



**Parent Newsletter
Grafenwöhr Middle School
Unit 28130
APO, AE 09114**

September 14, 2007

A Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents,
Welcome to School Year 07-08 at Grafenwöhr Middle School! We have worked hard to make this year's back to school orientation an experience of positive learning quality. Our staff has been busy preparing curriculum materials to create a warm and safe environment. Thanks to DPW and PAE efforts, our building is cleaner and more attractive than ever. The bus office has diligently worked to take care of route assignments and bus passes. Our magnificent office staff has registered, filed, and prepared the paperwork in coordination with the Bavarian District Superintendent's office. AAFES is ready with lunch on a daily basis. Thousands of hands have contributed many hours of energy and creative expertise to make this school year the best ever.

We thank you for your continued support. We look forward to having you in our school as volunteers, PTS A, SAC, or volunteer support. We need you to read and review homework with your children daily. We need you to challenge our students' minds daily with math facts and shopping math. Every bit of practice helps. Every relevant connection reinforces learning.

In conjunction with the Community Strategic Plan (CSP), we at Grafenwöhr Middle School will continue to focus on reading, communication, and problem solving as they interface with standards delivery. Last year GMS made great strides with Read 180, Reading Counts, and math and science implementations. Our students reap the benefits of our staff's commitment to excellence.

We will continue to monitor and celebrate daily successes. At GMS, we teach more than the curriculum. Our student accomplishments make us proud. Come and visit with us. We're sure you'll like it here.

Welcome, and thank you for supporting us as we begin the business of learning for this school year!

Mary Zimmerman-Bayer
Principal

Dates to Remember

- ★ Sept. 20 Open House 6:00 to 8:00 pm
- ★ Sept. 28 Progress Reports mailed home
- ★ Oct. 8 Columbus Day No School
- ★ Oct. 10 & 11 Picture Days
- ★ Oct. 11 Family Portraits 6:00 to 8:00 pm
- ★ Oct. 12 Volksmarch (Tentative)
- ★ Oct. 19 Teacher Work Day No School

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, September 20th
from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

This will give you a chance
to meet with your
student's teachers.

We hope to see you all there.



Important Phone Numbers

- Attendance 475-9500** **Nurse's Office 475-9506** Grafms.principal@eu.dodea.edu
- Secretary 475-9504 Transportation 475-8954 [Http://www.graf-ms.eu.dodea.edu/](http://www.graf-ms.eu.dodea.edu/)
- Registrar 475-9546** **Weather Hotline 09641-83-7623**
- Fax # 475-9551** **CIV dial 09641-83 (last 4 digits)**

SILENT READING TIME

As part of the Grafenwoehr School Improvement Plan (SIP), we have established Silent Reading Time during Seminar from 2:30 until 3:00 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Students, teachers and all staff in our school will participate in this awareness of the importance of reading. We are asking that you come join us for this important activity. You are invited to join your child in Seminar to participate in this activity.



NURSE'S CORNER

Immunizations---

Many thanks to the parents who have sent in the updated shot records for their students.

We still have some students with missing updates of Tdap, Meningitis and/or Hepatitis A #1.

Please visit your local Health Clinics as soon as possible so that we can have 100% compliance for all students.

Just a reminder---Hepatitis A #2 is due 6 months from the date that HepA #1 was given.

Dressing for Winter Weather

As the cold winter weather approaches please make sure your child has proper warm winter gear, such as a winter coat, hat, and gloves. The students have to be outside during the day traveling from the cafeteria to the gym and other areas around the school.

Information About Communications

A newsletter such as this will be distributed bi-weekly to keep you informed of all school activities. We are able to route it via email once our electronic address book is updated. If you would like to receive this via email, please stop by the Front Office and fill out an email address form. The parent bulletin, calendar, and link to the school lunch menu will be accessible on our website. In the event you do not receive a mailing, our website is:
<http://www.graf-ms.eu.dodea.edu>

The "Life Skills Training" curriculum will be presented in 6th grade Group Interaction Skills classes. The curriculum was developed and researched at Cornell University. The Life Skills program has shown outstanding results in numerous studies over the past several years. The program has been selected as an exemplary, research-based program by:

- U.S. Department of Education
- American Medical Association
- American Psychological Association
- Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- White House Office of Drug Policy

The Life Skills program has five major components: 1) a health education component providing you with accurate information about the short- and long-term

consequences of substance use and other high risk behaviors; 2) a decision-making component designed to help you develop critical thinking and responsible decision making skills; 3) a component designed to help you learn techniques for coping with feelings like anxiety and anger; 4) a social skills component that helps you learn general social skills and assertiveness techniques, so you can effectively resist peer pressure; 5) a self-improvement project to help you learn techniques such as self-evaluation, goal-setting, record keeping, and self-reinforcement. This week students participate in an introduction to the class, a Pre-test, and Unit one, Self Image.

This terms homework for Parents of students enrolled in Mrs. Hill's class is to describe their student in one million words or less. It is due this term, the sooner, the better. The assignment will in no way affect a student's grade. Parents can send it to class with their student or email it to Mrs. Hill at: ellizabeth.hill@eu.dodea.edu.

Phone Messages

It is policy at Grafenwöhr Middle School for Parents to ensure that they make arrangements with their children beforehand for after school routines. We cannot give messages to students at the end of the day about walking home, riding the bus, after school clubs etc...

Patterns;

Now is the time to reestablish routines, sleeping patterns, and regular meals. Summer is over and adolescents need at least 9 hours of sleep each night. Please cut out the video and computer games and suggest a good book instead. Please create a study & homework area for your child.



Grafenwöhr Middle School PTSA NEWSLETTER

Dates To Remember

? Open House

September 20th, 6:00

? PTSA Meeting

September 26th,
3:15-4:00

? School Pictures

October 11th & 12th. 6th & 7th grades on the 11th and 8th grade & faculty on the 12th. Family pictures will be available in the evening on the 12th.

? Fall Book Fair

5-10 November

A Message From Your PTSA President

Welcome to the 07-08 school year! I have been overwhelmed with the level of response and enthusiasm from our parents this year. What a positive feeling to know that many parents are willing to go the extra mile and serve our teachers and students to ensure that this year will be the best possible.

The goal of our PTSA is to bring together parents, teachers, students, administrators and community members to help better the lives of our children.

Our first parent PTSA meeting will be held September 26th from. I hope that you will come and get acquainted with our board and the goals that we have outlined for this year. We look forward to serving you this upcoming year.

Thank you for your support,
Mikol Rosenbalm
GMS PTSA President

Help Turn Box Tops & Soup Labels Into CASH!!!

We are participating in 3 programs that will allow us to collect up to **\$32,000 and supplies** for our school!



**BOX TOPS
FOR
EDUCATION**

**TYSON
PROJECT A+**



We will receive **cash** for every Box Top, and Tyson Label collected!



**CAMBELL'S
LABELS FOR**

EDUCATION

We will receive points towards supplies for **every** Campbell's Label collected!

***PLUS The first student that turns in 400 box tops/labels will win an I Pod Shuffle!**

Please see attached flyer for full details of the programs

Membership Drive - Why Join The PTSA?

The number one reason to join the PTSA is to benefit your child. In doing so, you also help your school. But there are many more advantages Stay Connected—There is no better way to know what is happening in your school.

Speak Up Because the PTSA is a forum for exchanging ideas you are encouraged to make suggestions. PTSA can be a way for you to more effectively suggest change at your child's school.

Tap into a Network— Parenting is not easy - it helps to share ideas, concerns and experiences. PTSA functions are opportunities to meet other parents and teachers, build rapport and discuss any concerns.

When you join the **Grafenwöhr** PTSA you join a community that encourages student achievement and enriches the learning environment. We believe in building partnerships between our families and our school.

Together we can make a difference!

Please download the Membership Application Form and start your child's school year off knowing you are involved!

CINCH SACK

The Cinch Sacks have arrived! Your child can pick one up at school. They are \$12.50 and are big enough to tote all their school supplies and books to each class

DEPLOYMENT RESOURCES

Child Behavior Specialist-
Vilseck DSN 476-2760 & Graf DSN
475-6655

Support Group for Spouses of
Deployed Soldiers
For more info 476-3276 or 09662-
83-3276

Military Life Consultants
available for Soldiers and
Families
Please call 0152-029-34290 or
0173-184-7209 for more
information or to make an
appointment.

Civilian Marriage and Family
Therapist Available
Call Terry Sovinsky MSW LICSW at
DSN 476-2100 or CIV 09662-83-
2100 for a confidential
appointment.

DODDS-EUROPE

DEPLOYMENT RESOURCES

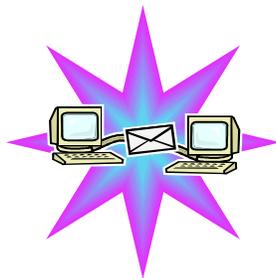
CYS now have a Child Behavior Specialist avail-
able to aid deployed families. Call CYS Central
Registration at Vilseck DSN 476-2760 or Graf
DSN:475-6655

27 September 10 am-1 pm at the Vilseck Chapel.
The featured speaker will be CH (MAJ) Darin
Nielsen, Family Life Center Chaplain. Attend
program and earn 25 miles for Operation Walk 4
Freedom. (free childcare and lunch) RSVP 21 Sep-
tember. For more info 476-3276 or 09662-83-3276

DOD has contracted to provide professional staff
for non-medical counseling to service members
and their families. Issues that can be addressed
include marriage and relationship issues, stress
and anxiety, depression, grief and loss, and
daily life issues. The services are free and no
records are kept. Consultants are readily avail-
able and scheduling an appointment in either
Graf or Vilseck is easy. Please call 0152-029-
34290 or 0173-184-7209 for more information or
make an appointment.

Licensed and confidential, not cost to duty
families. Over 2500 families served, covering
the Graf and Vilseck communities for the past
seven years. Call Terry Sovinsky MSW LICSW at
DSN 476-2100 or CIV 09662-83-2100 for a confi-
dential appointment.

KEEP IN TOUCH!



We know that so many of our families are coping with
the deployment of a parent down range. We would like
to know which of our students has a parent deployed.
Please fill out the form and have your child return
it to the office.

Student Name: _____ Grade _____

Deployed Parent's Name _____

E-mail address for deployed parent _____

If you would like to receive school communications via e-mail, please
provide us with a valid e-mail address.