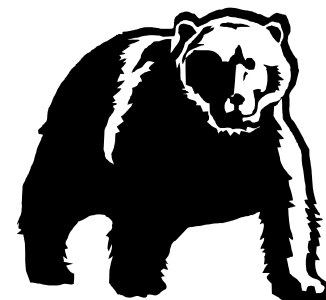


# *Gladewater Middle School*

## *Parent Newsletter*



11/14/11

**Dear Parents,**

*It's not too early to start thinking about your student's future. If your student is in middle school or just starting high school, there's plenty that you as a parent can do now to help them get ready for college.*

*Here are 10 things to keep in mind to help your student to get started:*

**1. Have your student take challenging courses.**

*Colleges do look at grades, but they also pay attention to how tough the students' courses were. They want to see that the student challenged them self. Also, if they took advanced courses, such as AP courses, the student may be able to get college credit.*

**2. Read regularly.**

*Your student should read at least 30 minutes every day, in addition to studying and doing homework. This habit will pay off when your student takes standardized tests. Also, people who read more know more.*

**3. Take standardized tests.**

*Students should keep their options open by planning to take a college admission test like the SAT. Some colleges require this test because it is helpful in comparing students from different high schools. Remember, though, test scores are just one admission factor among many and are not as important as the student's grades and how much they've challenged them self in academic subjects.*

*The PSAT is not an admission test, but its good practice for the SAT and, if your student takes it in their junior year, it can help them qualify for a scholarship. Ask the school counselor if it's given at your local high school.*

**4. Ask for help if needed it.**

*If your student is having trouble in a class, they should talk with the teacher(s) or counselor to find out what type of tutoring or other assistance is available. Let them know that your student wants and needs extra help.*

**5. Get the facts.**

*Assist your student with finding out about college admission, academics and campus life by asking someone who's experienced it, such as former students from the local high school who are now in college. Get to know your student's current counselor. Talk to a career planner at a local college, or a high school teacher or college professor. Do research online or in your library.*

**6. Find ways to get involved.**

*Getting ready for college isn't all work. Encourage your student to find something they really like doing, then encourage them to dive into it. Maybe they are drawn to sports, student council, music or art. Have them join a school group or club, or find other ways to follow their passion. They will develop skills and show colleges they can make a commitment and stick with it.*

**7. Parental Involvement.**

*If you or other family members haven't been to college, you may think that you can't help your student with their college planning. That's not true. You know your student well and can help them to make good choices. Parents can work with teachers and counselors to help their student on the path to college.*

**8. Look for a mentor.**

*Have your student look for adults with your help who can lend their enthusiasm and help your student succeed at their goals. If they are interested in a particular subject or activity, have them talk to a teacher or counselor who knows about it.*

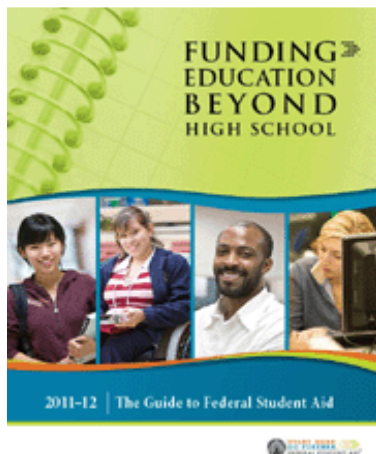
**9. Confront personal roadblocks.**

*If your student is having a problem that's getting in the way of schoolwork, don't ignore it. Encourage your student to talk to someone they trust and respect — whether friend, family member, teacher, coach, nurse, counselor — anyone who might be able to offer advice or help.*

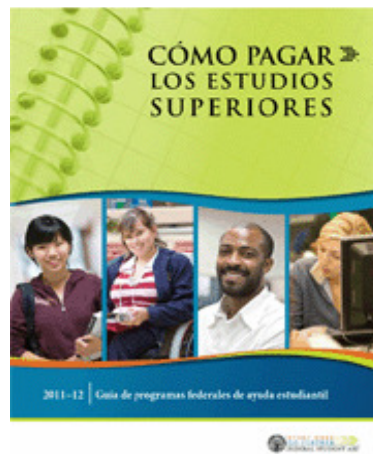
**10. Work hard.**

*If your student expects to go to college later, they should be willing to study now. No one can do it for them.*

Financial Aid Resource Publications  
from the U.S. Department of Education



2011-12 English



2011-12 Spanish

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***Funding Education Beyond High School: The Guide to Federal Student Aid*** is a comprehensive resource on student financial aid from the U.S. Department of Education. Grants, loans, and work-study are the three major forms of aid available through the Department's Federal Student Aid office. *Funding Education Beyond High School: The Guide to Federal Student Aid* tells you about the programs and how to apply for them.

<b>2011-12</b> <b>(July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012)</b>	
<b>English</b>	<b>Spanish</b>
<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">PDF</a>

**Note:** To view the Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files, you must have installed the latest version of the [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) (free). Installation instructions can be found on the Adobe site.

*To apply for federal aid and to apply for many state student aid programs, students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Electronic versions of the [FAFSA](#) make applying for financial aid faster and easier than ever.*

*If you have any questions, or require additional information on student financial assistance, you may contact your high school guidance counselor, the financial aid officer at the postsecondary institution you plan to attend, or the Federal Student Aid Information Center.*

**Federal Student Aid Information Center**  
**1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)**

*This is a toll-free number.*

*National Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week 2011 is*

*November 14 - 18*

*Our theme this year: "Stand Up (to bullying)"*

***GMS activities for the week:***

*Nov 14 - Monday* – “Say Something Nice” Day, make someone’s day brighter by saying something nice.

*Nov 15 -Tuesday* – “Random Act of Kindness” Day, do something nice for someone to brighten their day.

*Nov 16 - Wednesday* – “Anti-Bullying Pledge” Day, make the pledge that you agree to stamp out bullying and all forms of violence.

*Nov 17 - Thursday* – “Friendship” Day, meet someone new, or do something to make a new friend.

*Nov 18 - Friday* – “Wear Blue” Day, wear blue in a united effort to take a stand against bullying. Anti-bullying assembly

*Parents, we encourage you to speak with your children about the issue of bullying at home and share any of your personal experiences on the topic. If you are concerned that your child is a victim of bullying or has engaged in bullying-type behaviors, please feel free to share your concerns with the school counselor or principals. There are also many resources to be found on the internet in regards to bullying.*

*[Check out www.bullying.org!](http://www.bullying.org)*

## *GMS Library News*



*The GMS staff met in the library for web page training. Campus Technology Coordinator, Mrs. Charlotte Smith, conducted the workshop. Staff web pages can be found on the GMS home page.*



*Coach David Quinn and students pose in front of their health triangle project which covered the three sides of health: physical, social, and mental/emotional. These health topics can be found in books from the GMS library.*



### *Pittman's Pick*

*Hatchet is a survival story of a thirteen- year-old boy, Brian, in the Canadian wilderness. Facing hunger, wild animals, and harsh weather, Brian uses a small hatchet to aid in his survival. This book and 20+ books by the award winning author, Gary Paulsen, can be found in the GMS library.*

**Did you know there are more than 10,000 reading books in the GMS library? Check one out!**

## *Spotlight on GMS Faculty members who go the extra mile*

### **GMS TCB Award Winner: Samantha Sims**

Samantha Sims stepped forward and agreed to be the new Gladewater Middle School UIL Coordinator. GMS will be participating in 100 percent of the UIL events.



### **GMS TCB Award Winner: Candy Keller**

Candy Keller stepped forward and agreed to be the new Gladewater Middle School cheerleader sponsor. Everyone has such busy schedules; it took a dedicated teacher to agree to another commitment.



### *GMS Calendar of Events*

<p><i>Nov 28 Basketball GMS Lady Cubs vs. Gilmer</i></p> <p><i>Dec 5 Lady Cubs Basketball vs. Pittsburg</i></p> <p><i>Dec 8 GMS Choir / Pop Group Xmas Community Tour</i></p> <p><i>Dec 9 One Act Play Competition</i></p> <p><i>Dec 10 One Act Play Competition</i></p> <p><i>Dec 12 GMS Xmas concert @ GHS 7:00 p.m.</i></p> <p><i>Dec 13 Science benchmark test #3</i></p> <p><i>Dec 13 Math benchmark #3</i></p>	<p><i>Dec 14 GMS Choir &amp; Band Concert 2<sup>nd</sup> pd</i></p> <p><i>Dec 15 Early Release @ 1:25 p.m.</i></p> <p><i>Dec 16 Early Release @ 1:25 p.m.</i></p> <p><i>Dec 19-30 Xmas Holiday</i></p> <p><i>Jan 3 Students return from Xmas holiday break</i></p>
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