



**October 25, 2017**

To: Dr. Riggle, Superintendent  
Board of Education

Fr: Karen Geddeis

Re: Glenbrook Stories - November 13, 2017

## MEMO

For our November Glenbrook Stories segment for the 2017-18 school year, we will get to know the teachers and students involved in a new course at GBS called Geometry in Construction. Held every day, the course gets about 30 students working both inside the classroom on geometry and outside the classroom, building playhouses, picnic tables and walls that will soon become a family's Habitat for Humanity home.

The class is co-taught by Dan Leipert and Brian Schmalzer and is all about bridging math concepts to real-life applications. Students and teachers agree, this class is beneficial:

- "It's really rewarding to see how the math starts to resonate with the students as we start to build, adding authenticity and meaning to every lesson." (Leipert)
- "I like to see that 'lightbulb moment' when the students realize a geometric concept is not just something they do on a sheet of paper but something they use with skill on a job site." (Schmalzer)
- "It's interesting to learn geometric principals through real-life applications in construction, and it's for a great cause – we're giving back to the community in a big way." (Brayden Grant, freshman)
- "I just wanted to get better with math, and these are some of the best math grades I have ever gotten." (Madison Dekorsi, sophomore, no construction experience)

This story focuses on the themes of innovation, the road to success, and service learning.