

# GVMS NEWS



VOLUME 2. ISSUE 2

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

## LIVING IN THE MOMENT



Maddy June/ GVMS News

From left to right: Student Council members Gracy Whiting, Morgan Hoyt, Lucas Miller, Brooklyn Holtz, Mr. James, Terran Hughley, Natalie Cortez, and Aila Griffin celebrate their accomplishment of hosting Grand Valley Middle School's Winter Wonderland Dance on February 16th. See page 15 for more photos.

## The Great White Beard

By Natalie Cortez

Students have had numerous times when they come back from break and notice something new about their teachers here at GVMS, but this transformation had everyone's mouth on the floor. Eighth grade science and seventh grade math teacher Tom Ferro, shocked the students with his new look. Those who have seen him in the halls or have a class with him have noticed his beard.

Last I checked, it wasn't "Don't shave December." Although he claims, he was too lazy to shave it off.

"Then during winter break, I was curious how the beard would look if I grew it out," Ferro said.

Seventh grader Chloe Neil from his CREW claimed that he looks like Santa, and she doesn't like it.

BEARD, 11

## New T.A.R. Program

By Angelica Romo Ruiz

The new T.A.R program, standing for "Tardy Attendance Recovery" has sparked curiosity within the student body. T.A.R was not created as a replacement for homework help or a punishment. Instead, it should be treated as an opportunity.

Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Dana Speakman helped get the program started in collaboration with English Language Arts teacher, Lisa Johnson.

"[T.A.R is] an opportunity for the students," Speakman said.

This program is an effective way for students to receive extra help, and improve low grades.

"Most of the students actually use the extra time... several students improved their grades from first to second quarter; however, we noticed that some of the kids in T.A.R weren't taking Success time [seriously]," Speakman said.

To qualify for the program a student must have over ten unexcused absences according to the requirements in the state of Colorado.

"If they reach that ten day then they have to make up absences," Speakman said.

T.A.R., 19

# Upcoming Events

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## STORY IDEAS

Please email your story ideas to  
gvmsnews@garfield16.org



## GVMS News

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## GVMS Important Dates

### *Saturday, Febraury 24th*

- Wrestling @ Gypsum Middle School

### *Wednesday, Febraury 28th*

- Basalt Dual @ Basalt High School

### *Saturday, March 2nd*

- PEG League Tournament @ Basalt Middle School

### *Tuesday, March 5th*

- National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony

### *Wednesday, March 6th*

- Riverside Tri (Riverside/GV/Rifle)

### *Thursday, March 7th*

- Band/ Choir/ Ukulele Concert

### *Friday, March 8th*

- End of 3rd Quarter

### *Saturday, March 9th*

- Delta Wrestling Tournament @ Delta Middle School

### *Wednesday, March 13th*

- Glenwood Dual @ Grand Valley Middle School

### *Tuesday, March 18th - Friday, March 22nd*

- Spring Break

### *Tuesday, March 26th*

- Track Practice begins

### *Tuesday, April 22nd*

- Last day to buy a GVMS Yearbook



# Features

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## Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Rath

By Terran Hughley

Many teachers joined GVMS this school year. One of those teachers is Sarah Rath, who is teaching seventh grade Science. Rath is in her third year of teaching.

When Rath started her journey at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, she wasn't planning on becoming a teacher.

"When I was younger, I never thought that I would be a teacher. My older sister was a teacher, and I would make fun of her," she said. "But then in college, I had a job where I had to work with kids, and I realized it was actually really fun. So I changed my major from Biology to Biology and teaching."

Rath's old school in Grand Junction was closed at the end of last year. So, she had to look to teach at a new school.

"[Teaching] definitely keeps you on your toes," she said.

Seventh grader Paysli Dowd really enjoys science class this year.

"She is a good teacher, and she makes me laugh," Dowd said.

Teaching might be her career, but she loves to have good quality time with her friends.

"I really like to hangout with friends. We like to go hiking and have movie marathons," Rath said.

Rath's favorite movie is "The Princess Bride" or "Anchorman," and her favorite trail to hike is Blue Lakes Trail in the San Juan Mountain range near Ouray, Colorado.

"I also really like taking care of my plants."

She does not have a favorite plant, but she loves dieffenbachias, calatheas, and monstera.

Rath was born January 26th, 1999, and she grew up in Canton, South Dakota.

"I moved [to Colorado] because I wanted a change of scenery and a sense of adventure," she said.



Terran Hughley/ GVMS News

Ms. Rath in her classroom in Green Hall.

Not only does Rath enjoy teaching and adventure, she also enjoys singing. Music has always been a part of Rath's life.

"I've always been a singer," Rath said. "My family was really into music."

Rath has three older siblings. Her sister Kristin is a middle school STEM teacher, her brother Joe is a med student, and her other brother Isaac is a computer software engineer.

There's not enough time in the day for teachers to plan lessons, grade, and have quality time with their family and friends.

Rath has a lot on her plate, but she does get it done. "She's amazing," Paysli said.



# Staff Spotlight: Mr. Ari



Provided

**Mr. Ari eating a bagel sandwich on a snowy day.**

*By Jared Valle*

Who is Ari Philipson? Some people are still curious about who he is. Mr. Ari is the Outdoor Education Coordinator for Garfield 16 School District.

“This means that I support and help plan field trips for schools, guest teach lessons at different grades related to the outdoors, manage some school facilities like the greenhouse and challenge course, and work with teachers, communities, and nonprofits to get more people enjoying nature,” he said.

He works closely with P.E. teacher David Spies.

“Ari has been and continues to be a valuable asset to the district. He has had a huge impact on the outdoor ed program, and district wide outdoor programs for families and students alike,” Spies said. “He is compassionate, knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and has experience in teaching which benefits everyone around him. I am grateful for his assistance, planning, resource management, effort, and follow through. He also gets kids on the rope course and participates in the training and maintenance of the course. In short, Ari is Awesome.”

Some people don't like to go outdoors and say it's not important, but Philipson says otherwise.

“The more confident and comfortable we are to explore outside, the more connected we are to nature. The outdoors are also a free place for us to have fun with friends and family. So I want students to learn why the outdoors are important to them so that they can explore, have fun and connect no matter where their favorite outdoor space might be,” he said.

Philipson, as you can tell, really enjoys the outdoors.

“I enjoy a lot of things about the outdoors, but I love seeing animals and moving myself through big landscapes,” he said. “My favorite activities are things like mountain biking, rafting and snowboarding. But I also enjoy fishing, hiking, archery and rock climbing. I'm also learning to paint watercolor landscapes so that's a fun new challenge.”



# Meet Your Student Council

By Kaydance Reynolds

Photos by Kristie Radel

## STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT MORGAN HOYT

### 1. How long have you been horseback riding? What is the name of your horse?

I have been riding since I was about 5. I didn't start riding competitively until I was 10. My horse's name is Speed.

### 2. Why did you want to be a part of GVMS Student Council?

I wanted to be in the student council because I wanted to make a difference in the school.

### 3. What is it like being GVMS Student Council President?

Being president is very fun, but it has its challenges. I have a lot of duties and sometimes it can be stressful.

### 4. What are your job responsibilities?

I run the meetings. I also make sure that everyone's job is getting done. I have to make sure that people are doing what they are supposed to.

### 5. What do you enjoy about being on the student council?

I enjoy being able to hear student ideas and being able to learn more about students.

### 6. What is the purpose of your weekly student council meetings? How often do you meet?

We meet weekly, and the purpose of our meetings is to plan and talk about things that we can change or do.

## STUDENT COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT HAYDEN SKEEN

### 1. What do you want to be when you grow up? Why?

Dental hygienist, because me and my mom made a plan for my life when I was in 5th grade, and that was the career path I landed on.

### 2. Why did you want to be a part of GVMS Student Council?

I wanted to be part of student council as a way to involve myself with the school and the students.

### 3. What is it like being GVMS Student Council Vice President?

Being the vice president of student council can be easy but it can also be challenging at times. Some tasks are easier and some aren't.

### 4. What are your job responsibilities?

My responsibilities are to do the tasks given to me by the president, to fill in for any missing members of the council if they are absent, and I'm also in charge of handling committees.

### 5. What do you enjoy about being on the student council?

I enjoy being able to have a say in what we do at the school, and having the opportunity to have people look up to me.

**STUDENT COUNCIL**  
from page 5

**STUDENT COUNCIL SECRETARY AILA GRIFFIN**



- 1. What is your favorite movie?**  
“How to Train Your Dragon.”
- 2. Why did you want to be a part of GVMS Student Council?**  
I wanted to be a part of student council to help better the school.
- 3. What is it like being GVMS Student Council Secretary?**  
Being GVMS Student Council Secretary is an important part of student council that requires much attention to what is happening in a meeting.
- 4. What are your job responsibilities?**  
My job responsibilities are to take the minutes to the meeting that are held during the week.
- 5. What do you enjoy about being on the student council?**  
I enjoy [being] able to help plan what is happening in the school.

**STUDENT COUNCIL TREASURER GRACY WHITING**

- 1. What is your favorite sport? Why?**  
Softball or soccer because it is so fun, and I'm good at both.
- 2. Why did you want to be a part of GVMS Student Council?**  
Because it looked like a good opportunity, and it looked like fun.
- 3. What is it like being GVMS Student Council Treasurer?**  
It is pretty awesome.
- 4. What are your job responsibilities?**  
I take care of fundraisers and keep track of the student council budget.
- 5. What do you enjoy about being on the student council?**  
The people are awesome.



**STUDENT COUNCIL**

from page 6

**STUDENT COUNCIL 6TH GRADE REPRESENTATIVE BROOKLYN HOLTZ****1. Do you like playing the saxophone or clarinet better? Why?**

I prefer clarinet because I've always been better at it.

**2. Why did you want to be a part of GVMS Student Council?**

I wanted to be on student council because it helped show me how to be a good representation to my grade.

**3. What is it like being GVMS Student Council 6th Grade Representative?**

It's tough knowing I could get kicked off of student council for bad grades.

**4. What are your job responsibilities?**

My main job is to make sure 6th graders are responsible and kind to each other.

**5. What do you enjoy about being on the student council?**

I enjoy hanging out with everyone and making them laugh.

**STUDENT COUNCIL 6TH GRADE REPRESENTATIVE DANIEL CHAVEZ GUERRA****1. What is your dream job? Why?**

My dream job is to be an animator. The reason is because I think it's cool.

**2. Why did you want to be a part of GVMS Student Council?**

I wanted to be a part of student council because in 5th grade I got in a lot of trouble, but this year I wanted to change, so that's why being a representative is cool.

**3. What is it like being GVMS Student Council 6th Grade Representative?**

I get to represent my grade and people can come to talk to me if they need anything.

**4. What are your job responsibilities?**

My job is to represent my school and grade.

**5. What do you enjoy about being on the student council?**

I enjoy student council because I get privileges, but I have to be responsible.

**6. Is there anything else GVMS staff and students should know about student council?**

Students should know that student council is there to represent their school and be there for them.





**STUDENT COUNCIL**  
from page 7

**STUDENT COUNCIL 7TH GRADE REPRESENTATIVE TERRAN HUGHLEY**



- 1. What is your favorite hiking trail?**  
My favorite hiking trail is Devil's Kitchen. It is near the east entrance to the Colorado National Monument in Grand Junction.
- 2. Why did you want to be a part of GVMS Student Council?**  
I wanted to be a part of student council beacuase it sounded like a fun way to help my school.
- 3. What is it like being GVMS Student Council 7th Grade Representative?**  
It is kinda fun. A lot of people come to me for stuff.
- 4. What are your job responsibilities?**  
My responsibilities are to help the 7th graders and bring good ideas to student council.

- 5. What do you enjoy about being on the student council?**  
I enjoy going to the meetings. They are a lot of fun.
- 6. Is there anything else GVMS staff and students should know about student council?**  
They should know that student council can be really hard but also really fun.

**STUDENT COUNCIL 7TH GRADE REPRESENTATIVE LUCAS MILLER**

- 1. What are your hobbies and interests?**  
Some of my hobbies are spending time with my family and animation.
- 2. Why did you want to be a part of GVMS Student Council?**  
I joined the student council because I believed I could bring and add ideas to the table.
- 3. What is it like being GVMS Student Council 7th Grade Representative?**  
You're still a student, but you have to think about the students and decisions, and you have a little extra responsibility on your back.
- 4. What are your job responsibilities?**  
My job is to make decisions representing the 7th graders
- 5. What do you enjoy about being on the student council?**  
Being on the student council, I like to feel like I'm making a difference in the school.
- 6. Is there anything else GVMS staff and students should know about student council?**  
The student council's job is to come up with ideas to benefit our school, then decide whether or not it will be implemented.



**STUDENT COUNCIL**

from page 8

**STUDENT COUNCIL 8TH GRADE REPRESENTATIVE NATALIE CORTEZ****1. If you could meet a famous person, who would it be? Why?**

If I could meet a famous person, I would want to meet Bruno Mars because he is my favorite singer, and I enjoy his music.

**2. Why did you want to be a part of GVMS Student Council?**

I wanted to help my school, and I wanted to be included in as much as I could. I also thought it would help me keep my grades up and not be lazy.

**3. What is it like being GVMS Student Council 8th Grade Representative?**

Being a GVMS Student Council member is pretty nice. We all get along pretty well, and we all like the student council.

**4. What are your job responsibilities?**

I help as much as I can with anything such as ideas, work, projects, assembly, but my main job is to represent GVMS 8th grade.

**5. What do you enjoy about being on the student council?**

I really enjoy the fun we have with ideas, and planning fun stuff for school such as activities.

**STUDENT COUNCIL 8TH GRADE REPRESENTATIVE KYLEIGH HERNANDEZ****1. If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?**

I would go to Hawaii because it seems like a very beautiful place, and I think I would love the vibes over there.

**2. Why did you want to be a part of GVMS Student Council?**

I joined the student council a little late, but I chose to do it because it seemed like a really nice environment to be in. I also thought it would be a good opportunity to take on a leadership role, which would help me.

**3. What is it like being GVMS Student Council 8th Grade Representative?**

As an 8th grade representative, I really just help bring ideas to the table as well as help give my opinion. I also help complete some little task that occur sometimes.

**4. What are your job responsibilities?**

My job is to bring ideas from students or myself and share it with student council. I also sometimes have some little side jobs to do.

**5. What do you enjoy about being on the student council?**

My favorite part is being able to help out my school the best I can.





# BAND SPOTLIGHT: VIVIAN ARTHUR

By Natalie Cortez

Our school band works really hard, and they are determined to their instruments and music. Amanda Jones, the music director, has chosen a student to recognize in her 7/8th grade band class. Seventh grader Vivian Authur is a flute player and has been section leader for the last two years.

“She has helped teach others how to play, and she is able to quickly learn her music on her own,” Jones said. “The other reason I have picked her is because she recently was picked to perform at Jazz Aspen Snowmass [earlier this month].”

For Jazz Aspen Snowmass, students audition and are chosen. The Jazz Aspen Snowmass District 8 Honor Jazz program featured 64 students total. These students are from 15 different Middle and High Schools from across the Western Slope. Not only was Arthur chosen from GVMS, but so was eighth grader AJ Castillo for baritone/ tuba.

“I’m happy about [being chosen],” Arthur said. “There are a lot of other good people.”

Arthur got to attend a two day workshop and sectionals led by JAS In-Schools staff and faculty from Mesa State College.

“It was fun,” she said. “We played songs.”

She enjoyed playing the song “Crescent City.”

“It was fun, and I didn’t know the song,” she said. “It was fun learning something new.”

If you see Arthur in the hallways, don’t forget to give her a warm smile and congratulate her.



Provided

Seventh grader Vivian Arthur was selected to perform at Jazz Aspen Snowmass earlier this month.

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# THEATRE SPOTLIGHT: ZAIDA TRENT

By Kayli Valle

Zaida Trent, an eighth grader, is one of the students who participates in theatre. She is a very talented person, and has a unique ability to make an incredible performance. Trent willingly joined theatre and has been participating in it for four years.

“What inspired me to join theatre would probably be not being scared to be myself and remembering that on the stage I’m a whole different person,” Trent said.

Currently, she is practicing to perform in another play that will debut in May.

“[I will play] a princess pirate, one of the main roles,” Trent said.

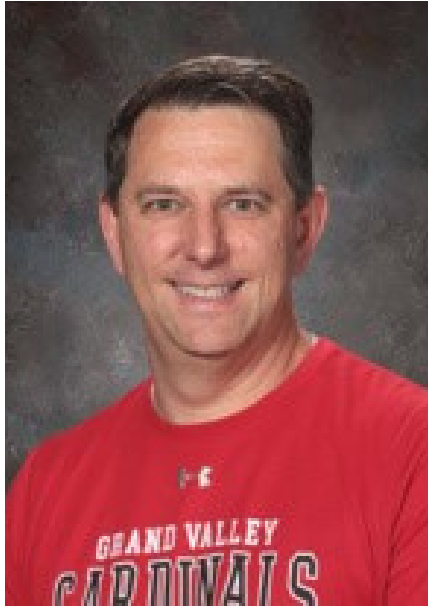
On stage Trent’s talent really stands out. She immediately claims a clear headspace, and gets in character.

“I feel like I just need to get back on track cause when it comes to the actual performance, I need to get it all together and focus,” she said.



**STUDENT COUNCIL**

from page 9

**STUDENT COUNCIL ADVISOR MR. JAMES****1. If you were not a teacher, what would be your career?**

I would be some kind of entertainer.

**2. What are the requirements to be on the GVMS Student Council?**

You have to be a good student, have a 2.5 GPA, and show up on time to class.

**3. What made you want to be GVMS Student Council Advisor?**

I believe that student should have a say at their school.

**4. What is your vision for the Student Council?**

My vision is for students to have a say at the school and help improve the school culture.

**BEARD**

from page 1

"It kind of reminds of an old guy that's in the woods," Neil said.

However, a student from Ferro's math class was unsure about his new appearance.

"I kind of like it," seventh grader Monica Moorman said. "He doesn't look normal."

On the other hand, most students think otherwise.

"[His beard is] so pretty and perfect," eighth grader Jonathan Jimenez said.

Beards come in many shapes and sizes, but for Ferro it is show stopping.

"It fits him," eighth grade student Graides Zelaya said. "I would be sad if he shaved it off."

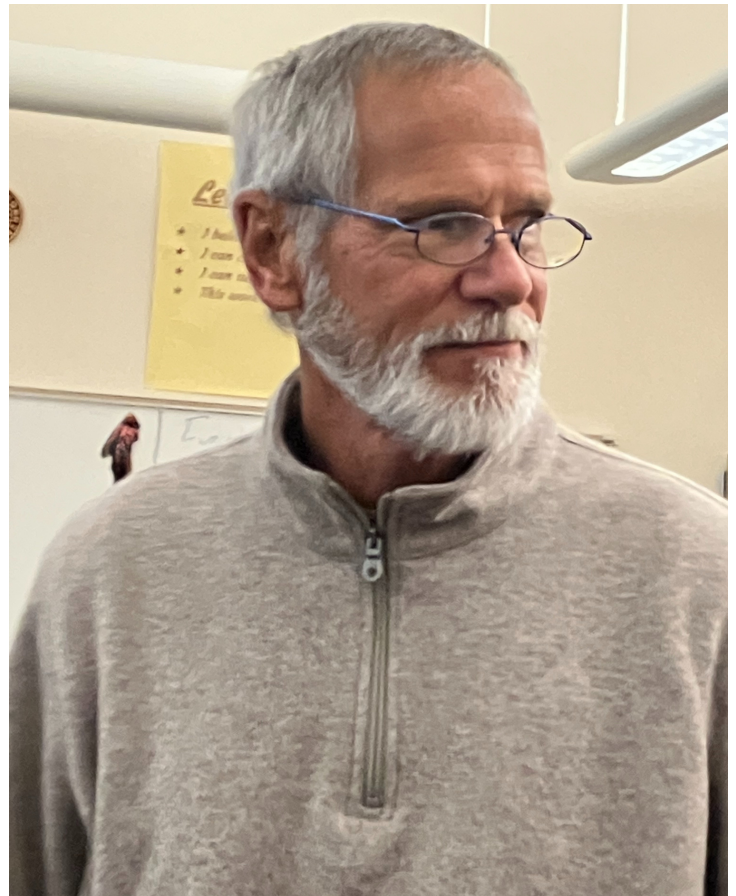
Ferro has not decided if he likes the beard or not.

"It is definitely a different look for me. I do like how the white beard looks with a tan," Ferro commented.

Even if Ferro is unsure of his new look, it is one that does not go unnoticed.

"I think a beard is going to make a gentleman like Mr. Ferro more distinguished. It gives him another level of authority," eighth grade Social Studies Micah Amborn said. "His beard reflects his rugged lifestyle as when he is not teaching, he is taking care of his horses."

When you see Ferro, be sure to complement his beard, just don't say he looks "distinguished."



Natalie Cortez/ GVMS News

**Mr. Ferro with his beard.**

"I think that was a polite way of saying it makes me look old," Ferro said.

Despite all the comments, Ferro still encourages you to focus on your work and assignments.

"It is always easier to keep up than it is to get caught up," Ferro said.

# GVMS Happenings

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Eduardo Villa



Stephanie Medrano



Lucas Miller



Aila Griffin



Ryan Volk



Natalie Cortez

Nicole Loschke/ GVMS News

## Winterfest Royalty

By Angelica Romo Ruiz

Winterfest is an important and appreciative celebration. It helps students with valuable assets like good behavior and kindness be recognized and nominated. The process of choosing the candidates is actually quite simple.

“What we do is we ask all teachers to email me their candidates and put them all on a form,” Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Dana Speakman said.

From there, the students get voted on. There is a male and female winner for each grade. The nominees write a quick bio that is read to introduce them to the audience.

The two high schoolers crowned king and queen during the event on February 3rd were Senior Clancy Swindell and Senior Alexis Jenkinson. GVMS students who were nonimanted include sixth grader Eduardo Villa, sixth grader Stephanie Medrano, seventh grader Lucas Miller, seventh grader Aila Griffin, eighth grader Ryan Volk, and eighth grader Natalie Cortez. Congratulations to all Winterfest Royalty.

## As we Move on...

Class of 2028

By Paytyn Easley Angel

The class of 2028's eighth grade year is coming to an end. The excitement of the end is spreading all throughout the school, and this is what some of the eighth graders are thinking about it. Ethan Terrazas, Ryan Volk, Hayden Skeen, Graides Zelalla, and Kyleigh Hernandez shared the excitement.

Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Dana Speakman suggested that eighth graders take these last months seriously and stay caught up.

“I would say do well on NWEA,” Speakman said.

The scores and grades you receive in eighth grade will reflect the classes you take in high school.

“You need to form good work habits now,” Speakman said.

**MOVE ON, 21**



# The Purpose of Success

By Alejandro Vargas

What does it take to be successful in Success? Success is very important to GVMS students because it is a time to catch up on work and receive extra help from teachers. It was created last year, and we have continued to use it this year too.

Many students say the purpose of Success is to play games and have fun and others say to bring up your grades and finish missing work.

“Success gives students time to work on class work that they are missing, [work on assignments in] the class they are struggling in, and it is a time to receive help from teachers,” GVMS Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Dana Speakman said. “It gives students 36 minutes of work time.”

Staff are changing rules for Success and how it works. One of these changes is not being able to bring backpacks to Success.

“Kids were shutting down, no work was getting done, they thought since it was the end of day they could do nothing,” Speakman said.

Some students are mad about no backpacks. When asked about the backpack rule, 7th grade student Dylan Alejandro Mojarro León said, “No [I don’t like the rule] because I have to take time to get my locker, and I don’t have enough time to go to the bus.”

While some students were not using their Success time wisely, most like to use their whole time to work hard in Success.

“Some students don’t have help at home and they work alone at home. Parents might not know what they are doing,” Speakman said.

There are students who appreciate the extra time to get work done and other students who use this time to mess around and get no work done.

“I use my Success time wisely so that I can get my work done that I didn’t finish,” Eighth grader Kevin Lopez said. “It really helps me catch up on work I didn’t finish in class.”

Success is time to get work done and not mess around with friends.



Alejandro Vargas / GVMS News

**Sixth grader Dania Ramirez working with Ms. Yandell on her Ecosystem essay during Success.** “I like Success because it’s a class where I can get extra help with me homework,” Ramirez said.

“Students who don’t choose to work might get consequences,” Speakman said. “[This can include] a minor incident report. The first time is a warning, the second time the teacher will make them fill out a sheet, and the third time the teacher will send them down and talk with me and sign a contract, and a fourth time a pink sheet.”



# WELCOME MARK JOSHUA MILLER

By Brielle White

Deputy James Miller and his wife welcomed Mark Joshua Miller on January 2nd. He weighed 7 pounds and 11 ounces. Miller took some time off of work to care for his new family member and wife.

Miller has seven other children, so he knows what to expect.

“Mark is my eighth kid, so I’m kinda a pro at this,” Miller said.

For Mark’s name, he and his wife had some inspiration.

“His first name is after my father in law and his middle name is after my cousin / best friend who passed away when we were teens,” Miller shared.

Miller enjoyed his break, but he is happy to be back.

“I enjoyed getting to spend time with my son and help my wife as she is healing,” he said. “I [did] miss you guys and work.”

Raising children is a lifelong commitment, and it can be a challenge.

“Each kid is unique, so finding what makes them tick and how to raise them to grow up and be successful adults,” Miller said.



Provided

Mark Joshua Miller was born on January 2nd.

## The McCormick Switch

By Alondra Velasco

Misty McCormick is a Math teacher at Grand Valley Middle School. She teaches seventh and eighth graders, and she tends to switch classes for certain periods.

McCormick says she likes switching classrooms because it helps her switch her thoughts when she’s in a different room.

The reason why she switches rooms is because of the students she has in that class.

“I teach 2nd and 3rd hour in Green Hall because I have mostly seventh graders for those classes,” she said. “I feel it is easier for one person, me, to walk between halls instead of a whole class of students.”

Since the room was empty, she decided to utilize it to make it easier for students.



## DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY



Maddy June/ GVMS News

GVMS students dancing to the “Cha Cha Slide” at the Winter Wonderland dance on February 16th.



Maddy June/ GVMS News

GVMS students taking a break from dancing to create a forever memory. From top left to bottom right: Seventh grader Liliana Salcido, seventh grader Aila Griffin, eighth grader AJ Castillo, seventh grader Kimber Baker, and seventh grader McKenzie Tittes.



Kyria Chan/ GVMS Yearbook

Eighth grader TJ Golightly and seventh grader Liam Tanner showing their best moves to the music.



Maddy June/ GVMS News

GVMS students showing their dance spirit. From top left to bottom right: Sixth grader Carter Swindell, sixth grader Oakley Hougland, seventh grader Atlan Macias, eighth grader Joshua Vashus, eighth grader Blayne Myers, and seventh grader Erin Mattedi.



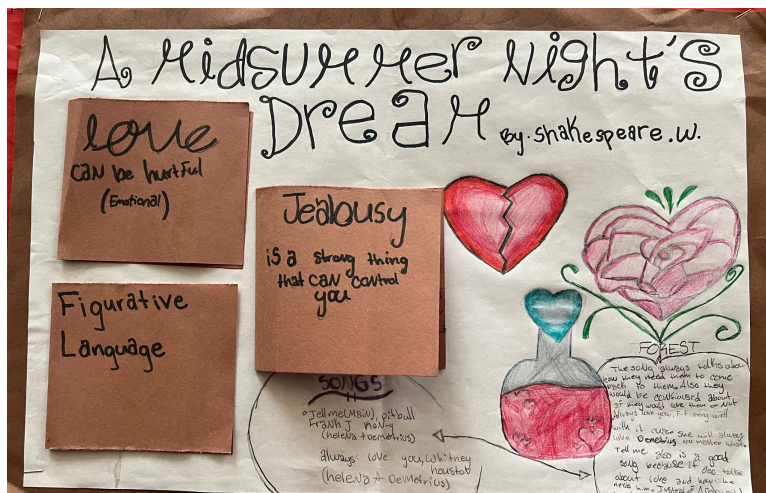
# High Quality Work

By Morgan Hoyt

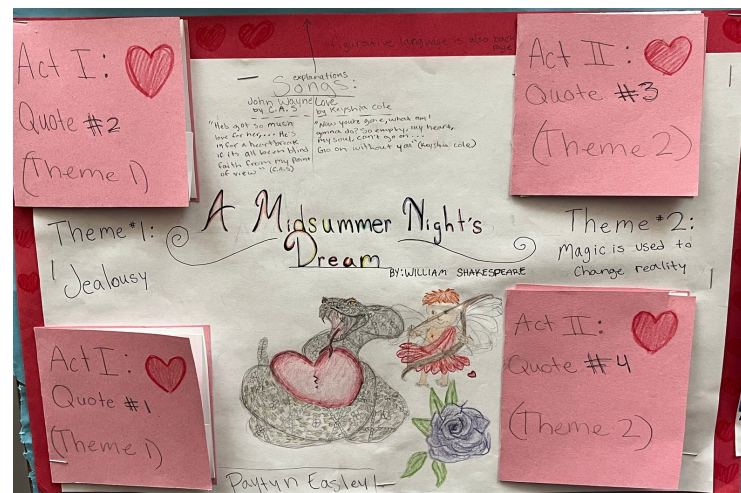
## 8th Grade ELA

### A Midsummer Night's Dream One-pager

For this assignment, students needed to create a high-quality one-pager about William Shakespeare's play A Midsummer Night's Dream. Students had to write two thematic statements, find evidence to support their thematic statements, and justify how the quote they chose best supported the theme of the text. Students also had to complete other tasks for this project.



By: Ashley Rascon



By: Paytyn Easley

### Praise for Ashley's one-pager:

- "Ashley went above and beyond my expectations. She clearly demonstrates an understanding of the themes present in A Midsummer Night's Dream," eighth grade English Language Arts and Journalism teacher Jessica Carter said.
- "I liked this project because I got to be creative and show what I understood about the play," eighth grader Ashley Rascon said.
- "It looks very high quality, and it looks like she put a lot of work into it," sixth grader Adyson Pittman said.

### Praise for Paytyn's one-pager:

- "Paytyn spent a lot of time perfecting her one-pager. She went in-depth with her explanations, and she took the time to create images that truly represent the play A Midsummer Night's Dream," eighth grade English Language Arts and Journalism teacher Jessica Carter said.
- "I am proud of the assignment because I put a lot of time and effort into it," eighth grader Paytyn Easley said.
- "The drawings are very high quality and she made everything organized," seventh grader Shylie Jacobs said.

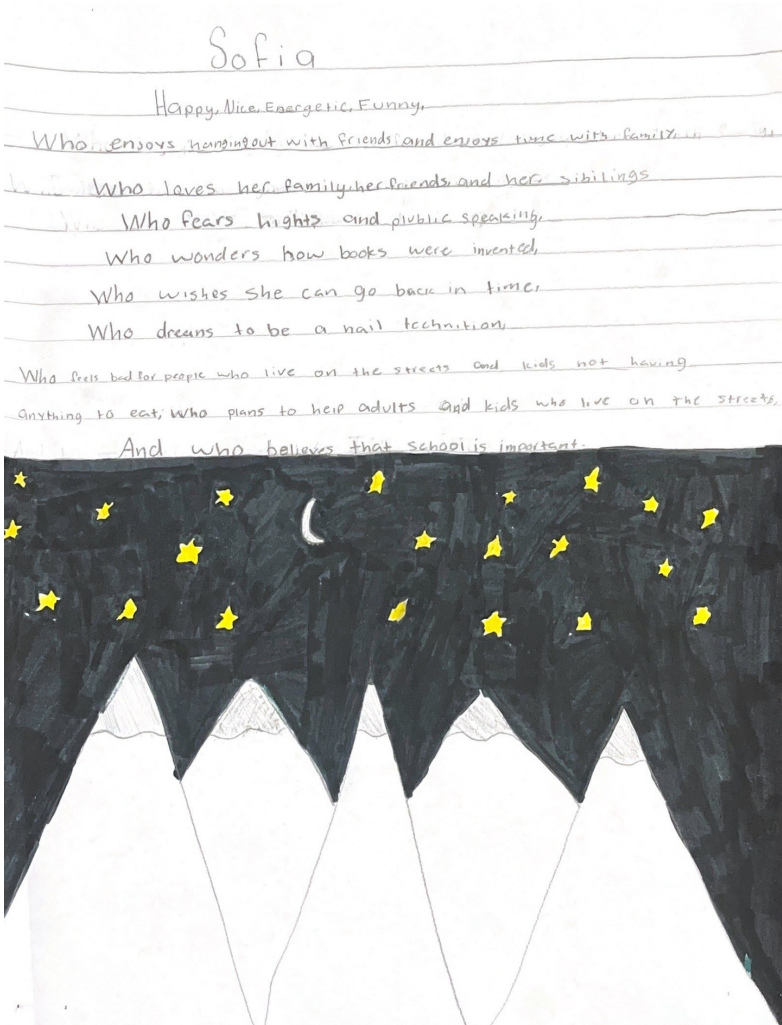


**HQW**

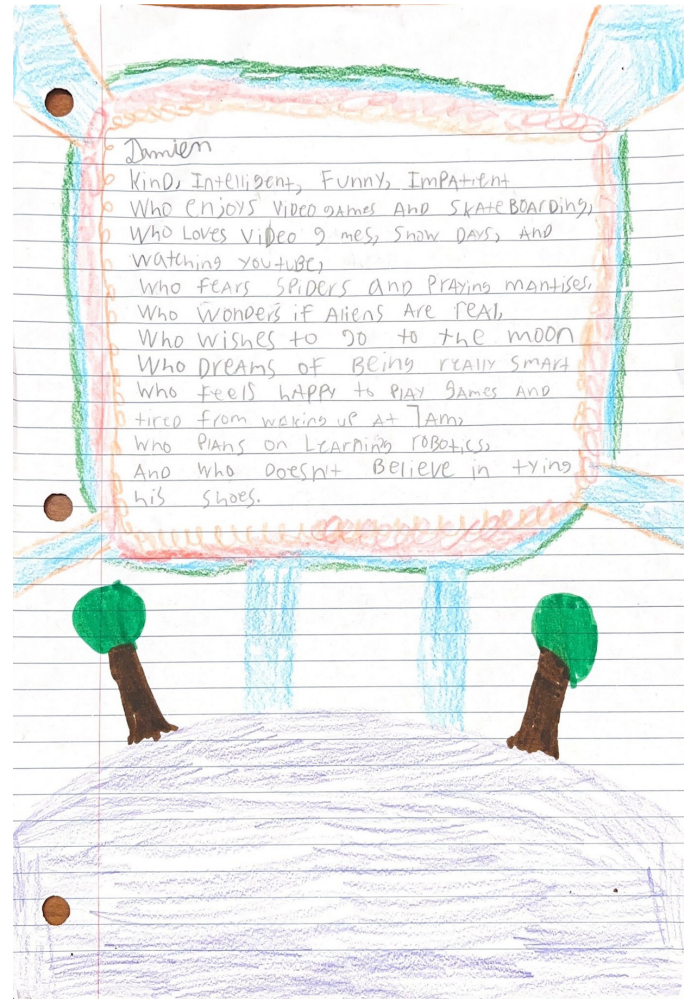
from page 16

**6th Grade ELA****Self Poem**

For this assignment, students needed to create a poem that reflects themselves and also create a complimentary drawing.

**Praise for Sofia Hernandez's poem:**

- "Sophia really showed her heart in her work and expressed her feelings," sixth grade English Language Arts teacher Lisa Johnson said.
- "I enjoyed being able to write about myself and everyone getting to learn about me," sixth grader Sofia Hernandez said.
- "Her work is nice and neat and her picture looks very good," eighth grader Jocelyn Esquivel said.

**Praise for Damian Adamsen's poem:**

- "Damian took the assignment a step further by including his humor in it and with high quality detail," sixth grade English Language Arts teacher Lisa Johnson said.
- "I am proud of my work because it took a very long time," sixth grader Damian Adamsen said.
- "The colors look very nice and it looks like he put a lot of work into it which makes it high quality," eighth grader Mani Perez said.



# Sports

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## Athlete Spotlight: Kyleigh Hernandez

By Briana Lews

GVMS basketball player Kyleigh Hernandez has played basketball for almost two years. She has mainly played post and wing. “[I picked Kyleigh for the spotlight because] she was just a good overall person and pick,” eighth grade basketball head coach Brian Millius said.

Pre-game rituals might seem silly to some people, but not for Hernandez.

“I like to pray before the game and just let go of nerves.”

Sports might seem like an intimidating thing, especially with school work, and stuff to do at home. Hernandez is able to manage her time to get everything done. She is also on the GVMS Student Council as an Eighth Grade Representative, and she is a Yearbook Editor.

“It can be hard at times, but I eventually figured out how to balance them the best I can,” she said.

Basketball can offer a promising future, but Hernandez doesn't want to go down that path.

“I know for sure I won't continue all the way to college, but I still haven't decided if I want to continue in high school or not,” she said.

Even though she's not pursuing a future in basketball, she does enjoy it.

“I do enjoy playing basketball because of the sport itself and also the team I get to play with,” she said. “I love how the team never judges each other and how we all have fun. I also like the way I know I can go to the team if I ever need anything.”

Basketball is a team sport, and Hernandez enjoys it.

“I like working with the team and getting to be aggressive when I play down low,” she said.



Provided

**Eighth grader Kyleigh Hernandez shooting a free throw.**



# Athlete Spotlight: Audriana Lewis

By Lily Archuleta

Seventh grader Audriana Lewis is a basketball player who has improved very much. This is Lewis' first year playing basketball, and she never gets discouraged.

"When we started practices, Audriana had no idea what the concept of basketball was," seventh grade basketball head coach Steve Young said. "In just a couple of weeks of practice, she has learned how to dribble and shoot very well."

She made her first basket in their game against Rifle. Lewis works very hard to improve in what she can, and she always tries her best.

"I've improved on being able to get the ball inside the hoop, and I can dribble the ball better," Lewis said.

She likes the thought of away games. She thinks that away games are more fun.

"At first I doubted myself because I couldn't play as well as the other girls, but then I got better, improved, and stopped doubting myself," Lewis said.

As the season continued, her skills and confidence improved.

"Riverside was her best game, even though she got a foul. I was excited because she did, and that she was aggressive," seventh grade assistant coach Shawnee Knob said.

Her teammates appreciate her hard work and energy.

"She brings positivity to the team every day, and she is very sweet," teammate Kaydance Reynolds said.

Lewis feels one of her strengths is running. She can run fast and is able to get the ball from the other team quickly. She believes she could be more aggressive, but doesn't like the idea of being aggressive or mean.



Angelica Romo Ruiz/ GVMS News

**Seventh grader Audriana Lewis poses for a basketball snapshot.**

"At first, my sister always watched basketball videos, so I decided to start watching them as well, and I started to like it," Lewis said. "Once my sister joined, I thought it would be fun if I did too."

This basketball season has impacted Lewis' thought of sports.

"Audriana is a blessing to have on our team," Coach Young said.

## T.A.R.

from page 1

T.A.R is on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:10 to 6:10, with a quick break provided at 5:00.

"Last semester I ran it alone and we would have between 8-16 students in the program. Students and parents sign a contract agreeing to the expectations," Johnson said.

If a student does not follow expectations they lose the privilege of T.A.R. Now that staff is helping run

the program, the number of members will hopefully increase, which is a positive impact for the program.

"I think it is a great opportunity for students to recover credit for their absences and low grades which also allows them to catch up," Johnson said. Unfortunately, if a student isn't using daily class time and Success time wisely, two hours twice a week won't be enough alone to achieve passing grades."





## Backpacks in Class

*By Haven Stallings*

I believe that backpacks should be allowed in class. I think this because students can't carry everything they need for class with them all the time.

If not during regular class time, then at least during Success. Students tend to work on work for multiple classes during that time. This would alleviate students leaving class during Success. Not only that, but it is much easier to exit school if you already have your things with you.

Backpacks in Success would be much more convenient and efficient. You would already have your things with you in your bag. Therefore, you could get caught up on missing work and be more productive. You would have all the things you need right beside you. Once the bell rings to go home, you wouldn't have to worry about going to your locker either because you already have all of the things you need.

However, the school won't allow backpacks in class due to the fact that there have been issues with students having things in their backpacks that are against school policies. Backpacks can also take up a lot of unnecessary space that classrooms don't have. I know teachers sometimes trip over backpacks, but it could be a rule for students to keep them under their desk or on the back of their chair. There are ways for backpacks to take up less space.

I propose a trial period where students can bring their backpacks to class for a week. If it goes well, then we can continue to bring our backpacks. If not, then they will still be left in our lockers.

**TRENT**

from page 10

Her acting process is quite simple because of her experience; however, she is not the only one with a passion for theatre.

Theatre teacher Joshua James is very creative and secure when it comes to the performance arts. James started his journey during high school.

"I have been doing theatre since my Junior year of high school where I was cast in my first show as Will Parker in the musical 'Oklahoma!' I have been in many shows since then," James said.

He developed a strong connection with everything to do with theatre, and that's why he brought it to Grand Valley Middle School.

"I enjoy seeing students breaking out their shells.

Learning how to express themselves without the fear of being judged," he said. "I also enjoy seeing students performing and seeing them improve the more they do it."

Trent is the main talent because she's learned how to express herself openly.

"She's learned to open up and break out of her shell," James said. "She's one of the most creative students that I have."



Angelica Romo Ruiz/ GVMS News

**Eighth grader Zaida Trent and Theatre teacher Mr. James smile for the camera.**

**MOVE ON**

from page 12

The more you fall behind the harder it is to catch up in high school. Current eighth graders are starting to realize that as they think about the excitement of going to high school.

"I'm excited about going to high school next year and seeing how it's different from the middle school and also seeing how different the classes are," Terrazas said. "To be honest, I don't really know what extracurriculars I'm gonna do, but I'm looking forward to seeing what I can do."

At the high school level, expectations increase and grades follow you from your freshman to senior year.

"I would not say that I'm scared to go to high school, but I would say I'm more nervous than anything," Volk said. "My reason is that it means that the subjects do get harder, and there is the anticipation of finishing high school what to do after."

With all the sports and extracurricular activities coming up in high school the eighth graders have some ideas on what they're going to do.

"Sports are going to play a HUGE role in high school for me. I am going to for sure do volleyball and track, but I am still deciding whether or not I want to do basketball," Hernandez said.

Sports become a big commitment of some students middle school lives and will continue to follow them throughout their high school career.

"I've done wrestling since I was in third grade, and I plan on making that a big part of my high school experience," Skeen said.

The school year is ending and the goodbyes are coming. These eighth graders have an open opinion about who and what they're going to miss.

"I am very sad to be leaving. I am going to miss my seventh and sixth grade friends, and I'm also going to miss my teachers and classes," Skeen said.

Making new friends and seeing old ones comes with the new school year, and the goodbyes are always hard.

"[I am going to miss] all my close friends because they have helped me grow into the person I am, and they have always been there for me through my last year of middle school," Zelalla said. "[I've] also made new memories [which has] made these last three years in middle school really fun and a good experience," Zelalla said.

ARI

from page 4

Even though he enjoys the outdoors, there can still be disadvantages.


“Going outdoors is always an adventure. There are unexpected problems that come up and it requires creative thinking to come up with solutions. The weather might suddenly change or someone might try to make friends with a poisonous insect for example. But that's part of the adventure,” he said.

Philipson does have some advice for people wanting to explore the outdoors.

“Find what you enjoy about the outdoors and go for it! You don't need a bunch of gear or training to go to some awesome local natural spaces and have fun. If there's something you enjoy doing outside, then invite others to explore with you,” he said.

Philipson taught science before he came to Garfield 16.

“I was a high school science teacher before I was an Outdoor Educator,” he said. “I love classroom teaching, but the ability to share my passion with students and helping them get outside with their class is so awesome. Plus, I really enjoy that I get to work with all ages of students (though middle school is my favorite).”

A colorful poster titled "Garfield 16 Outdoor Education" with a blue sky background, a sun in the top right, and a tree in the bottom left. The poster is divided into several sections. At the top left is the "GENERATION WILD" logo. Next to it is the text "Garfield County Outdoors". The main title "Garfield 16 Outdoor Education" is in large, bold letters. Below the title, there's a section for "Garfield County Outdoors (GCO)" which describes it as a collaborative initiative for outdoor education and recreation. It mentions that GCO works in the Re-2 and Garfield 16 School Districts and communities, with a location in New Castle - Parachute, CO. To the right of this is a section for "Garfield Family Outdoor Days" which lists outdoor events and rentals for students and families, and a note to check district newsletters. Further right is a "Community Events" section with a list of events: Grand Valley Days, 3D Archery Shoot, Bike Rodeo, Gear Swap, Buck Fever 5K, and Outdoor workshops. Below these are four columns of activities for different groups: CFL (After School Clubs, GV Challenge Course Days, Kindergarten and 1st grade guest speakers, lesson and trips), BUE (4th grade Winter Ecology, 5th grade Colorado Monument Camping, 2nd-3rd grade expeditions, Science and Social Studies support), GVMS (Content specific expeditions, 7th grade Hanging Lake, Rock wall and GV Challenge Course Days, Electives class integration, Grow Dome and Nature trail), and GVHS (Content specific expeditions, Outdoor Club, 4-H Council, Town Council and Recreation planning, Leadership programs). At the bottom, there's a footer with contact information for Scott Partan (Program Director, spartan@garfield16.org) and Ari Philipson (Outdoor Education Coordinator, aphilipson@garfield16.org).

Students and their families, and teachers can rent equipment from the Garfield 16 gear library.

“Our gear library includes everything from camping equipment, hiking boots, snow shoes, fighting gear, to bike equipment. Teachers and families are able to check out gear for short term loans (like a weekend). Ask parents or guardians to send an email to aphilipson@garfield16.org if there is something they might need.”

Philipson is open to ideas on how he can get more students involved outdoors.

“The school's outdoor program is here for you. Let me know what you want to do outside. We can't guarantee we can take everyone on every trip they want to go on, but if there's something you want to do, stop me next time you see me walking the halls or let your CREW teacher know that you've got ideas to share.”

SWITCH

from page 14

“Since we were not able to find another math teacher I have mixed students, seventh and eighth graders. The philosophy this year was to keep seventh grade in Green Hall and eighth grade in Purple Hall. This did not work for my classes. Having an empty room I figured I could meet my students where their lockers are,” McCormick said.

After students shifted at semester, it made sense to go to Green Hall for another class.

“My second period has been in Green Hall since the beginning of the school year. Third period moved over at the beginning of this semester,” McCormick said.

Not only does McCormick find it beneficial, but so do her students. Seventh grader Kaydance Reynolds finds it convenient for Math to be in Green Hall.

“It's a lot easier for the seventh graders to go there and not be tardy,” she said.