



# **GMMS Schools in the Spotlight**

**“We are Crew, not  
passengers.”**

May 7, 2025

On a boat, passengers are catered to. Their main purpose is to arrive at the destination with as little effort as possible. They are involved in activities, but not wholly engaged in the journey. Crew, on the other hand, are responsible for the entire journey. They are engrossed in the activities of the ship. In fact, without their individual and collaborative effort, the passage cannot happen. Crew reach the same destination as their passengers, but their experience is significantly richer.

Author Unknown

# What is Crew?

## Crew is two things:

1. It is a ***structure*** where a specific group of students meet weekly with a Crew leader to support and push each other in school and life.
2. It is a ***culture*** where to be "Crew" means to help each other and take responsibility for everyone's well-being around you. Think of a large rowboat with people rowing together.

# The Three Parts of a Crew Meeting

1. An ***opening or greeting*** that sets the tone for the meeting. Crews use a “talking piece” to ensure all crew members have a voice.
2. A ***meeting activity*** that reflects the theme for the month and is engaging.
3. A ***closing*** that acknowledges the work we did and what’s to come.



# Examples of Openings and Greetings



## Opening Circle Prompt: v Theme: **erance**

**ON THE WEATHER SCALE, HOW ARE YOU  
FEELING RIGHT NOW?**



tes **perseverance** to you?





# Examples of Meeting Activities



# Examples of Closings

## Closing

Debrief wrap up/reflection

---  
Advisory Di

- ★ What st
- ★ What c
- ★ How w
- ★ If you
- ★ differe
- ★ How c

*“Being a student is easy.  
Learning requires  
actual work.”*

# Let's try a Crew Meeting together

1. Opening Circle
2. Meeting Activity
3. Closing





Opening  
Circle  
Prompt of  
the Day

ON A SCALE OF CAT, HOW ARE  
YOU FEELING TODAY?



# Meeting Activity: Dance Telephone

- One person starts by creating and performing a short dance.
- Everyone faces the opposite direction and there is no talking.
- The next person in line turns to watch and tries to repeat the dance.
- The goal is to see how much the original dance changes as it's passed along.



# Closing Reflection

- What was challenging about this activity?
- Why was teamwork so important for this activity?
- How can we use what we learned through this experience in situations outside the game?
- How does small miscommunications lead to big misunderstandings?
- How does this activity connect to our monthly Crew theme?



# Voices from our Students

“I get to focus on getting to know other people and I get to make friends with more people. I am in Crew with people who weren’t my friends and now they are.”

“I wish we had it every day. It’s really fun. I consider them all my friends now.”

“It’s just fun.”



# Voices from our Families

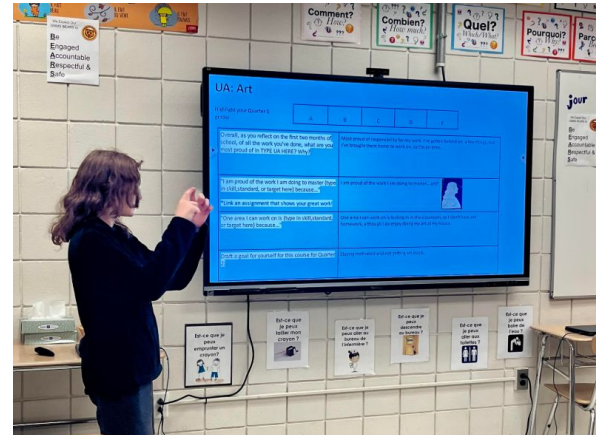
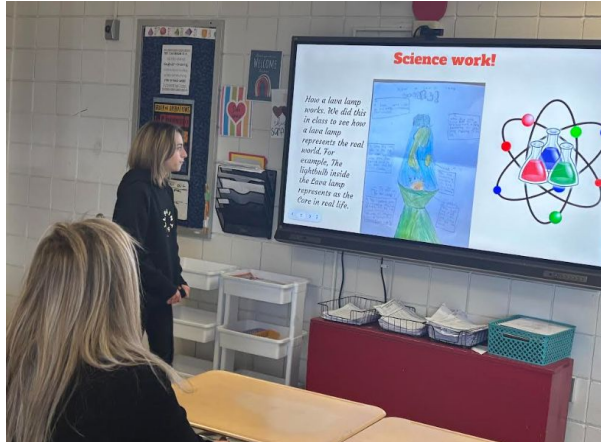
“Crew has been an incredible opportunity for my child to have that small class community to start his day every Thursday. Crew provides a safe space for him to connect with an adult, build relationships, and receive support with his studies, social, and emotional development.”

“Both of my kids have loved having Crew as part of their schedule. For my sixth grader in particular, having that class first during the first week or so of school really helped her understand her schedule and ease into the "newness" of middle school.”



# Voices from our Families

“I think the student-led conferences were a very valuable experience that Crew offered the students. I was incredibly impressed (and at times emotional) listening to her speak to her own strengths and goals as a student and human being. I could see how proud she was to share her "glows" - both grades and assignments. She even felt comfortable sharing parts of school that are difficult and not enjoyable for her.”



## Voices from our Staff

“CREW is a place where students can find connections in unexpected ways! Staff and students get to share more about who they are outside of the academic day.”

“As a teacher, it has been great to make a bond with students that goes a little deeper than grades and curriculum.”



Thank you!

Can we answer any questions?

