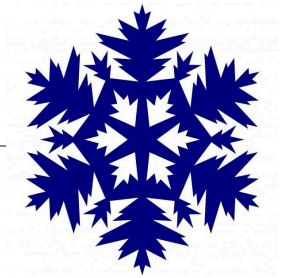




Gehmans Mennonite School

Newsletter – January 2026



Thank-You

Thank you GMS Patrons for showing your support to all the teachers and staff over Christmas time. Thank you for the money gift, cards, delicious food, and other creative gifts. Your thoughtfulness and kindness are a blessing to us.

Snow Day

Because we had off school on Tuesday, December 2, we will plan to have school on the snow make-up day on Monday, February 16. Plan to come to school on February 16.

January 19, Parent Teacher Conferences

On Monday January 19 we plan to have our mid-year PTC. There will be an early dismissal at 1:00 p.m. The goal of this PTC is to create an opportunity for parents and teachers to meet in the middle of the school year. Unlike the beginning of the year PTC, this middle of the year PTC **will be by request**. This means that you will not be meeting with every student's teacher, only the ones you request to meet with. If the teacher has requested to meet with you and we have not received a paper back from you, we will contact you to set up a time to meet. **If you would like to meet with your child's teacher, please fill out the form being sent home along with this newsletter and return it to the office before this Friday, January 9th.** You will later receive the schedule for your family.

Kindergarten Double Days

Beginning January 7th, Kindergarten will be having double days every Wednesday. This will help them become better acquainted with each other, and will also help to prepare them for First Grade. Please plan your schedule for this change.

Kindergarten Registration

If you are a current patron with a potential kindergartener for next year that you have not registered yet, please contact the office to register.

Open House & Referral Bonus

Our annual Open House is planned for February 10 & 11. I would like to remind you of our \$500 referral bonus that can be applied to your 2026-27 tuition for new families that enroll *because* of your referral. You can also help the Open House activity by informing, inviting, and/or bringing people to it.

Open House will be from 6:30-8:00 PM on Tuesday, February 11, and from 9:00 AM–Noon on Wednesday, Feb. 12th. The morning time is designed for you to come see classrooms in action. If these dates do not work for someone, please contact the office to arrange a visit at a different time.

Packets of invitations will be sent to your pastor or church representative to help get this information out. You can help by making sure the information is made known/displayed in your church. Remember though, that one of the best ways to promote GMS is to engage in conversations about our school. Your personal testimony means a lot. Most of all, remember to pray for the school and this event.

Country & Missionary Displays by 5th & 6th Grade

The 5th & 6th grade students are diligently preparing to display their reports. These displays will be set up in the gym for you to view on Tuesday evening (Feb. 11) 6:30-8 and Wednesday morning (Feb. 12) 9am - Noon during Open House.

March PTF- Monday, March 24

At our March PTF, Zach Weaver from Reach Christian School will be coming to share on a topic, *Why School*. We will also be doing the annual board elections at this PTF. Be sure to put this event on your calendar for this meeting.

Financial Report

Thank you for your continued financial support of the School. It is a blessing to see us get closer and closer to reaching our budget for the school year. Please continue to remember the financial needs of the school.

	<u>Income to Date</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Still Needed</u>
Church Offerings	\$15,772	\$34,000	\$18,228
Donations-Business	\$4,500	\$15,000	\$10,500
Donations-Patrons	\$8,513	\$15,000	\$6,487
Donations-Grandparents	\$52,176	\$25,000	\$
Fundraisers	\$28,683	\$50,000	\$21,317
Foundation Donations	\$55,600	\$25,000	\$
Other Donations	\$11,500	\$7,000	\$
TOTALS	\$176,744	\$171,000	\$56,522

Busing Reminder

Our bus drivers do a wonderful job of transporting your children to and from school. I am grateful for the skilled drivers that we have.

As a reminder, there are stiff penalties for school bus drivers and their companies who use a handheld cell phone while driving. Therefore, if you have information for your bus driver, **please do not call their cell phones** while they are on their route. The best practice is to give them a note of any changes the day before, and also send a note along for the office as well. Thank you for being considerate.