

GREEN MOUNTAIN UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Report February 2020

CELEBRATIONS AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

Athletics

Basketball, Rock Climbing, and Cheerleading all are in full swing with regular practices and competitions. Keep up with all the Chieftains at [GMUHS Athletics](#)



Students have been going to ski and snowboard each Tuesday at noon. GM's "Ski Tuesdays" will continue through March 3.



Green & Gold

The student online newspaper appears monthly with fiction, poetry, art, and articles on current events. The most recent edition includes articles on Composting, Sustainability, and the Uyghur Crisis, along with advice on ways to brighten your mood when you are feeling down. Read what is on the minds of GMUHS students here: [Green and Gold](#)

Art

Student work is always on display in the GM atrium gallery and showcases.



CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

Professional Development

Green Mountain teachers worked on aligning their assessments with standards during the January 17 full day of professional development. They began the day by reviewing what inspires pride in all the work they have done. We will be recording these reflections to share with the community. After hearing of this activity, some teachers and student groups suggested expanding this to include all GM students. All advisory groups were then asked to list what made them

proud at GM. Those notes will also be read and recorded -- and then shared on the GM website.



Teachers spent the remainder of the 17th working within their departments looking at assessments and student work. On February 3, there was another full day of PD, also spent working on assessments and curriculum writing.

Starting on January 21, during Ski Tuesdays, teachers shifted into interdisciplinary groups to provide a different perspective on their assessments. They continued to use tuning protocols to review student work in those interdisciplinary groups on Tuesdays afternoons through February 4. On February 11, teachers returned to their department groups. By the

end of the school year, all courses will have summative assessments that are fully aligned with the appropriate middle school or high school graduation standards.

After each session, teachers give feedback on the process of reviewing assessments and student work. Here is one of the questions from the survey and some responses about their review of each other's assessments in interdisciplinary groups:

What benefits and challenges have you noticed with working in an interdisciplinary group?

- The varying perspectives! (And challenging myself with math!)
- Wicked great benefit - We are all grappling with the same questions.
- Benefits: more diverse views. Challenges: not as rich content discussions
- Perspectives on formatting, language of the questions, and clarity are helpful and not usually addressed in department groups
- A benefit was seeing connections in the language of the rubric and standards to those of my discipline
- The different point of view of how they assess and how their rubrics are written. Fresh perspective makes me think about what I could do differently.
- I really like looking into other perspectives and seeing how summatives are presented to students. This also really helps me get a better eye into a teacher's rationale for creating the assessment and I like seeing how we, as a team, can come with different ideas to strengthen the assessment for student comprehension.
- Benefits- variety of perspective, challenges- today's effort required us to adapt the protocol so as to better provide the kind of feedback
- Solid benefit as I better understand what students and teachers face in other subjects.
- Difficult to critique across content areas... but we focused on the question of having students reflect on their work/progress also which is universal...

GM paraeducators have received training from members of the Trauma-Informed School cohort. In addition, there will be a second training in de-escalation techniques on February 25. The last full days of PD will be on March 20 and May 26. GM teachers will continue to work on

curriculum and assessments in the morning and afternoon sessions. They will select from available wellness activities mid-day.

Bell Schedule Surveys

GM high school is in its second year of a new rotating block schedule. There are four 80 minute classes each day. Courses meet every other day (so that 8 blocks are available to students each year.) There are positive aspects to this schedule, including the ability to go further into depth in concepts during a single class, the ability to run science labs in a single session, and the limiting of the amount of homework required each night. There are also drawbacks, including seeing students only two or three days a week (rather than five), seeing students even less often when there are snow days, and having to remember new learning for longer periods without reinforcement.

All schedules have costs to some aspect of school goals and benefits to others. GM staff and students are discussing whether to leave the current schedule in place for another year (or longer) or shift to a different schedule. Teachers and administrators have been discussing options and preferences during faculty and team meetings. The student government has prepared (and will be delivering) a survey to students to be sure that student voice is included in the conversation.

Discipline Reports

January	19-20
Referrals to Planning Room	0
Detentions	0
Conferences and Warnings	13
CIRS Reports Bullying	0
CIRS Reports Harassment	0
Teacher Referrals to Office	8
Self-Referrals to Office	13
Total Referrals	21
In-School-Suspensions	0
Out-School-Suspensions	

Safety Drill for January - Indoor Lockdown

Date: 1/30

Time: 8:03

Hall Clear: 8:04

Released from shelter in place: 8:09