chapter) assessments
- major performance tasks – mainly products, performances, projects and other forms of authentic assessments (e.g., essays, artwork, visual representations, models, multimedia, oral presentations, lab experiences, live or recorded performances)
- smaller performance tasks meant to assess a single objective (e.g., single paragraph of writing on a topic)

*If a performance assessment does not demonstrate adequate mastery, the student may be required to redo it. Students can consult with a teacher about redoing assignments if they themselves are not satisfied with their performance.

2. PRACTICE ASSESSMENTS (Formative) - 15% OF FINAL GRADE

These are assessments FOR learning that demonstrate how well a student is progressing in his/her learning. Items in this category include:

- lesson practice and activities
- independent practice on daily work (daily assignments and classroom work)
- brief progress checks (e.g., small quizzes over one or more lessons, reviews, warm-ups)

***Academy:** Any student failing two or more classes (D's or E's) when grades are reported every four weeks is required to attend the Academy Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:20-4:20 p.m. Certified teachers will supervise and support the Academy.

Work Habit Performance:

Students will be assessed on their daily work habits and will receive a mark based on turning work in on time, using classroom work time effectively, producing "best effort" work, and other work habits within the classroom:

- E - Exceeds standards
- M - Meets standards
- P - Progressing towards standards
- N - Not meeting standards

***Academy:** Any student receiving two or more N's in Work Habit Performance when grades are reported every four weeks is required to attend Academy Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:20-4:20 p.m. Certified teachers will supervise and support the Academy.

Citizenship Performance:

Students will be assessed on their citizenship and will receive a mark based on their ability to demonstrate traits such as courtesy, commitment, respect, appreciation, responsibility, honesty, cooperation, initiative, and self-discipline:

- E - Exceeds standards
- M - Meets standards
- P - Progressing towards standards
- N - Not meeting standards

***After School Privileges:** Any student who receives two "N's" in Citizenship when grades are reported every four weeks is not allowed to attend after school activities such as dances, lock-ins, and other earned privileged events during the following four week period.

Late Work:

When a student comes to class without her/his homework, s/he misses valuable learning opportunities. Submitting multiple late assignments during the quarter will negatively impact a student's Work Habits score. We may require students who are missing assignments to work at lunch to get caught up.

There are "cut off dates" past which late work will not be accepted. These are announced to students in class ahead of time.

A note about late work due to "technical difficulties": As education increasingly includes technology, students need to be prepared for the inherent issues they may encounter. To this end, students are expected to plan their use of technology accordingly. If you know ahead of time that your student will not have access to technology (an internet-enabled computer and a printer), please let us know so that we can help find a suitable alternative or solution.

Absent Work:

Students are responsible for finding out what they missed during an absence. They may do this by checking with their teachers upon their return or checking on our team website, although this site may not always have the most up-to-date information. Students do not need to wait until they attend the class from which they were absent in order to find out what they missed! They can stop in any time.

Students are expected to make up all missed work within one week of their return from an absence. Work turned in after this time will be considered late.

When quizzes, tests, or project due dates are announced in advance of a student's absence, these assessments must be taken or handed in immediately upon return.

At any time, students may see a teacher to request a "Plan of Action Contract for Absent Work" to assist them in organizing their make-up work. We STRONGLY recommend this for students absent more than three days.

Course	Teacher	Expression	Final Grade ¹
Science 8	Dever, Melanie	2(A,C) 3(A)	E 0%

Teacher Comments:

Section Description:

Due Date	Category	Assignment	Codes	Score	%	Grd
		Signed Safety Contract	Ⓜ	0/5	0	NHI
		Personalize Journal		0/5	0	AB
		Measurement Packet		--/5		

Grades last updated on 9/2/2010

✔ - Collected, 🟡 - Late, Ⓜ - Missing, 🟢 - Score is exempt from final grade, 🟠 - Assignment is not included in final grade

¹ - This final grade may include assignments that are not yet published by the teacher. It may also be a result of special weighting used by the teacher.

NHI = Not Handed in
(Student was present for class and didn't have/turn in work)

Shows date grades were last updated in this class.

AB= Absent (Student was absent when work was assigned or due)