

Dear GCVS Community:

Welcome to GCVS elementary level, where we strive to make learning engaging and fun for students in grades K-5! I consider myself extremely fortunate to serve as the Elementary Vice-Principal and to have this opportunity to be part of a team that consists of motivated and capable teachers and support staff, and parents and learning coaches who partner with us to offer innovative virtual courses and programs to support and educate our deserving student body. Our faculty and staff work hard to provide the most comprehensive and enjoyable educational experience for your student. Your student's education is our top priority and at the center of all of the decisions we make. We see it as crucial for our students to be connected to school through positive relationships with our professionals and with their peers. We further believe that every student can learn with the right set of opportunities and supports offered in a respectful environment that fosters engagement and learning.

The GCVS elementary curriculum guides high quality instruction that takes place each and every day in our Live traditional and small group virtual classes. Our curriculum is aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and the Common Core Standards, which promote 21st Century educational skills.

While we strive to provide the best possible education experience for our students, we also believe it is essential to promote positive social-emotional development as well. At the GCVS elementary level, we use the Responsive Classroom philosophy as a guide for our daily morning meetings with our students; and we are in the process of adopting the Second Step curriculum to foster an inclusive culture while teaching social-emotional competencies that help build positive relationships.

One of the most critical aspects of a student's success in school is attendance. This is why we ask our parents and learning coaches to collaborate with us to make every day of school essential to the long-term success of their student. At the GCVS elementary school we offer family engagement outreach programs to assist families in understanding how to better support daily instruction and attendance. This is also why we encourage parents and learning coaches to be school volunteers in classes, to participate in regular Learning Coach meetings offered by the Family Engagement team, to participate in school sponsored in-person events, to attend the Elementary Open House, and to participate in parent-teacher conferences held twice annually. These are all in addition to encouraging families to maintain open lines of communication throughout the year with our capable elementary team.

By forging strong home-school partnerships, celebrating our strengths, and continuing to strive to make our educational programs and services stronger for our students, the GCVS elementary level fosters a learning environment where our entire school community can succeed together.

It is a privilege to be able to work with all of you.

Respectfully,

Nicholas Young
Elementary Vice Principal, K-5