



Falling Into a Season of Growth and Gratitude



NO SCHOOL

- 11/11/2025
- 11/26/2025
- 11/27/2025
- 11/28/2025

NOON DISMISSAL

- 11/12/2025



As the leaves begin to change and the air turns crisp, fall reminds us that transformation can be both beautiful and necessary. Just like the trees shedding their leaves, this season gives us the opportunity to let go of what no longer serves us and make space for new beginnings.

At school, we see that same spirit of change and growth in our students every day. Whether it's adjusting to new classes, learning new skills, or finding creative ways to support one another, autumn is the perfect time to reflect on how far we've come and how much we can still grow.



Just Keep Reading!

The excitement is still going strong as our Drop Everything and Read Challenge continues! Students are diving into new books, exploring different genres, and showing off their reading skills. Every page turned brings them closer to reaching their goals, and some fun prizes along the way! So far, Mrs. Jenn's class already has BINGO! Keep reading, and let's see what other classes will reach their reading goals!

RAFFLE WINNERS

Ronald Laila
Kenisha Saniyah Whyje

Congrats!

DID YOU KNOW...

Reading 20 minutes a day can lead to reading approximately 1.8 million words per year. Children who read 1 million words a year are in the top 2% of reading achievement.



H A L L O W E E N

SPOTLIGHT



NATIONAL SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST WEEK NOVEMBER 3-7

During the week of November 3-7, the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and schools across the United States will celebrate the 2025 National School Psychology Week (NSPW). This week celebrates the contributions of school psychologists and the important role they play in schools and communities. NSPW is an annual opportunity to recognize school psychologists' work to help children thrive in school, at home, and in life. This year's theme, "Finding Your Path," reflects the ways that school psychologists help students, families, and school communities set and achieve their goals. Join us by taking this week to chart your course to explore how each person can celebrate the work of school psychologists and learn how school psychologists make a difference every day.

CHOP: FOOD PHARMACY

<https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/food-pharmacy>
The Food Pharmacies aim to increase access to healthy foods and promote nutrition for families experiencing food insecurity.

Happy School Psychologist Week to
Dr. Emmett Schweiger!

Thank you for being a compassionate light that illuminates the best path forward for our students. Whether working with staff on complex cases or directly with students, your dedication helps everyone navigate challenges and find their way.



Student Spotlight: Involved at 17!

This month, we proudly celebrate one of our students who was accepted into the “Involved at 17” Program, a civic initiative that empowers high school students to serve as poll workers on Election Day.

Through this program, students gain hands-on experience in leadership, teamwork, and community service while learning about the democratic process. Participation also qualifies them for the Governor’s Civic Engagement Award, recognizing their contribution to promoting civic awareness and responsibility.

COMMUNITY



New Volunteer Partnerships Strengthen Community Connection

The Transition Program has launched three new volunteer partnerships that will provide our students with meaningful service opportunities, real-world experience, and opportunities to build empathy through service. Each of these volunteer experiences builds “real-world” transferable skills, time management, teamwork, and professionalism, while also enhancing student resumes for post-secondary goals.

Face to Face

(Germantown, Philadelphia)

Face to Face provides meals, health and legal support, and social services for community members in need. Students will assist in the Dining Room, Health Center, and Social Services areas, gaining exposure to teamwork, compassion, and service leadership while helping others meet basic needs.

MANNA

(Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance)

MANNA uses nutrition to improve health for individuals with serious illnesses by delivering medically tailored meals and providing nutrition education. Students will engage in meal preparation and packing experiences, reinforcing responsibility, precision, and care in service to others.

Small Things Philly

Small Things partners with local organizations to combat food insecurity and poverty across Philadelphia. Students will participate in food packaging and distribution projects, helping deliver essential resources while strengthening empathy and understanding of community impact.

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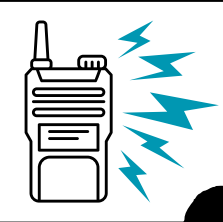




Student Spotlight: Involved at 17!

On November 18th, the Dining Hall will host a student taste testing event! Selected students will have the exciting opportunity to sample and provide feedback on a variety of new menu items that will be added to our future meal offerings.

We can't wait to hear what they think! Be sure to check out December's issue of the newsletter for the results, including which dishes were the most popular and will be coming soon to our lunch lineup!



COUGARS ON THE COURT



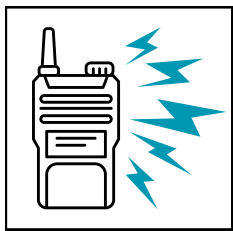
Our Behavior Managers, Mr. LaMont and Mr. Martise are not only keeping our school safe and supportive, but they're also stepping onto the court as coaches and mentors, showing our students what teamwork, dedication, and perseverance look like in action. Their impact goes far beyond managing behaviors, they're building confidence, discipline, and community through sports.

The GTS Cougars are off to an incredible start this basketball season with a 2-0 record! Let's continue to cheer on our Cougars as they push forward this season, proving that with the right guidance, heart, and teamwork, victory happens on and off the court!

GO TEAM!

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SAM

NOW YOU'RE SPEAKING MY LANGUAGE!

In the October issue of Growing Together, we introduced SAM, the Student Achievement Model, which we use to support our students as they navigate challenges related to managing emotions, building positive relationships, and staying engaged in learning. SAM provides structured supports, targeted interventions, and skill-building opportunities that help our students grow and succeed both academically and socially. As we mentioned before, developing these important skills takes time, consistency, and patience. To help with this, our staff and students use and speak the "SAM Language." This shared language reinforces the skills being taught and creates multiple opportunities throughout the day for our students to practice, apply, and strengthen them.

TALK THE TALK: 3 MAIN SKILLS

OUR STAFF AND STUDENTS DEFINE THE FOLLOWING SKILLS AS LISTED BELOW

FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS

- LOOK AT THE PERSON
- SAY OKAY
- DO IT RIGHT AWAY

SELF-CONTROL

- SAFE HANDS
- SAFE FEET
- QUIET MOUTH

ACCEPTING FEEDBACK

- LOOK AT THE PERSON
- SAY OKAY
- DON'T ARGUE

DOES YOUR STUDENT TALK THE TALK?

ASK THEM THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

What's the skill of following directions?

What's the skill of showing self-control?

What's the skill for accepting feedback?

OR

Can you show me safe hands?

Can you show me safe feet?

Can you show me quiet mouth?



HOW DID THEY DO?

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!

