



Community Week at a Glance

April 1, 2019 – April 5, 2019

Monday, April 1	Day 3	
Tuesday, April 2	Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wear Blue to Support Autism Awareness
Wednesday, April 3	Day 5	
Thursday, April 4	Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3:35 Robotics Club
Friday, April 5	Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3:35 Robotics Club

Enjoying Superhero Day! Way to show school spirit Gatestone!



Requests for Specific Learning Environment for Your Children

Gatestone Elementary School does not accept parental requests for specific class placement. We have checked with our area schools and the majority of schools do not accept these requests either. The practice of selecting a specific teacher is contrary to all that we believe in terms of respecting all members of the Gatestone community and learning to work together.

With our current focus on grade team planning and implementation of our instructional program, all classes of the same grade will have a similar curriculum focus and delivery. Given that the curriculum will be aligned across the classes in the same grade, parents can be assured that the instructional program their child receives will be of equal caliber across the grade team. While we know that parents sometimes have a preference for a specific teacher, we believe it is important for our students to learn how to cooperate and function in an environment with a wide range of personalities and educational philosophies, which is a life-long skill that is imperative to meeting with success in any group or workplace. For these reasons we will not accept requests naming specific teachers and/or students. We would however welcome parental input into the type of learning environment that they feel would best meet the specific needs of their child.

We have developed a comprehensive process of assigning students to classes based on combinations of students who our staff believe should or should not be together, the learning needs of each student, the balance of male/female ratios, students who present with challenges, as well as independent workers versus students who require greater teacher support. All of this information is important in developing classes that are balanced and effective and can only be done by staff who work directly, in the school, with all of the students being considered.

Another common request from parents is that their child not be placed in a “split” or a combined class. We cannot accept these requests. Split or combined classes are a reality in education today. We take the entire student profile into account before making decisions about placement. Just because a child was in a combined class one year does not guarantee that they will not be in a combined class the following year.

I hope this has helped you to understand the complexity of allocating classes in a fair, responsible and equitable manner and helps to assure you that great attention is given to the placement of each and every child.

Respectfully,
Kelly Reilly-Scott
Principal

Chicopee Ski Trip

As posted on March 5, families will be refunded for the Chicopee Ski Trip. Office Administration has been working on refunds to all families. All refunds are currently complete, but for those that paid cash online, the refund will take some time to show up in the account. Families that paid by cash will need to pick up the refund cheque from our office during the hours of 8:30AM-4:00PM. If you need to make other arrangements, please connect with our office. Cheques will not be sent home with students. Should you have any questions, please connect with our main office. I appreciate families' patience as our office staff continues to work through the Chicopee refund process.

Popcorn and Booster Juice for Sale

Popcorn and Booster Juice items are currently available to purchase through cash online. Popcorn will be available every Wednesday and Booster Juice is available every Tuesday during April and May.

