



PREP SCHOOL WEEKLY REPORT

SCHOOL YEAR 2019-20

Week 7 ~ 13 September 2019

Students: 741

3 rd = 40	6 th = 94	9 th = 98
4 th = 52	7 th = 87	10 th = 71
5 th = 57	8 th = 101	11 th = 86
		12 th = 55

Faculty/Staff: 67

Full Time Faculty = 54
Part Time Faculty = 4
Staff = 9

We Will Never Forget... -- Our 9/11 Patriot Day Remembrance is truly one of the most special days of the school year! Watching our students honor all of the Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Global War on Terror is a memory we will never forget.

- Our remembrance of the 18th Anniversary of 9/11 began with the uniting of every student and faculty member at Morning Formation for a touching ceremony. Our Middle and High School students took their places in our morning formation and were joined by our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders who were seated on the OCB steps. We also had many Law Enforcement Officers and members of the community join us for our opening ceremony.
- We were extremely honored to have SFC Daniel Metzdorf as our guest speaker for the Ceremony. SFC Metzdorf was wounded in Afghanistan by an Improvised Explosive Device that took his right leg and killed three of his Paratroopers. He later became the first above the knee amputee to re-enlist in the 82nd Airborne Division and went on to become a member of the famed Golden Knights, the US Army Parachute Team. SFC Metzdorf's words of inspiration set the tone for the day and were a sober reminder of all the men and women who have made so many sacrifices for our country. During his three day visit to campus, SFC Metzdorf spent several hours speaking to our students in a series of assemblies. By the end of his visit on Thursday, he had spoken to every student in grades 3 through 12. In each presentation, he shared with the audience how much he loved being a Soldier and relayed the importance of "Team" since he credits his "Team" for being able to pick up the pieces and help him become the person he is today. One thing is for sure, those who heard SFC Metzdorf speak will not forget his wit, humor, and truly impactful words. We look forward to welcoming him and his wife, Kristen, back to campus again soon!!
- We were so thrilled to also have our friends from NewDay USA join us for our Patriot Day Remembrance. We welcomed Mr. Rob Posner, CEO of NewDay USA, and 6 members of the New Day Team: Rear Admiral Thomas Lynch, Co-Chairman of the NewDay USA Foundation, Mr. Eugene Mizin, Sr. Vice President of Finance, Mr. Larry Silver, Sr. Vice President of Operations, Mr. Mic Feld, CEO of Feld Direct, Mr. Walt Rolph, NewDay USA Board of Advisors Member, and Dr. Xing Lui, Chief Operating Officer & Chief Risk Officer of NewDay USA. Mr. Posner announced that 5 more of our students - Ava Tyer (5th), Brandon Cobb (9th), Callie Cobb (6th), Shayla Davis (11th), and A'Kyrah Smith (11th) - have been awarded the Allen Posner Scholarship by the NewDay USA Foundation. Since 2013, the NewDay USA Foundation has been awarding scholarships to sons and daughters of our military veterans who have been significantly

disabled or who have passed away as a result of their military service. Due to the overwhelming generosity of the NewDay USA Foundation, the full tuition for a GMC Prep education has been awarded to a total of 22 Prep School students.

- The theme for this year's Patriot Day Essay was, "Why we put chalk to brick: An act of remembrance." Logan Mitchem (11th) was the High School winner and Danica Resha (7th) was the Middle School winner. These essays are truly the two most moving essays that have ever been submitted over the years.
- Another poignant moment occurred during the Ceremony when Alex French (10th), Alexis French (10th), and Madison French (7th), accompanied by LTG Caldwell and SFC Metzdorf, placed a wreath at our campus flagpole in memory of those who perished on 9/11 and in the ensuing War on Terror. Cadets Alex, Alexis, and Madison French did so in memory of their father, SSG Alex French, IV, who was killed in action September 30, 2009, in Afghanistan while a member of the 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment.
- At 8:46 am, the time the first plane struck the World Trade Center, students, faculty, and guests stood in tribute as members of the Georgia Army National Guard honored the memory of so many with a 21 Gun Salute. Madison Hartzog (11th) and Middle School Band Director, Charlie Harbor, then played Echoing Taps.
- For the 6th consecutive year, we took time during the day to pause and reflect as every student was provided with a list of names and asked to record them using chalk on the North and South Bricks. We never cease to be in awe of the thoughtful and creative ways that our students choose to honor all of those who we lost on 9/11/2001 and in the Global War on Terror. This year's memorial, once again, reminded all of us of our pledge to "never forget" and to continue to be guided by the principles of "Duty, Honor, Country."
- We would like to extend a huge "thank you" to all who played a role in making the day such a special one, but would be remiss if we did not recognize Scott Seagraves for his continued dedication to this event and all the ways he ensured that it was memorable for all.

Science with Skittles – This week two Chemistry classes and the Physics class (MAJ Teresa Barnes) partnered with MAJ Diane Deariso's 5th grade science classes to study the scientific method. In the lab, the students were testing the effects of temperature on the rate of dissolution of Skittles. High school students helped the 5th graders develop a hypothesis, conduct three trials of an experiment, and analyze the experiment. The high school students also helped the 5th grade students understand the difference in types of variables in an experiment (independent, dependent, and control). We are not sure who had more fun as the activity was enjoyed by 5th graders and High School students alike!

Dance the Flamenco—MAJ Isabel Valencia's Spanish II students travelled to Macon to attend a performance of the Flamenco Ballet. The students had a great time learning about the different cultures and the influence Spain had over the American territories in language, traditions and customs. Students also learned about traditional Spanish music and four of our students even got to be a part of the show by joining the dancers on stage and showing off their dance skills!!

Trigonometry Puzzlers – Students in MAJ Alisha Rochon's Honors PreCalculus class worked on a Transformations of Trigonometric Functions puzzle this week. They were given 25 graphs and equations on separate cards and had to match the graph to the correct equations. They were not allowed to use a calculator or paper and pencil so each student had to visualize the graph in their minds to pick the right equation. As a special challenge, students were provided one graph and equation from a previous unit and were asked to use logical arguments to match the challenge graph with its function. We are happy to report that all graphs and equations were matched with 100% accuracy!

Going In Circles – Students in MAJ Alisha Rochon's Honors Geometry classes are currently working their way through a unit of study that focuses on Circles. They previously learned how to draw a circle and make arcs using a straight edge and a Geometer's compass and are now applying these skills to accurately bisect a line segment, bisect an angle, and create 30 and 60 degree angles. The class discussed how Egyptians only had these tools to do all the Euclidean Geometry that we know about today. Later in the year, the students will expand their skill base to learn how to accurately draw squares, pentagons, hexagons, etc.

Life Lessons in Art –

- ❖ 5th grade Artists have learned about two Optical Artists, Bridget Riley and Victor Vasarely, while also practicing Op Art for their big Op Art Cube. This cube will showcase the different patterns and styles associated with Op Art. They have also started learning and working with Complimentary Colors. These colors, when paired next to each other, really do "compliment" each other and bring out the best in each other. They are taking that theme of "Bringing out the Best" (literally) in our art classes as they have started reading the book, *Wonder*. This book takes them on a journey through a 5th grader's life as he begins school for the first time in his life. He is very unique in appearance, which causes some negativity to arise, but his strong, kind disposition brings out the best in those around him – what a great lesson for all of us!
- ❖ 4th grade Artists will also read *Wonder* with "Radiating Kindness" as a focus. Students focused on the different types of lines and how you can build them up to create different patterns. 4th graders will create Kindness posters by choosing a 4 or 5 letter word that describes GMC. Students will begin their project by utilizing different shapes and will draw out their block letters in the style of their choosing. Next, they will use their previously learned Lines and Patterns to adorn the inside of their shapes. Students will study Analogous Colors, neighbors on the color wheel, and learn how these colors work together to form a community of color to brighten the world around them.
- ❖ 3rd grade Artists are taking an adventure in persistence and self-discovery as they learn how to trust themselves and the marks they are making in their Dot Day adventure. Students made color wheels and learned a few different color families. They have utilized Shape to create circles, experimented with Line, and learned to differentiate between Warm and Cool Colors.

Creations with Clay – Our senior art students (MAJ Paige Barlow) are the first group of students to have experienced working in clay and they absolutely love it! They learned the pinch method and made pinch pots and will soon experiment with applying glazes on the pinch pots to see how glazes turn out when they are fired in the kiln. They also learned how to make clay slabs to transfer a portrait of themselves to the clay slabs. A special thanks goes to the Bulldog Club

for the Amazon Gift Card which was used to purchase photo booth screens and photo lights. The students took photos of each other in front of the photo booth screens and then learned how to edit a self-portrait in Photoshop. They learned how to desaturate, posterize, and to reduce the levels of the image to look like a Pop Art Portrait before painting their clay portraits in the style of Pop Artist Andy Warhol.

Looking Ahead – Mark Your Calendars

- ❖ Friday, September 20 - The art students at GMC Prep are participating in the 3rd Annual International Art and Literacy Pinwheels for Peace project. If you are able, please make plans to visit the display that will be installed on the grounds of GMC between the OCB and Sibley Cone Library.