



OCTOBER 2022

The Griswold Times

GRISWOLD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

Dear Griswold Public Schools:

The 2022-23 school year continues to be one of recognition and celebration for Griswold Public Schools. Our students continue to shine in academics and extra-curricular activities, including athletics. Last month, we recognized a number of GHS students who performed with distinction on either The College Board SAT and/or AP tests. A special congratulations to our Boys' Cross Country for just recently earning the SS State Championship. As you will see in this newsletter edition, there are many great things happening in Griswold Public Schools.

As we transition out of October and into November, please be sure to visit our website often, as we aim to keep you all informed. We have created a new feature on our homepage called "Griswold Engage," which is designed to be a less congested pathway to access essential information.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support and for moving **Griswold forward**.

Sincerely yours,

Sean P. McKenna

Superintendent of Schools

DISTRICT NEWS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During the Staff Professional Development Day on October 7, our Catalyst Team of Teachers K-12 convened in the GMS Learning Commons to learn from one another and collaborate with our Teaching, Learning and Innovation department about innovations in their classrooms that drive district goals forward.



Watch the PD Day video at

youtu.be/GwDHEyn1Pw

Learn more about "Griswold Forward," GPS' mission, vision, and goals, at griswold.k12.ct.us/district/mission

SUMMER LEARNING

Griswold is proud to be one of 19 school districts statewide that was highlighted by the CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) for our Summer Learning program!

Learn more at

capss.org/summer-learning

Let's Get Social:



Griswold Public Schools



@griswoldschools



griswoldpublicschools.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

GMS Step It UP! Fundraiser Day of Awesomeness

(Postponed from October 14)
Friday, November 4

GMS 7th & 8th Grade Fun Night

Friday, November 4, 5pm

GES PTO Family Movie Night - Charlie Brown Thanksgiving

Friday, November 4, 6pm

GMS Scholastic Book Fair

Week of November 7-10

NO SCHOOL: Staff PD Day

Tuesday, November 8

Election Day

Tuesday, November 8

GHS Cafeteria

HALF DAY: Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 9 & 10

GHS Family Financial Aid Night

Wednesday, November 9, 5pm

GES Book Fair

November 9 & 10, 1:15-6:30pm

GES Library Media Center

GMS Veterans Day Assembly

November 10

NO SCHOOL: Veterans Day

Friday, November 11

GHS Fall Drama: Play On!

November 11 & 12, 7pm

Tickets now on sale at

griswolddrama.com

Griswold Board of Edu. Meeting

Monday, November 14, 6pm

GMS Cafeteria

GMS Parent Coalition "What You Should Know About Vaping" Program

Tuesday, November 15, 5pm

District Partnership Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, November 17, Zoom

GHS Madrigal Dinner

Saturday, November 19, GHS Cafe

GHS Powder Puff Football Game

Monday, November 21

[Tellation for GMS 5th Graders](#)

Monday, November 21

Mr. GHS

Tuesday, November 22

HALF DAY: Thanksgiving Break

November 23

Booster Club Pasta Dinner

November 23, 6-9pm, French Club

Turkey Dip

November 24, 8am, French Club

Thanksgiving Day Football Game vs. Plainfield

November 24, 10am

GHS Football Field

NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Break

November 24 & 25

Griswold Board of Edu. Meeting

Monday, November 28, 6pm

GMS Cafeteria

GES PTO Family Movie Night - Polar Express

Friday, December 2, 6pm

GMS PTO Holiday Bazaar & Basket Raffle

Friday, December 9, 9am-4pm

NOW HIRING:

GPS is hiring for the following positions (as of 10/31/22):

- Language Arts Teacher (GMS)
- Wolverine Forward Before & After School Program Instructors
- Coaches: Indoor and Outdoor Track Assistant Coaches
- Substitutes: Custodians, as well as Teachers, Paraeducators, Cafe Service Providers, Health Assistants, and Nurses

Find all open positions at applitrack.com/griswold/onlineapp/

DIGITAL SIGN RIBBON CUTTING

GPS celebrated the new digital sign on Slater Avenue before the Homecoming Parade the afternoon of Friday, October 28.

[Watch the ribbon cutting on our YouTube channel HERE.](#)



BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

In need of before and/or after school care for your GES student? [Learn more or enroll your child in the Wolverines Forward Before & After School Program on our website.](#)

Benefits of the program include:

- Affordable and high-quality care
- Exciting Enrichments rotated monthly
- Academic Skill-building and homework help daily
- Fitness activities daily
- Low staff-to-student ratios



HOMEcoming

SPIRIT WEEK

GES and GMS had Red Ribbon Spirit Week October 24-28.

GMS's was a "This or That" Spirit Week, featuring Flannel or Floral, Holiday or Hawaiian, Baby or Boomer, and Dress to Rest or Dress to Impress. Then Friday, everyone wore red for the Red Ribbon Rally!

GES's Spirit Week included Comfy Cozy Day, Mismatch Day, Tie Dye Day, Sports Team Day, and wear green for GES Spirit Day on Friday!

GHS Spirit Week for Homecoming was a competition between each grade; at the close of the week, juniors won for participation. The week featured some classic days (Color Day, Pajama Day) and some new days (Adam Sandler Day, Country vs. Country Club). The week concluded with Movie Day, where each student should dress as characters from their class' movie theme (seniors *Toy Story*, junior *Cars*, Sophomores *Monsters Inc.*, Freshmen *Finding Nemo*).

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GMS RED RIBBON RALLY

Friday morning, GMS held an amazing Red Ribbon Rally; it's been 2 years since the Rally took place indoors! The theme was Celebrate Life - Live Drug Free. There were performances from the GMS band, select choir, youth cheerleaders, student speakers from GMS and GHS, and more.

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HOMEcoming PEP RALLY

Friday afternoon, the GHS Wolverines packed into the gymnasium for a spirited pep rally to celebrate student achievements and get excited for the football game. The GHS Chamber Choir sang the national anthem, all fall athletic and esports teams were introduced, the GHS Cheer squad performed, there was a cutthroat game of musical chairs, seniors passed on prized traditions to underclassmen, and of course, the homecoming court was announced.

Freshmen Lad & Lady: Jeff Robillard & Brooke Fontaine

Sophomore Lad & Lady: Matt Perea & Addyson Ryan

Junior Prince & Princess: Maxwell Brown & Julia Horn

Senior King & Queen: Jeff Souvenance & Alexis Johnson

[Watch the highlights reel on our Instagram!](#)

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HOMEcoming PARADE

The GHS Homecoming Parade included the Class Movie-themed Floats, Homecoming Court, the GHS Band, GHS Cheer, Griswold Youth Football and Cheerleading, Griz, and more! The seniors won for rally and float decorations. [Watch the parade video on our YouTube channel HERE.](#)

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HOMEcoming GAME

On Friday, Griswold took on Bacon Academy and were victorious (final score 34-22)! Did you miss the Homecoming football game? Watch it on the [Griswold Sports Network's YouTube channel HERE.](#)



Selections from Baby or Boomer Day at GMS, and Adam Sandler Day at GHS.



ATHLETICS

GRISWOLD BOOSTER CLUB ATHLETES OF THE WEEK:

September 26-30

Jacob Strain '23, Cross Country - Jacob continuously made great strides towards improving his 5k times throughout the season.

Emily Aviles '23, Volleyball - Senior libero had a combined 56 digs against Woodstock Academy and Bacon Academy.

October 3-7

Jack Collins '23, Cross Country - Jack continuously made improvements in each meet and was a key factor to the Griswold team finishing 4th at the Wickham Invitational.

Hannah Service '26, Soccer - Hannah has been a quiet leader on the team, working hard in both practice and gameplay. Each week, Hannah has continued to grow as keeper (goalie).

October 10-14

Laila Bakshalizadeh '23, Cross Country - Laila ran her best time of the season versus Bacon Academy.

Daniel Sims '23, Football - A senior and team captain, Danny is a consistent leader on the field and off. He is a lineman on both offense and defense, and had 8 unassisted tackles vs. East Lyme.

October 17-21

Gretta Dombkowski '24, Volleyball - 18 aces, 19 kills, and 14 digs this week. She also stepped it up in serve receive passing with the absence of Abby to help Griswold beat Waterford!

Evan Merchant '23, Soccer - Evan scored two key goals to push Griswold past Montville, defeating them 2-1 in an ECC divisional match-up on 10/21. Evan is a senior captain with 9 goals on the season so far (as of 10/24).

Follow [Griswold Booster Club on Facebook](#) for more Griswold sports info!



GSPN: GRISWOLD SPORTS NETWORK LIVE STREAMS

Subscribe to the [Griswold Sports Network's \(GSPN\) YouTube Channel](#) to watch live streamed home games.

ATHLETIC CALENDAR

Visit eccathletics.org/griswold for the GHS and GMS Sports schedules.

STATE & ECC CHAMPS!

Congratulations to the **Boys Cross Country** team; they are the [Class SS State Champions](#) as well as Division II ECC Champs and placed second overall in the ECC. The **Volleyball** team has also clinched the ECC Division II regular season champs title with their undefeated record, and are now playing in the ECC Division I tournament.

QVJC CHAMPS

Congratulations to the Middle School Cross Country teams for their performance at the QVJC Championships at Owen Bell Park on 10/27. The Griswold Boys XC team placed 1st and were regular season champs (Large Division). The Griswold Girls XC team placed 3rd.

DIG PINK!

Griswold Volleyball beat Old Lyme 3-0 at their Annual Dig Pink home game on October 24, putting their undefeated record at 17-0. The team raffled off baskets, held a bake sale, and raised awareness/funds for breast cancer.

WINTER SPORTS REGISTRATIONS are now available on [FamilyID.com](http://familyid.com) (familyid.com/organizations/griswold-public-schools-athletics). Select WINTER 2022-2023 Sports Registrations at GHS or GMS. More instructions are available on the [GHS Athletics web page](#).



GHS NEWS

COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR

On October 4, representatives from dozens of colleges, universities, branches of the military, and employers visited Griswold High School for a College & Career Fair with juniors and seniors; some families joined immediately after school. Students left with information on the many post-secondary opportunities they could pursue after graduation.



WELCOME FUTURE WOLVERINES

On October 12, GHS hosted 8th graders from GMS and neighboring towns to learn more about what it's like to be a Wolverine! Many of our student leaders helped welcome students, give tours, perform music, show their technical skills, and discuss our programs and athletic offerings on a panel.



MEN'S CHOIR

On October 1, the GHS men's choir, The Testostertones, sang at the UCONN Men's Choir Festival with 80 other high school and college singers from around the state. The men's choir consists of Evan Merchant, Jacob Hamel, Steven Johnson, Ayden Rourke, Kenny Kelm, Sam Martin, Brenden Hopkins, and Jon Mihalides.



FEED GRIZ

GHS celebrated 56 students who completed community service in September, and then another 78 students for October hours. A new "Feed Griz" display case serves as a visual representation of how much they are positively contributing to our community.



MANUFACTURE YOUR FUTURE

Students in the Advanced Manufacturing class attended a "Manufacture Your Future" event at Quinebaug Valley Community College on October 28. [Learn more about this course and the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board's Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative at GHS HERE.](#)

AWARDS & HONORS

FAFSA COACHES

Congratulations to 2021-2022 FAFSA Coaches - Elaine Taylor, Kiley Flynn, Melissa Wooten, Laureen Anthony and Caitlin Pichette! They were recognized by the BOE this week for meeting our FAFSA goal last school year! Great job!

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY OFFICERS

GHS's NHS voted for their 2022-2023 officers: President: Lucas Strain, Vice-President: Summer Milette, Secretary: Laila Bakhshalizadeh, Treasurer: Amanda Wrobel

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS

International exchange students who are spending a year at Griswold High School were recently interviewed by Cate Steel on her program, "Stories Worth Telling."

Bea, an Italian exchange student, discusses her love for her classes, experiencing new things like lunch at school, and fulfilling her American dream of becoming a cheerleader. Watch her interview on [YouTube HERE.](#)

Maria, an exchange student from Spain, discusses her high school experience compared to that in Spain and France. She's loved her classes, especially jewelry making, as well as the opportunity to join the cheerleading team. She's been getting used to an American meal schedule, rotating classes, and the quiet of Griswold compared to European cities. Watch her interview on [YouTube HERE.](#)

PRINCIPAL PALONEN'S WEEKLY MEMOS

Are you receiving Principal Palonen's weekly memos via email on Fridays? If not, please contact the GHS Main Office at 860-376-7640.

GMS NEWS

INTERNET SAFETY PROGRAM

At the October 18 GMS Parent Coalition meeting, CT State Trooper Katharine Cummings presented about Internet Safety and offered valuable suggestions regarding social media, gaming, etc. for tweens and teens.

Special thanks to Griswold PRIDE's Miranda Mahoney for collaborating to bring this essential programming to our community.

In November, the group will host **"What you Should Know about Youth Vaping"** with Yale School of Medicine Senior Research Assistant, Tricia Dahl. This will take place on **Tuesday, November 15 at 5pm** at Griswold Middle School.

The new GMS Parent Coalition meets once a month with a different topic and time for discussion. This is meant to be a way for school administration and parents to become informed about the community and issues that face middle school students, such as anxiety, vaping, bullying, social media, and more.

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BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair will run from November 7-11 during all lunch waves and parent teacher conferences. Check out the online catalog to place an order if you can't make it in person, or set up an eWallet for child on [GMS's Scholastic Book Fair Webpage](#).

eWallets are a safe way to give your child money to spend at the Fair. You set it up and purchase funds with your debit or credit card, and they have the funds waiting for them at the register when they check out at the Fair.

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DRUG FREE DOORS

Congratulations to Mr. Dyer (Most Creative), Mr. Scholl (Best in Theme), and Mrs. Smith's (Best Overall) CREWs for winning the Red Ribbon Drug Free Door decorating contest!

**CREW (Caring, Respectful, Empowered Wolverines) is GMS's Social-Emotional Learning program for all students. CREW meets weekly throughout the school year to build relationships and create a supportive school community.*

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GMS Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

The GMS PTO is seeking donations and/or parent volunteers to help with the following:

- Chaperones for the Step It UP! Fundraiser's Day of Awesomeness on 11/4
- Chaperones for upcoming Fun Nights and donations of individually packaged food & drinks
- The GMS PTO is serving dinner to the teachers on November 9 while they spend their evening at conferences. Please help by contributing an item for the dessert table by [singing up here](#).
- Vendors for the **Holiday Bazaar and Basket Raffle** on Saturday, December 3 from 9am-4pm (email Sheri at sheristg@hotmail.com for more info)
- Fundraising for a new, age-appropriate Fitness Challenge Course on the playground as well as contributing to class field trips and enrichment materials

Get involved! Learn more about the [GMS PTO here](#).

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GMS NOW

Get daily updates from Griswold Middle School on the [GMS NOW Blog!](#)



INKTOBER

Students and staff took part in Inktober all month long. One-word prompts such as scallop, flame, trip, etc. were provided to inspire artists to create a piece of work that is displayed in the halls of GMS.

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WEAR PINK DAY

October 6, staff and students wore pink and each donated \$1 to benefit the American Cancer Society.



GES NEWS

BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Griswold Elementary School on November 9th & 10th from 1:15-6:30pm at the Griswold Elementary School Library Media Center.

Visit the [GES Book Fair webpage](#) to learn more and get started with eWallet and online shopping. Catch you at the Fair!



KINDNESS IN THE CLASSROOM

At the October 11 Board of Education Meeting, Superintendent McKenna recognized Griswold Elementary School faculty for the implementation of "Kindness in the Classroom," a new Social Emotional Learning program.

GRADE LEVEL FUNDRAISER

There is currently a grade level fundraiser taking place at GES. The grade that collects and raises the most money will receive an Ice Cream Social from the PTO!



SPOOKY DECORATIONS

A special thank you to Mrs. Daniluk, Mrs. Bechtold, and Ms. Richards for decorating the main hallway for Halloween! Students were very surprised when they returned to school from the weekend. Classes stopped by throughout the week to take pictures.



PRESCHOOL

The GPS website's preschool section is updated! [Check it out for more information.](#)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Griswold High School recently sent out all the yearbooks we have in possession from 1937 (the year the original GHS building at 211 Slater Avenue, now serving as the Middle School, opened) through 2016 to be scanned and digitized. [Check them out on Classmates.com!](#)

Top photo: The "pep squad" at the 1971 Homecoming Pep Rally. This photo was captioned "Where, oh where, are the silly, silly sophomores?"



Nearly 50 years later, today's GHS cheerleading squad continues this tradition at the end of the GHS Homecoming Pep Rally. In the photo below, the 2023 seniors approach their class after visiting the freshmen, [silly] sophomores, and juniors and dropping off members of their squad with their class.



(Source: GHS 1972 Yearbook, GHS Learning Commons & [Classmates.com](#))



GRISWOLD FORWARD

OUR MISSION

Griswold Public Schools educates for excellence by ensuring our students are connected, by nurturing individual student talents, and by fostering a future-focused mindset.

OUR VISION

Graduates of Griswold Public Schools journey into the future as engaged citizens, effective communicators, critical thinkers, and resilient problem solvers.

DISTRICT GOALS

District Goal #1: Social and Emotional Learning

Griswold Public Schools commits to the advancement of social and emotional competencies in inclusive and equitable learning environments so that all of our students can grow and thrive.

District Goal #2: Blended and Personalized Learning

Griswold Public Schools will focus on promoting the implementation and expansion of Blended and Personalized Learning in all PreK-12 learning environments.

District Goal #3: Research-Based Instruction

Griswold Public Schools will explore and implement research-based instruction to improve outcomes for all Griswold students.