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Aloha Fifth Grade Girl on the West Side of the Big Island – and Aloha to your Parents/Guardians,

This year we will once again offer the GEMS (Girls Exploring Math and Sciences) to the fifth grade girls of West Hawaii. We know these recent years have been difficult for you and your classmates and we hope you know we’ve all been thinking about you and your families during this time and have been wishing you the best.

Our GEMS Program will be smaller this year than in the past and it will be held outdoors at the Kahalu’u Manowai Site on Ali’i Drive just south of the Kahalu’u Beach Park on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

We will have many great hands-on Workshops and Exhibits for you to experience during the day. You will each get to attend three Workshops and visit as many Exhibits as you can fit into your day. The leaders of these Workshops and Exhibits are female adults in math/science related fields and high school girls who are very involved with math and science. (There’s a form with this letter for you to select six Workshops and we’ll work hard to give you three of your selections.)

This year each GEMS participant will get breakfast, lunch, a GEMS water bottle, and a GEMS sling bag. On the following Registration form you’ll see the meal plan and if you have an allergy, please let us know. If our “meal plan” will not work for you, we will have two choices: you can bring what works for you or you can let us know what we can do to accommodate your meal needs.

The BIG challenge this year is that since we have cut back on our total student numbers, we have made a “cap (top number)” for how many girls we can accept from each school. In other words, we can only accept the first applications from each school. Soooo, if you’re interested in attending, please fill out your application form as quickly as possible and ask your parent/guardian to sign and mail it in as quickly as possible. Your application must be one of the first from your school and postmarked no later than Friday, October 6, 2023.

We look forward to seeing you at GEMS 2023.

Thank you and Aloha,

Cindy Armer, GEMS Chairperson