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## PTSA Middle Message

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P Rice <no-reply@blackboard.com>

Wed, Oct 3, 2018 at 2:18 PM

Reply-To: P Rice <no-reply@blackboard.com>

To: Grafton Middle School Recipients <recipients@yorkcountyschools.parentlink.net>



Connected, Learner, Independent, Persistent, Purposeful, Engaged, Respectful

**October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday 10/1**

"B" Day

Field Hockey vs. Toano, 4:30

Volleyball @James Blair, 4:30

**Tuesday 10/2**

"A" Day

PTSA Helping Hands, Atrium, 9:00

Anime Club

Clipper Homework Club

Newspaper Club

Poster Club

TNT (Teens in Truth)

Football @Tabb, 4:30

**Wednesday 10/3**

"B" Day

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Interest Meeting, 2:30

Field Hockey @Tabb, 4:30

**Thursday 10/4**

"A" Day

SCA Application Deadline

Clipper Homework Club

Coding Club

Girls on Track

MathCounts

**Friday 10/5**

"B" Day

Early Dismissal, 12:05

Field Hockey @James Blair, 4:30

***Important Dates***

October 8: PTSA Meeting, GMS, 5:00

October 8: Volleyball @Tabb, 4:30

October 9: Football @York, 4:30

October 10: Field Hockey vs. Peasley, 4:30

October 10: Volleyball vs. Berkeley, 4:30

October 11: Interim Reports Issued

October 15: Student PTSA Rep Application Deadline

October 15: Volleyball vs. Hornsby, 4:30

October 16: "Reflections" Entry Deadline

October 16: Football vs. Berkeley, 4:30 at Bailey Field

October 18: Field Hockey vs. York, 4:30

October 19: GMS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance, 6:00-8:30

## ***News You Can Use***

### **Boys Basketball Interest Meeting:** Bottom of Form

There will be an interest meeting for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys interested in playing basketball for the school team this Wednesday, **October 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 2:30. The meeting will end before school is out.

**Grafton SCA:** GMS is looking for leaders among every class! Grafton SCA needs motivated students to make a difference in the school and community! If you are interested in running for grade level President or school wide Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer, please pick up an Officer Application. If you want to be involved, but not run for office, you may pick up a representative form. Applications can be found on each hallway and are due back to Ms. Reed or Ms. Camden by Thursday, **October 4<sup>th</sup>**.

**Student PTSA Representatives Needed:** Students, notice the "S" in PTSA? You are encouraged to get involved and give your input about our school. The PTSA executive board is looking for one student PTSA representative from each grade level. Be a part of our school community and get involved with the PTSA! You must be a PTSA member to apply. Applications are available outside the guidance office. The deadline to apply is **Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**GMS Clubs & Activities:** More information on Clubs and Activities has been posted on our website. Starting dates for all clubs have not been determined. Students should listen to the in-school announcements for more information on what clubs are planning to meet. Parents can check this Facebook page and the weekly email but please be aware the schedule is always subject to change. <https://ycsd.yorkcountyschools.org/Page/2378>

**Grafton Middle School's Career Discovery classes** are learning about different career opportunities and booking guest speakers! Come and share your education background and career information with Ms. Jill David's classes during fourth block between 1:30 and 2:30. You pick the date! Thank you for your support and send email to [j david@ycsd.york.va.us](mailto:j david@ycsd.york.va.us).

Top of Form

**Fundraiser Update:** Our annual fundraiser is underway and students are earning their ticket to the **Big Blast inflatable party on November 15<sup>th</sup>**. If you haven't helped your student register online to send out donation emails yet, please consider:

- We only have **ONE** fundraiser each year!
- There are **NO** items to sell or deliver!
- Students **win prizes** for just registering and sending emails--even if they haven't received a donation!

- \$50 in donations and students receive a ticket to the party. \$100 and students get the VIP pass with 30 extra minutes at the party!
- We've already raised \$7,500, but we need your help to reach our goal!

Please support our efforts to raise \$20,000 for technology by registering your student tonight at [gabigblast.com/GraftonMiddle/welcome](http://gabigblast.com/GraftonMiddle/welcome) and sending emails to family and friends.

We can't wait to see all of our Clippers at the Big Blast Inflatable Party!

**Clipper Tech Spotlight:** The Clipper Tech Spotlight series is aimed at giving our parents and community a glimpse into how we use technology at Grafton Middle School. We will be featuring videos of teachers and staff using technology to increase student learning, make connections beyond the walls of our classrooms and provide students with rigorous educational experiences. <https://youtu.be/VS-YljvO-u0>

**Student Drop-Off:** GMS doors open at 7:50. Please do not drop off your student any earlier. There are no staff members available to supervise.

**Parent Pick-up for Bus Riders:** If your child is a bus rider and you need to pick them up at the end of the school day please **call before 2:30** and we are happy to inform the student of the change. We discourage parents from texting student while they are on the bus. The bus driver cannot release a student without administrative approval and this can delay our departure.

**Activity Buses:** YCSD offer Activity Buses on Tuesdays and Thursdays for students who participate in after school activities & clubs. The buses depart GMS at 4:00. Students need to know which neighborhood they live in or near. Buses do not have set stops and may drop students off up to a mile from their home. Please visit the GMS website for [Activity Bus route information](#).

### **PTSA News**

**Kroger Rewards:** GMS parents! Please double check if your Kroger Rewards card is still registered to our school. If you are new to our school, please register your Kroger rewards card with Grafton Middle School!! To date only 90 households have registered their Kroger card! Let's increase that number!! It's an easy way to give back to your school!! We receive approximately \$500 - \$600 per quarter from Kroger Rewards!!

Shop & earn cash for GMS! Register your Kroger Plus card online: [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com), GMS School Code: **89016**.

Remember, you must re-register your card each school year.

**2018-2019 Reflections:** PTA Reflections is celebrating its 50th year of encouraging students to share their creativity. The PTA Reflections theme for the 2018-2019 school year is "*Heroes Around Me*". Students can create one original artwork in as many of the following categories as they like: Visual Arts, Photography, Literature,

Film Production, Dance Choreography and Musical Composition.

Deadline is **October 16, 2018**. Please put your artwork in a protective plastic covering (page protector or wrap in clear cellophane) and attach a signed and completed entry form in an envelope to the back of each submission. Check the submission requirements and rules for your chosen category as some of them have changed. Submit your work to the school office. Rules, submission requirements and entry forms can be found at <https://www.vapta.org/arts-and-education/reflections>

Another way to participate is in the Theme Search. Think of a theme for the 2020-2021 Reflections competition and submit your entry to the front office. The entry form can be found on the same website as listed above.

If you have any questions contact the Reflections Chair, Stephanie Schmuck at [butterflyvisions4art@gmail.com](mailto:butterflyvisions4art@gmail.com)

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**Helping Hands** We need volunteers to help with small projects that have been sent in by the teachers. The projects are usually in the hallways and atrium or on bulletin boards throughout the school. It usually consists of hanging background paper and then posting items students have completed. We are usually done in a couple of hours. We are planning to meet at 9:00 on the **first Tuesday of each month** (unless there is no school then it will be the next week). Hope to see you there!

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**Your PTSA Needs You!** We organize many programs, activities & fundraisers throughout the year to benefit our school and the education of our children: Variety Show, Reflections, school Dances, Read Across America, Teacher Appreciation luncheons, Career Day, Read Across America, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration, Beautification, Helping Hands & more. We could use your help! Whatever amount of time you can give would be appreciated. Join the PTSA today! Visit our website to find out more: <http://graftonmiddle.my-pta.org/index.asp?PageID=0>

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**NEW PTSA Fundraiser-Dollars for Dough:** GMS PTSA has a new fundraiser through Papa John's and all you have to do is enter our online code when you order at [www.papajohns.com](http://www.papajohns.com). The school receives 10% of all net sales every month and a chance to earn up to \$10,000. Help support our school!! Enter online code: **GRAFTONMS**

**Please Clip & Save!** We want to remind families that we still collect Box Tops & Tyson Labels as a fundraiser. This is one of the few fundraisers we do and the amount we have received has declined over the years. We have a mailbox collection container for your students located near the entrance hall/elevator.

**YCSD**

**YCSD 2018-2019 Calendar Adjustment:** The York County School Division has made an adjustment to the 2018-19 school calendar to address the school closings due to the mandatory evacuation order for Hurricane Florence. Wednesday, December 19, will be extended from an early release day to a full school day. A portion of the division's banked time will also be used to offset the missed days. Banked time is "instructional time built into the school calendar that exceeds the 990 instructional hour minimum." If the division experiences school closings during the winter months, as has happened in recent years, additional schedule adjustments may be made using identified early release days, teacher workdays, and student holidays.

**Aspen Family Portal:** The York County School Division provides private student information online through the Aspen Family Portal. This secure web-based information management system is password-protected and will help to make communication among students, parents, teachers, and administrators more efficient. Families can use the Aspen Family Portal to view student schedules, assignments and grades, as well as daily attendance records and family contact information. For more information please visit the [YCSD Aspen webpage](#).

**New Website:** All York County School Division school websites have been recently redesigned to provide site visitors a more user-friendly experience. Please visit the new & improved GMS website: <https://ycsd.yorkcountyschools.org/Page/2122>

**Mobile App:** YCSD has implemented a new communication tool to provide parents and students access to information. [http://yorkcountyschools.org/docs/YCSD\\_AppFlier.pdf](http://yorkcountyschools.org/docs/YCSD_AppFlier.pdf)

**Bus Information:** the "My Stop" application which enables notifications as well as tracking services for parents of school bus riders. This program will allow you to check the estimated time of arrival of your student's bus. You will have the ability to view the actual bus route and see where the school bus is located. <https://yorkcountyschools.org/parents/transportation/myStop.aspx>

**2018-2019 YCSD Back To School Guide:**

<https://yorkcountyschools.org/parents/studentInfo/backtoSchool/default.html>

**2018-2019 YCSD Student Calendar:**

<https://yorkcountyschools.org/docs/studentCalendar.pdf>

**Stay Informed**

York County School Board: <http://yorkcountyschools.org/aboutUs/schoolBoard/default.aspx>

\*School Board meetings and work sessions are open to the public. Citizens wishing to address the Board may do so at the regular monthly meetings. A sign-up sheet listing name, address and topic will be placed at the entrance to the boardroom. Persons who wish to address the Board are requested to sign up prior to the start of the Business portion of the meeting.

York County Board of Supervisors: <https://www.yorkcounty.gov/101/Board-of-Supervisors>

Local & State Contacts: <http://yorkcountyschools.org/aboutUs/budget/contacts.aspx>

### ***FYI***

[Community Announcements](#)

[YCSD 2018-2019 Program of Studies](#)

[School Breakfast & Lunch Info](#)

[Grafton Spirit Wear Online](#)

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[Office 365: The Cloud for Students & Teachers](#)

[Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families](#)

[Khan Academy: Student Academic Help](#)

[Prongo: Educational Website](#)

[Fact Monster: homework, facts, games and quizzes](#)

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### ***Stay Connected***

Grafton Middle School: [Facebook](#)

Grafton Middle School PTSA: [Facebook](#)

PTSA website: <http://graftonmiddle.my-pta.org>

GMS website: <https://ycsd.yorkcountyschools.org/Page/2122>

GMS twitter: @graftonms <https://twitter.com/graftonms>

Aspen Family Portal: <http://yorkcountyschools.org/parents/Aspen/default.aspx>

[YCSD: Facebook, YouTube, twitter](#)

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405 Grafton Drive • Yorktown, Virginia 23692

Phone: (757) 898-0525 • FAX: (855) 369-2607

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