

238 Main Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Greenfield, MA 01301



Phone: 413-475-3879  
Fax: 413-475-3909

February 12, 2020

Dear Families:

Every year, each public school and school district in Massachusetts receives a report card. Just as your child's report card shows how they are doing in different subjects, the school's report card is designed to show families how our school is doing in different areas. A link to our school's report card is available at [report cards website](#).

The report card includes multiple measures of a school's performance – more than just MCAS scores. It represents a new way of looking at school performance, by providing information on student achievement, teacher qualifications, student learning opportunities, and more. Report cards are designed to be useful tools for everyone connected to our school. Families can use the information to have meaningful conversations with us about what the school is doing well and where there is room for improvement. Community and education leaders can use the information to better understand how to support students and our school.

You will notice on our report card that we have doubled in our compliance in meeting school improvement targets and we had 100% participation of ESL students in the State ACCESS testing. GCVS serves a unique population of students, many of whom have choiced out of their home districts for a variety of reasons. Taking students out of their safe home environments to do MCAS testing in public spaces can skew the results. To improve student performance in our school, we are instituting other forms of assessments next year that focus on student progress since moving from their brick and mortar schools, and other aspects of performance such as engagement in school and self-advocacy and self-esteem. We will be training teachers this Spring in implementing district-wide STAR assessments K-12; and also sending out a School Climate survey to capture other data on student and parent satisfaction with GCVS, student self-esteem and sense of safety at GCVS, and consistency of GCVS policies (expect this in early April of this year). We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school, through our parent councils, and through continued communication with teachers. We see parents as critical partners in the success of our students and school, and we are grateful for your continued support.

Finally, if your child attends a school that receives federal Title I funds, you also have the right to request the following information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether your child's teacher is licensed in the grade levels and subject areas they teach,
- Whether your child's teacher is teaching under an emergency license or waiver,
- The college degree and major of your child's teacher, and
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.
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If you have questions about our school's report card, would like to become involved in school improvement activities, or would like to request information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teacher, please contact Greg Runyan, Director of Teaching and Learning at [grunyan@gcvs.org](mailto:grunyan@gcvs.org), or Bob Kumin, Director of Student Services at [bkumin@gcvs.org](mailto:bkumin@gcvs.org). To see our district's report card or to search for other schools' report cards, visit [Report Cards website](#)

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*Pioneering Personalized Education in Massachusetts*

*GCVS does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, gender identity, disabilities, sexual orientation or any other protected class under the law.*

Sincerely,  
Robert Kumin, Director of Student Services