

GRCHS ISP Newsletter Fall 2023

Updates for Fall

We would like to take a moment and thank you for all your support as we guide students here at GRCHS. We feel blessed by the community that surrounds ISP! This past week was one of Thanksgiving and we are now turning our attention to finishing the semester well and preparing for Christmas break and celebrations.



After a summer away, it is wonderful to be with your sons and daughters. We welcomed 21 new students for Fall 2023 and have enjoyed community events, sports, new classes, and many opportunities for learning and growing as a community. Please read more to hear all about the start to our 2023-2024 school year!

August Featured New Student Orientation



GRCS welcomed 21 new students for the 2023-2024 school year. Our new students joined us from China, Spain, Mongolia, South Korea, Ukraine, Germany, and Italy.

All new students participated in two days of orientation where they learned about our school, got set-up for classes, and met students who would guide them through those first few days.

New Student Orientation

Students enjoyed a scavenger hunt to find different places around the school. New ISP students are paired with a Global Ambassador or Student Congress Member and race to find the items on their list. This helps students build relationships and find their way around our building!



Culture Lab (for all new ISP students)

Mrs. Rozema continues to engage students through wonderful English Lab opportunities. During this important class, Mrs. Rozema focuses on teaching students about academic integrity, considering inclusive education, taking time for holiday and birthday celebrations, providing academic support, and building community.



In anticipation of the Mary Poppins musical Mrs. Rozema coordinated a behind-the-scenes tour of the stage and sets.
(Above)

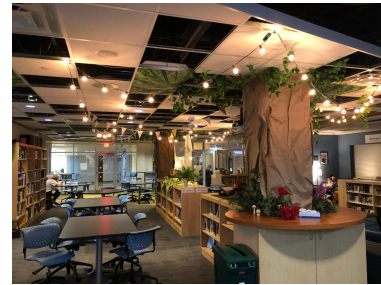
Students enjoying a word game to start Culture Lab. (Below)



Students and staff celebrated heroes during Harvest Fest at school. Our Dean of Students, Ms. Marble dressed as Snow White and took pictures with students in Culture Lab.



Spaces around school got into the Harvest Fest mood by decorating along a theme. Our Learning Commons became the Shire from Lord of the Rings.



In teams, students carved their own pumpkins and then teachers gave awards!

Fall Highlights



Homecoming PreParty

For the first time this fall, the Hospitality and Inclusion Branch of Student Congress hosted a Homecoming PreParty. The party was designed to bring together new students (ISP and transfer students) before the Homecoming dance. Students ate dinner and enjoyed games before walking over to the dance together.

Pictured: Glory Afolabi, Bei Zhang, Mergen Shinetulga, Jiwon Mun, Yeon Woo Park, Marc Maurus, Xiaoyu Zhu, Anqi Pan, Seyun Kim



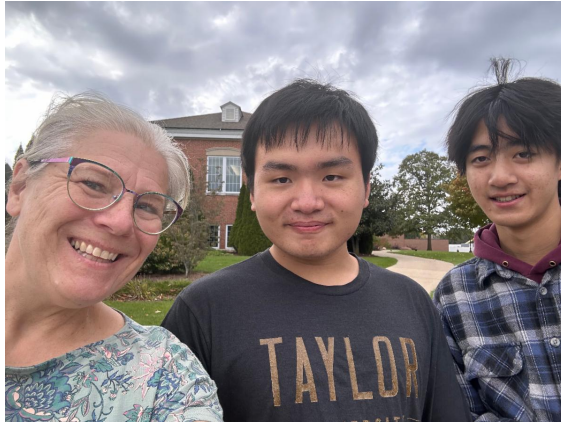
Homecoming Fun

Students coordinated as friend groups and took pictures around downtown Grand Rapids. Many ate downtown before attending the dance held at the high school.

The dance included music, games, and photo booths. This year, to celebrate the 100 year of Grand Rapids Christian every grade was invited to attend the Homecoming dance (9-12 grade); the start of a new tradition!

College Visit trip with Mrs. Parker

Mrs. Parker took students on a multi-day trip toward Chicago to visit schools. She has also worked with many of our students this fall on test prep and tutoring in math and science! Mrs. Parker reunited with Bo An and Yile Guo (China, class of 2023) at Taylor University. (Below)



Guizheng Weng (Class of 2024) meets up with his friend Luke Selfe (Class of 2023) at Wheaton College.



I (Mrs. Watson) had the opportunity to join a group of students as they toured Michigan State University (Right). While there, I got to see Gabriel Moraes (Brazil, class of 2023) and Quynh Anh Nguyen (Vietnam, class of 2023). They are loving MSU!



College Application Celebration:

This fall we held a chapel to celebrate the hard work and dedication of teachers and students. Teachers and counselors write over 100 recommendation letters each year as students apply to university. This chapel honored their hard work and highlighted student essays that creatively told their story. We look forward to hearing where our seniors will be continuing their journey after GRCHS!

Clubs and Activities



Club Fest is a great way to get to know about all the activities available at GRCS. Approximately 25 different clubs have tables



set up with information. Students can visit and sign up for a club that interests them!

Students enjoy a long lunch and sunshine while they ask questions at the ClubFest tables. Representatives from all the clubs are available to give information and promote their activities.



Global Ambassador Club provides opportunities for students to learn about and lean into culture through intentional conversations and celebrations.

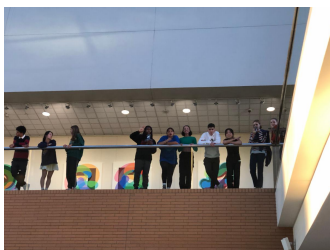


Global Ambassadors enjoys a "Friendsgiving" meal (a meal to spend with friends before the Thanksgiving holiday break). Many students brought their favorite foods to enjoy.



There was a wide array of foods to share! While students were eating they enjoyed playing board games together.

Global Ambassador Art Prize Outing



Students explore many of the downtown buildings where art is displayed. (Above)

The group gathers for a stop at a local Boba shop. (Below)



Syann, Elise, Eunbin, and Lia enjoy a moment together at the Boba shop. (Above)

Abimael and Nehemiah take a break. (Below)



Nahemiah enjoys his first taste of Boba with Abimael. (Above)

Global Ambassador leaders Ella and Elyse enjoy this fun outing too. (Below)



Fall Sports and Club Updates

Dimas Perez has been a part of our varsity boys soccer team. This team has had an amazing season and are ranked number one in the state!



Yunzhuo Yu, Taeuk Kwon, Zizheng Ye, and Aisha Sun are part of Robotics club. They compete in weekend tournaments throughout late fall and into spring.



Chess Club is a popular afternoon club. En Lin is challenging a fellow student. (Below)

Jia Yin (Sarah) Wang was a celebrated senior this year on the GRCHS swim team!



Drumline is a popular musical activity. These students perform at athletic events and for our school community. The students featured below, including Yeon Woo Park, are sharing their talents during Community Time.



Other clubs and sports our students participate in include: Art Club, Youth in Government, National Honor Society, and a favorite-Ping Pong Club!





We had three ISP students join the men's tennis teams this fall. Pictured above is Seyun Kim, third from the left on the bottom row.



Ludovica Montanino and Zion Kwon both performed in our recent musical- Mary Poppins. Anastasiia Kuprina and Mina Hortig both helped build the amazing sets and Jiayin Wang helped with makeup! (Pictured above is Ludovica in her Bird Woman costume from the show)



EcoClub is designed to teach students about the environment and provide opportunities both in our school's greenhouse and around Grand Rapids to



Adventure Club is a favorite of many of our students. The pictures above feature two fall backpacking trips. Anastasiia Kuprina and Yunzhuo Yu both braved a multi-mile overnight trip! Both Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Watson got to join on one of these trips.



Music at GRCHS: Music is a large part of our community. Students can join Choir, Band, Orchestra, Percussion, or participate in our smaller Jazz Band or Drumline Ensembles. (The picture on the left is our Orchestra performing for our Thanksgiving chapel.)

ISP Welcomes New Host Families

We are so grateful for the families who host our students, providing love, care, guidance, and accountability. Host families are one of the foundational pieces to our program and we are excited to welcome 10 new families into our community!

[ISP Host Family Info](#)



Thank you for being an integral part of our GRCS family! If you know someone who can imagine becoming a part of our community, has questions, or wants to apply, please visit our website or contact Joelle Williams at jwilliams@grcs.org.

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