

GVMS NEWS



VOLUME 2. ISSUE 3

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024

LEARNING AND ADVENTURE ON THE GRAND MESA



Mr. Godfrey

Sixth graders went to the Grand Mesa on March 6th to learn how to cross-country ski. Students got to engage in a ski loop, ski out to the snow pit station where they got to identify snow crystals, discuss snow layers, snowpack, and avalanche safety. Students also got to become snow scientists at the snow water equivalent station. Lastly, students learned about hibernation, den selection, and insulation strategies for warm-blooded animal survival. Above is Adyson Pittman carrying her cross-country skis. See page 9 for more photos.

The Importance of Testing

By Morgan Hoyt

NWEA and CMAS testing will be here before we know it. NWEA assessments are key to measuring growth and improvement while CMAS allows each school to see how their students' performance is compared to other students in Colorado.

The CMAS schedule is going to look a little different this year. Students will be taking one ELA or Math test a day. Once testing is complete, students will attend their normal classes. Eighth graders do take the Science CMAS, and for this test, students will complete multiple tests that day.

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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

Thursday, April 4th

- Spring Picture Day

Friday, April 5th

- Track Meet @ Rifle High School

Tuesday, April 9th - Thursday, April 11th

- ELA CMAS

Friday, April 12th

- 6th grade fieldwork to Rifle Falls and the Rifle Fish Hatchery
- 7th grade fieldwork to the Colorado National Monument
- Science CMAS (8th grade only)

Monday, April 15th

- Track Meet @ Grand Valley High School

Tuesday, April 16th- Thursday, April 18th

- Math CMAS

Friday, April 19th

- Dance @ GVMS -- 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 20th

- Track Meet @ Coal Ridge High School

Tuesday, April 22nd

- Last day to buy a GVMS Yearbook
 - Please see Ms. Knox or the office to purchase.

Saturday, April 27th

- Cougar Invitational @ Glenwood Springs High School

Saturday, May 4th

- PEG Track Meet (subject to change)

Monday, May 6th & 13th

- Conferences

If you have a song you want to see on the Yearbook playlist, please email Ms. Knox at kknox@garfield16.org by Friday, April 19th.

Features

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Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Stanfield

By Morgan Hoyt

Brandon Stanfield has been teaching middle school for eight years. However, this is his first year teaching seventh grade Social Studies at GVMS.

Even though he loves teaching World History, Stanfield has many other interests and hobbies. One of those hobbies is baking.

"I have been baking my entire life. I grew up baking with my mom and dad. I would say about 20 years," he said.

Baking is not the only activity that Stanfield enjoys.

"I love to read, paint, play video games, play paintball, bake, and garden," he said. "When the weather's nice, I love cycling on my road bike. I also like to exercise. I primarily weight train and endurance train. I also like to take my dog for walks and hikes. Basically, if it's outside in the summer, I probably like doing it. Not so much so in the winter."

Stanfield was born in Montrose, CO in 1993. He is the youngest in his family with two older brothers.

"I am the baby of the family," he said. "My eldest brother Brent is a chemist in Longmont, CO. My middle brother Bradlee is a teacher in Cedaredge, CO."

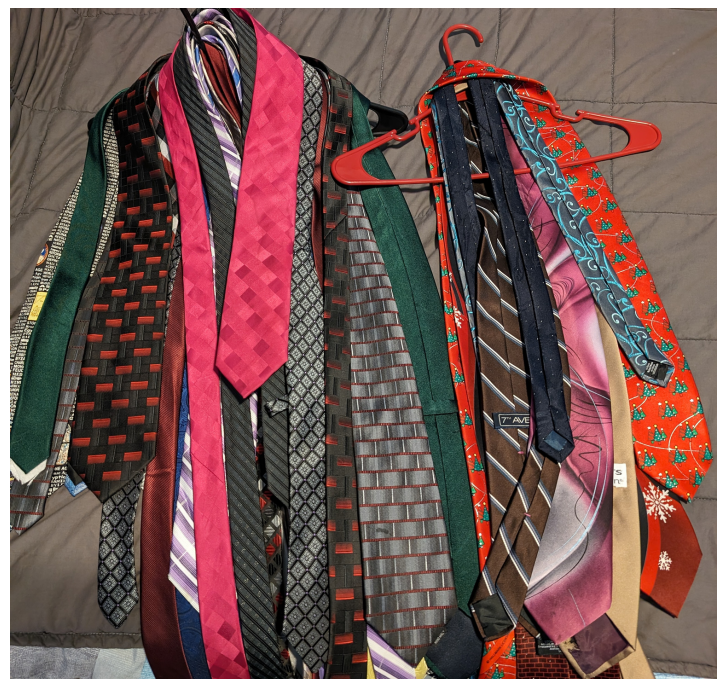
Stanfield may be the youngest of his siblings, but he has style. He wears a new tie almost every day. Not only does he have a variety of ties, but his ties have names.

"Well, I started dressing how I dress for work when I was a student teacher. One day, I was sitting with my mentor teacher, Darren Cook, and another teacher, Raisha Quinn, at a meeting. My attire was brought up. They started joking that the tie and button down would only last the first couple of years and by my fifth year I would be wearing jeans and a t-shirt to work," Stanfield said. "At that moment I fully committed that I would wear a button down, slacks, and a tie every day for my entire career. The only exceptions I make are on Friday, I never wear a tie (it is casual Friday, after all) or if we are doing something active and wearing formal attire would not be practical. Other than that, eight years later I am still wearing my ties, Darren and Raisha!"



Morgan Hoyt/ GVMS News

Mr. Stanfield poses for a picture.



Provided

Mr. Stanfield's tie collection.

Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Noble

By Alejandro Vargas

Grand Valley Middle School's sixth grade Math teacher Lacey Noble is a Colorado native. She was born near Durango, CO.

This is her first year teaching at GVMS, but her second year in the classroom.

"I have wanted to be a teacher since I was little," Noble said. "Growing up, my aunt was a teacher, and I would always go volunteer in her class. It was a great experience, and I knew I wanted to teach in my own classroom someday too!"

Noble now has her own classroom, and her dream of becoming a teacher is a reality.

"Yes, I do love teaching! This was the career I had always wanted when I was growing up, and I am very thankful to be doing it," she said. "I love getting to know the kids and helping them grow as learners and as people."

Sixth grader Ami Reyes enjoys Noble's Math class.

"I like that it's fun," he said. "She is a calm, nice, and fun teacher."

Reyes also feels like he has gotten better at Math.

"She shows us examples [on how to solve the problem]," Reyes said.

Noble loves seeing students' understanding of the new work they are learning .

"My favorite part of teaching is when we are working through new concepts and students have those 'aha' moments," she said. "It is so cool to see their brains working and then when they finally get the concept it is awesome!"



Provided

Mrs. Noble with her dogs, Lainey (left) and Pancake (right) on the Grand Mesa.

Not only does Noble love teaching, but she enjoys the outdoors.

"I really enjoy doing things outside, [such as] hiking, camping, paddle boarding, fishing, and archery. In the winter I'll do some snowshoeing," she said.

Noble also likes to spend time with her husband and dogs. She has two dogs, Pancake and Lainey, and also a cat named Chester. Noble is also expecting her first child. Her son is due June 23rd.

"I am most excited just to become a mom," she said. "I have nieces and nephews, so I can't wait for our son to grow up with his cousins!"

Artist Spotlight: Paysli Dowd

By Cordiellia Rangel

Seventh grader Paysli Dowd has a strong passion for art.

“I discovered my passion for art when the pandemic started when I had nothing to do at home,” Dowd said. “I was bored and started to draw, and slowly got more of a passion for it.”

Her favorite piece of art is her deer drawing because she worked extremely hard on it.

“I overcame [the challenges I faced] by trying again [on my] deer drawing,” she said.

Dowd has many great art pieces that she has completed, and she explores the concept of shading often. Her deer drawing shows her shading and value.

“[Her deer drawing is a] very strong replication of a drawn image,” Art teacher Jesse Withouse said. “[She has] great observational skills and utilization of [her] left eye for a right handed drawer.”

Vincent van Gogh’s art inspires Dowd because of the way he paints and the styles he used.

“I really like paint, [and] I like how you can make stuff look real, and the thick color they have,” she said.



Created by Paysli Dowd

Seventh grader Paysli Dowd’s deer drawing.

Dowd’s goal is to try and get her art to look more realistic.

Withouse has noticed Dowd exceling at several techniques.

“[Her] contour line is strong, and her graduated tones with sense for texture and highlight,” Withouse said.

TESTING

from page 1

“NWEA and CMAS does a couple things. It helps us place you where you need to be in your classes,” Principal Thomas Godfrey said. “As you move on in life there are tests that you have to take, and if you don't work hard on these tests, it doesn't set you well for the future.”

Both of these tests are important for a students future, and it is helpful for teachers and the district to see how students are performing.

“The NWEA assessments help teachers to know how students are mastering grade level standards. It also measures their growth and improvement. The math test can help teachers guide students towards the appropriate math class next school year as well,” Garfield 16 School District Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Baugh said. “CMAS is important for the same reasons, but as the state assessment, we can see how our students are performing compared to other students in Colorado. We can also see how students are growing and improving. It also helps us know how groups of students are performing, such as students who are English language learners or receive special education service. If some groups are not performing well or growing, we know we need to do something to better support them.”

GVMS Happenings

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NJHS INDUCTION CEREMONY



Terran Hughley & Lyla Vogel/ GVMS News

On March 5th, Grand Valley Middle School's Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society inducted 15 new members.

Top Row (from left to right): Kimber Baker, Icess Sheridan, Aila Griffin, Jesus Torres, AJ Castillo, Ryan Volk, Joe Roe, and Natalie Cortez.

Bottom Row (from left to right): Morgan Hoyt, Alexandra Fowler, Alexis Baca, Adyson Pittman, Thomas Hartman, and Lucas Miller. Not

Pictured: Vivian Arthur.

What Is Seat Time?

By Angelica Romo Ruiz

According to the Colorado Department of Education, high school and middle school students are required to receive 1,080 hours of teacher-pupil instruction. Elementary students are required to receive 990 hours of instruction; however, only 900 hours are required for full-day kindergarteners.

This act is so significant, and strongly enforced because of credit requirements. Education is critical to a competent and working society which makes seat time an important aspect of students' overall education. This is having a permanent impact in the way school is being carried out.

"Once Upon a Mattress" Musical



Mrs. Jones

This year the middle school cast for the musical "Once Upon a Mattress" includes (from left to right): Madison Myers, Hayden Skeen, Icess Sheridan, Vivian Arthur, AJ Castillo, and Prasaus Skyes.

By Icess Sheridan

Step into a world where fairy tales take an unexpected turn, where a pea can lead to laughter, and a princess isn't quite what she seems. The musical "Once Upon a Mattress" will make its debut at Grand Valley High School on April 11th, 12th, and 13th at 6:30 p.m.

Each school year, GVHS asks students from GVMS to participate in the production of the high school musical. This year the middle school cast consists of seventh graders Vivian Arthur, Icess Sheridan, and Prasaus Skyes, and eighth graders AJ Castillo, Madison Myers, and Hayden Skeen.

Arthur is playing Emily and the First Lady. She has been acting for two years, and she really enjoys it. "My first play was 'What Goes On in an Idiot's Mind,'" she said.

Arthur loves musicals because she enjoys singing, acting, and dancing. When she saw her name on the cast list, she was filled with joy.

"I was like YES!" she said. "I was so proud of myself."

Not only is Arthur excited about this opportunity but so is Skeen.

GVHS Theatre Co. Presents...

Once Upon

STARRING

HLOE GRONWOLLER	TRAVIS WOLD
KAELEE SABATA	DANIEL GRONWOLLER
ROCKLYNN MILLIUS	NATE MADDEN
JORDIN CARPENTER	HANNAH VASHUS
XAVIER GUTIERREZ	

APRIL 11TH, 12TH, AND 13TH
6:30 PM

\$5 STUDENT/SENIOR
\$8 ADULT

TICKETS IN ADVANCE OR AT THE DOOR

CARDINAL HALL
800 CARDINAL WAY
PARACHUTE, CO

Director - ABBEY BEATON
Choreographer - ERINN TANNER
Piano Accompanist - AMANDA JONES
Set Construction Lead - SCOTT CARPENTER
Sound - MIKE VOGEL
Stage Manager - KADENCE ROWATT

MUSIC BY MARY RODGERS
LYRICS BY MARSHALL BARE
BOOK BY JAY THOMPSON
MARSHALL BARE AND DEAN FULLER

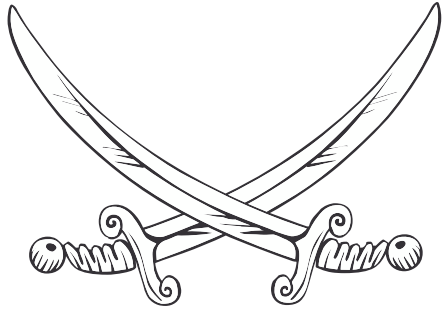
A Mattress

2024

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CENCRO THEATRE'S MANDY CENCRO THEATRE'S

"I am just excited to do something I'm passionate about," Skeen said.

She has been acting for six years, and she has performed in five different musicals and is currently preparing for two more shows. She has also enjoyed rehearsals and all the songs.



Ahoy, Matey!

By Jared Valle

Theatre is going to be performing "The Isle of Mystery (A Pirate Musical)" on Friday, May 17th at 7 p.m. Some people may ask, why a pirate musical?

"The theatre class decided they wanted the play to be a pirate theme," Theatre teacher Joshua James said.

With the theatre class choosing the theme, James had to come up with the storyline.

"It is about two pirate crews who end up fighting to find the same treasure that leads them to a mysterious island," James said. "This zany musical is sure to make you laugh and entertain you."

James is happy with theme choice for this semester's musical.

"I've always wanted to write a pirate musical, so I can't wait to see how the show will turn out."

Even though James is excited for the pirate play, there are stresses to producing a show.

"To produce a show requires a lot of moving parts that I have to take on as the director. Plus, making sure the actors know what they are doing," James said.

Eighth grader Zadyn Brooks will have a part in the play.

"I'm excited to see how this turns out, and I think it's going to go smoothly when we perform it for the school," Brooks said. "The production is going really slow though because of the communication and nobody wanting to do what they were told to do."



Mr. James / GVMS News

Eighth graders Hayden Skeen and Kyleigh Hernandez sword fighting.

Brooks is playing Chamber Pot Charles.

"I clean out the pots," Brooks said. "It is a pretty funny part."

Eighth grader Joshua Vashus agrees with Brooks' excitement toward the play.

"It's pretty good," Vashus said. "I'm really looking forward to my role. It's pretty funny and same with Zadyn's role."

Vashus is playing a Mute. No one knows who is he is due to him not being able to speak.

"It is fun not being able to speak because I get to make funny gestures," he said. "I am a dork in the play and in real life."

6TH GRADE FIELDWORK



Mrs. Carter / GVMS News

Sixth graders eagerly waiting to get their cross-country skiing gear.



Mrs. Carter / GVMS News

Sixth grader Eddie Villa Alvarado cross-country skiing on the Grand Mesa.



Mr. Godfrey

Sixth graders Sebastian Sandoval Gomez (left) and Mathew De la Cruz Rodriguez (right) taking their cross-country ski gear back to the lodge.

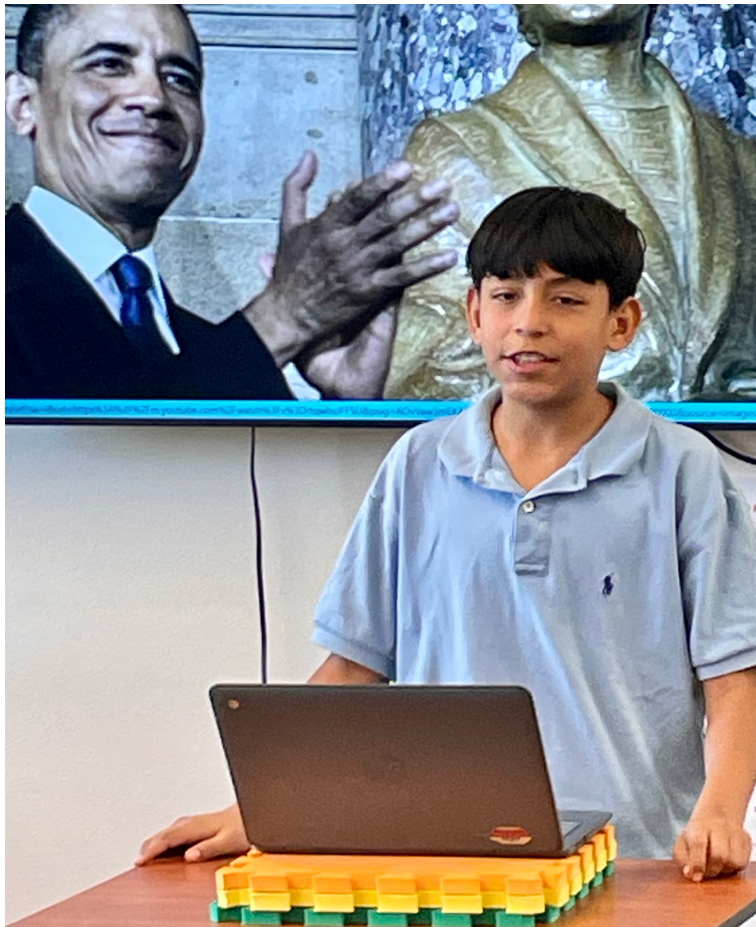
High Quality Work

By Morgan Hoyt

6th Grade ELA

Presidential Speech

Students researched for a famous presidential speech and then presented about two minutes of it while focusing on using voice, tone, gestures and facial expressions to communicate with their large intimidating audience.

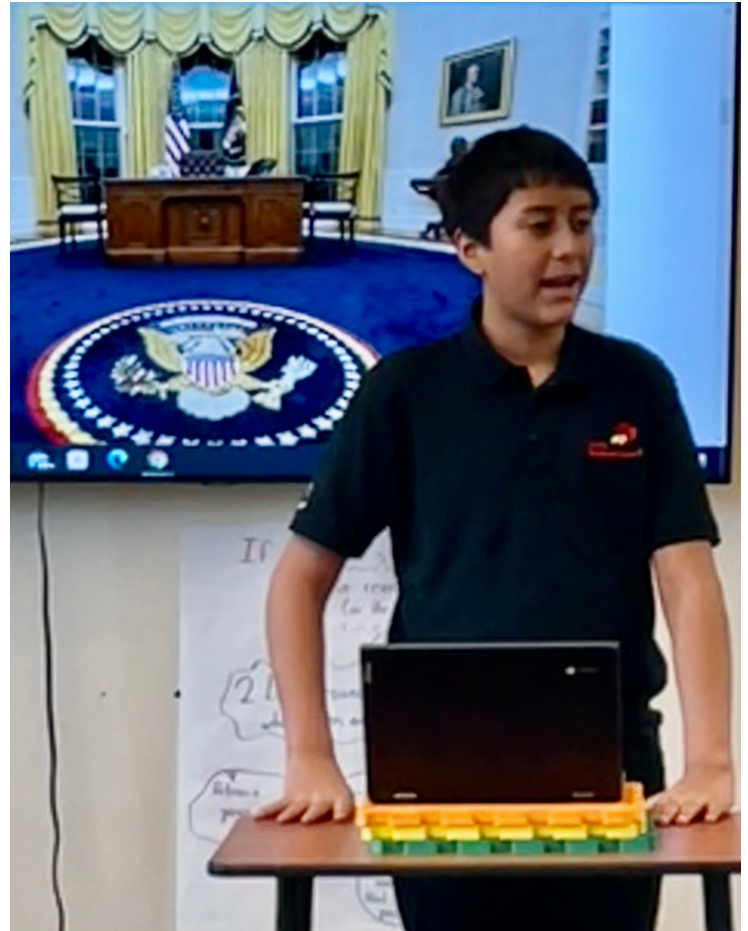


Ms. Johnson

Isai Perez giving his speech.

Praise for Isai Perez's Speech:

- "Isai's presentation included excellent volume mixed with an epic performance using both gestures and facial expression to communicate to his audience," sixth grade English Language Arts teacher Lisa Johnson said.
- "I liked presenting," sixth grader Isai Perez said.
- "He wasn't boring and entertained people and he knew how to get the point through," sixth grader Michaela Johnson said.



Ms. Johnson

Daniel Chavez giving his speech.

Praise for Daniel Chavez's Speech:

- "Daniel provided an excellent example of using gestures and eye contact to connect with the entire audience," sixth grade English Language Arts teacher Lisa Johnson said.
- "I worked really hard on it," sixth grader Daniel Chavez said.
- "He had a lot of facts and was making eye contact with students," sixth grader Uriel Perez said.

Survivor Challenge

By Terran Hughley & Lyla Vogel

Survivor is a fun classroom game to help students get their work done. Seventh grade English Language Arts teacher Kirsten Knox started the survivor game second quarter.

“Survivor is a classroom game where students are put in a tribe and compete against other tribes,” Knox said. “Once a week there are tribe challenges. Once the tribe finishes their challenge, they are awarded points and each challenge is worth different amounts of points.”

There are Tribal Tuesdays where the winning team exiles someone which means that student can’t work on the tribe challenge and have to do it on their own. Not only that but there is a Hidden Immunity Idol. This is where clues are hidden around the school, and the student who finds it gets rewarded with extra points or another prize.

Some students really like Survivor.

“It’s fun and entertaining,” seventh grader Kyria Chan said.

The Survivor challenges does create competition amongst peers, but in a good way.

“I think it’s giving me more motivation to turn in my work, so I can help my tribe win,” seventh grader Thomas Hartman said.

Survivor is a great way for students to collaborate with one another. There is also an increase in peer teaching, so if a student is struggling with the challenges, then their tribemates can help them.

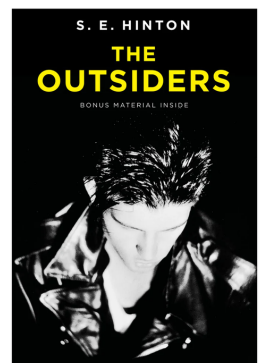
Seventh graders have participated in several challenges. This includes: a relay race where students had to run and get a bag with parts of speech in it then organize what words went with each part of speech, writing competitions where students had to write a story about a Cosmic Cafe using figurative language, and sentence sorting into the four different types of sentences.

“I think [Survivor is] a fun way to do Literacy and learn,” Hartman said.

HQW

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7th Grade ELA The Outsiders Narrative



The assignment was to write a narrative based on the book The Outsiders. Students could get as creative with the plot as they wanted, as long as they incorporated original characters into the plot.

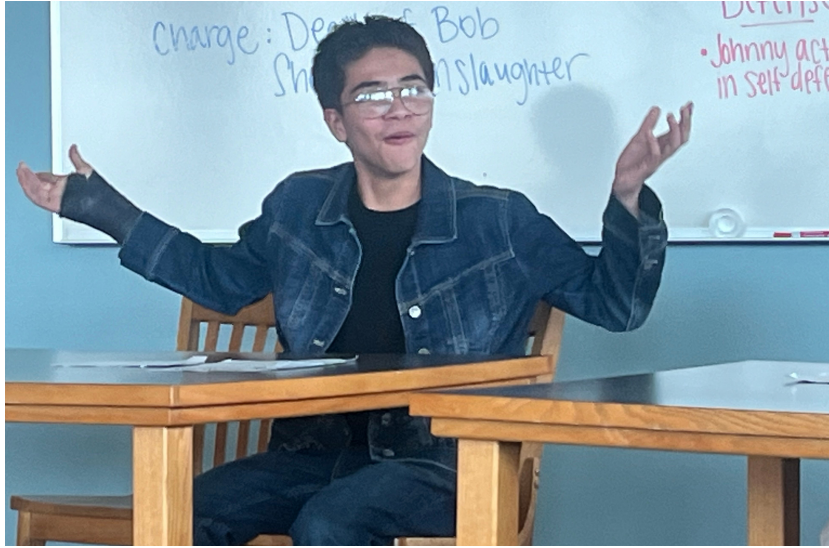
Praise for Gia Keithley’s Narrative:

- “Gia's narrative was so creative, taking the original characters and plot elements, but changing the plot into a mystery,” seventh grade English Language Arts teacher Kirsten Knox said.
- “I enjoyed the fact that we had to think about it, and we got to be creative with it,” seventh grader Gia Keithley said.
- “The detail makes it very high quality,” eighth grader Kyzen Hougland said.

Praise for Keith Kump’s Narrative:

- “Keith's story was on the shorter side. I loved reading it because of the way he re-imagined the original characters into more of a fantasy story,” seventh grade English Language Arts teacher Kirsten Knox said.
- “I enjoyed this because it got me into typing and writing,” seventh grader Keith Kump said.
- “I like how he worded everything and made a plot twist,” eighth grader Graides Zelaya said.

7TH GRADE MOCK TRIAL



Mrs. Carter / GVMS News

JJ Reyes playing Greaser Johnny Cade in The Outsiders Mock Trial on March 14th.



Mrs. Carter / GVMS News

Vivian Arthur, the Defense Cross Attorney of Prosecution, questions witness Gracy Whiting, who is playing Soc Bob Sheldon's mom during The Outsiders Mock Trial on March 14th.



Mrs. Carter / GVMS News

Witness Arturo Rojas Vargas playing Soc Randy Adderson getting sworn to tell truth the by Judge Knox during The Outsiders Mock Trial on March 14th.

SEAT TIME

from page 6

“Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, we added two weeks of school for students. This additional time ensures that students can meet the required number of instructional hours,” Garfield 16 School District Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Baugh said. “Garfield 16 exceeds the minimum number of hours, leaving us with flexibility for things like a snow day or the half day we had for Homecoming.”

Considering public schools often require students to have a certain amount of credits to graduate. Seat time ensures that students meet these requirements by engaging in the coursework.

“For students, if they are not actually attending school, they are missing instruction,” Dr. Baugh said. “Colorado has new graduation requirements, and if students do not get the required scores on these tests, they cannot graduate. Not coming to school means they are putting themselves in jeopardy of not learning what they need to meet the test requirements.”

Garfield 16 School District is implementing several programs to ensure students can meet their required seat time in graduation requirements. Not only has the school added instructional weeks to the school calendar, but they are offering summer school at the middle school, and high school for students that are failing a class or multiple classes. T.A.R. is an intervention for students who are chronically absent, or need help successfully passing classes.

“It's important to come to school to learn what is needed to graduate, but it is also important to learn the things that students will need to know as adults,” Dr. Baugh said. “School is practice for the real world, and we want all of our students to do well in the real world.”



Sports

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Athlete Spotlight: Hayden Skeen

By Terran Hughley & Lyla Vogel

Eighth grader Hayden Skeen has been wrestling since she was in third grade. She doesn't only wrestle for GVMS, but she also wrestles for Grand Valley Elite.

Skeen grew up watching her older brother wrestle, which inspired her to try wrestling. Once she tried it, she became hooked.

"Wrestling gives me a chance to show how strong I am not only physically, but also mentally," she said.

Sports are a commitment, even at the middle school level.

"It takes up quite a lot of time. At home it is shower, eat, homework, and sleep," Skeen said.

GVMS Wrestling Coach and Grand Valley Elite Wrestling Coach Tom Rugaard enjoys coaching Skeen.

"Hayden is a good kiddo. I've known her a long time," Rugaard said. "She is an aggressive wrestler and usually has a good attitude."

Skeen had a great season wrestling for GVMS.

"By the end of the season I was 14-1," she said. "I placed first at the PEG League Tournament, and I placed third at the Gypsum Tournament."

Not only did she do well wrestling for GVMS, but also for Grand Valley Elite. On March 16th, Skeen was Grand Valley Elite's first state qualifier in Colorado's first women's middle school division. Then on March 22nd-23rd, Skeen wrestled at State.

"It felt like I had a lot of pressure, but I was excited to have gotten that far," Skeen said.

Skeen is planning to wrestle in high school.

"[Wrestling is] the oldest sport in the world. It was an original olympic sport, [and] it's done around the world," Rugaard said. "Women's wrestling is the fastest growing sport worldwide and at the college level. So yes more girls and women need to do it. Wrestling gives you a great base to transition into one [of the] branches of service, MMA, Judo, Ji Jitsu, police officers, etc."



Provided

Eighth grader Hayden Skeen wins her match against a competitor from Soracco Middle School.

Athlete Spotlight: Erin Mattedi

By Briana Lewis

Seventh grader wrestler Erin Mattedi has been wrestling for four years, and he is trying to pursue a future in it.

“I would like to wrestle in high school and [continue to at the college level],” Mattedi said.

He is very passionate about wrestling, and he is willing to put in the work doing what he loves.

“I really like it when you get that ref to hit his hand on the mat for a pin,” he said. “I like wrestling a lot. It's my favorite sport that I do.”

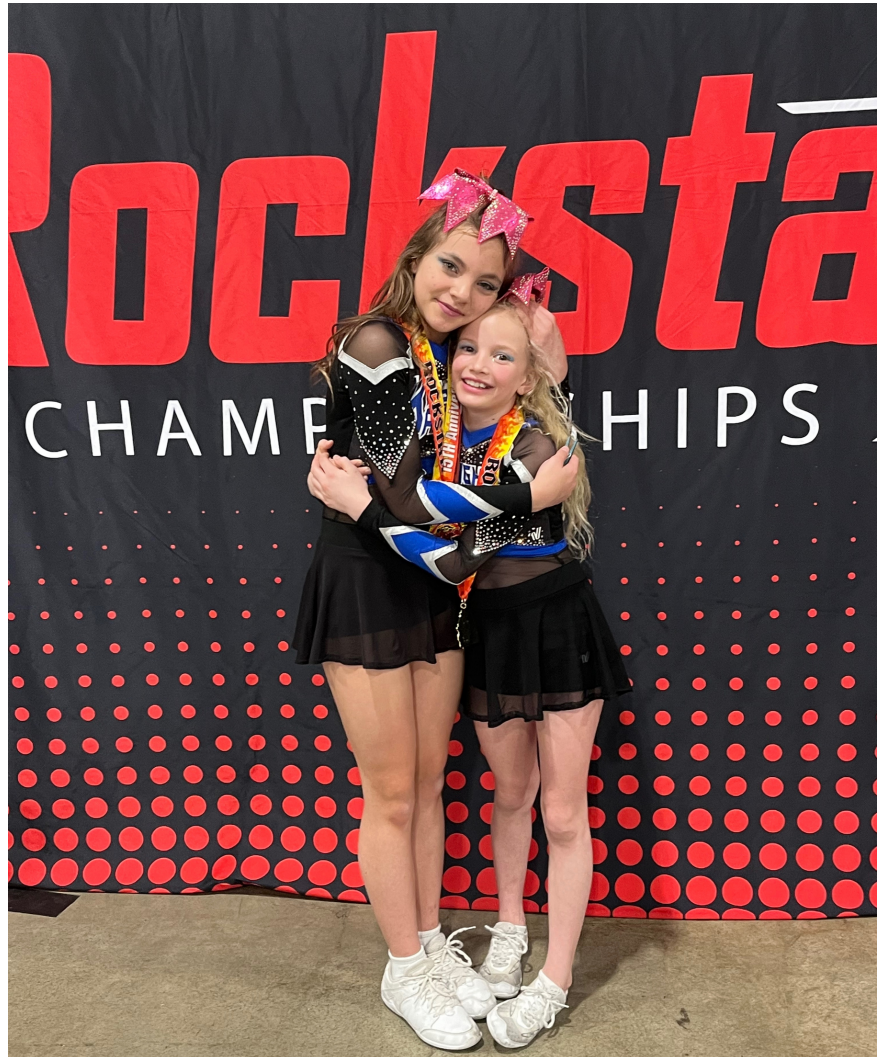
Wrestling doesn't only require good physical strength and technique, but also mental toughness and preparation.

“I'm really good at two moves, valley and cradle. They both have got me a lot of wins [during] my career in wrestling,” he said.

A wrestler performs the cradle by grabbing the neck of their opponent with one arm and wrapping the elbow of the other arm behind the knee of the opponent. The valley is when the wrestler falls sideways, driving the opponent's head to the mat.

There are so many different types of wrestling moves. Mattedi is hoping to get better at the Peterson Finish which is when a wrestler secures his opponents arm and leg then rolls them on to their back, so they are pinned.

FIRST PLACE WIN FOR HK CHEER



Mrs. Carter/ GVMS News

GVMS seventh grader Terran Hughley (left) and teammate April Carter (right) at the Rockstar Championships Rockin' Rockies Competition in Denver on March 16th. The High Kaliber Junior Level 2 Snipers placed first, and their team also recieved an At Large Bid for the Allstar World Championships in Orlando, FL. Hughley's team competes next in Utah.

DIRT BIKE RACING

By Haven Stallings

Have you ever wondered if there are any people who dirt bike at GVMS? Well there is. Seventh grader Addi Patterson participates in dirt biking competitions during her time after school.

Patterson's competitions don't just take place in Colorado, but in other states including Wyoming and Utah.

She isn't the only one in her family that dirt bikes.

“My parents ride dirt bikes a lot and that's what made me start,” she said.

DIRT BIKING, 16

Opinion

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GUEST COLUMN

My Advice to You as a Freshman in High School

By Sierra Trani
GVHS Freshman

I'm Sierra and I'm here to give you some advice for when you move up to high school. I'm currently a Freshman in high school, and I've learned a lot of do's and don'ts. Moving to a different school, especially when it consists of the four years that can and will affect the rest of your life can be terrifying. That's why I'm here, to help give you at least some comfort.

The most important thing when it comes to the academic side of high school, is to just do your work and to do it on time. You will have a slightly heavier workload, but teachers will give you enough time to complete it. It is in your power and in your best interest to use this time wisely and get your work done. Also, teachers are human, sometimes they miscalculate how much time students need to get something done. And if they do, they will change the due date, I promise you. You just have to ask.

MUSICAL

from page 7



“I really like "Spanish Panic" because of the dance to the song,” Skeen said.

Myers is playing Princess Number 12.

“I am excited for the dancing and just to be in something new,” Myers said. “I am trying to get out of my comfort zone and so far it’s been fun.”

Myers is not the only cast member excited for the musical. Castillo is thrilled to be playing Second Lady.

“The Second Lady is one of the ladies who wants to be married, but she cannot get married until the Prince does,” Castillo said. “I like that I get chased by the King, and I like the funny dances we do.”

Sheridan is playing Third Lady.

“I like being in my first play and getting to hang out with the cast,” Sheridan said.

Skyles is playing a Knight, and like Sheridan she also enjoys hanging out with the cast.

“They are really fun,” Skyles said. “I like that I get to dance and sing a lot.”

Abbey Beaton has taught band, choir, and theatre at GVHS for two years.

“It’s cool to see the students who will (hopefully) join the music and drama programs here at the high school,” Beaton said. “Students, middle schoolers especially, can grow so much in just a few months. I look forward to seeing how the middle schoolers in the musical develop their talent and personality as the year progresses, and then eventually when I see them at the high school!”

Beaton’s favorite song in the “Once Upon a Mattress” is “Swamps of Home.”

“It’s such a beautiful, interesting song, with just the right amount of humor to balance it out, and gives us insight into Winnifred’s backstory,” she said.

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for a journey through this enchanting musical filled with charm, humor, and unforgettable characters.

DIRT BIKING

from page 14

She has been riding dirt bikes since she was 10 years old.

“I like doing jumps and stuff like that when dirt biking,” she said. “I don’t like crashing.”

Every weekend she practices in Grand Junction and sometimes she goes to Denver.

“During practice, I focus on my technique and going faster,” she said. “I pay attention to my foot placement, and my body placement.”

Patterson’s skills are going to be put to a test when she competes at Nationals in Kentucky.

“The whole USA is competing, so [there are] around 42 people,” she said. “I’m honestly kind of scared to go against a lot of people, but I’m chillin.”



Provided

Addi dirt biking on Sunday, March 24th in Lakewood, CO. She placed third. Her next race is the National Qualifier this April in Brush, CO.

ADVICE

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Maintaining good grades is very important. You need to pass your classes in order to get the credits you need to graduate. However, another big piece of advice I will give you is to get involved in extracurricular activities. Participate in sports, and join clubs. Joining sports and clubs gets you a lot more involved in the school. It's also a great way to take a break from memorizing countries and stressing about your next test.

Another thing that will boost your high school experience, is to be involved. When there are assemblies, play the games. Go to sports games and support your peers. Go to the dances. And when you go to these things, it's all about the mindset. If you believe that it's going to be boring, it will end up being boring. But if you go to have fun, it will be fun.

My final piece of advice is to try and find balance. It's easy to put pressure on yourself and burn yourself out, but it's also easy to slack off. Push yourself to the best that you can do, but don't push yourself too hard. Finding this balance is hard, but it's essential. High school can and will be stressful at times, but take a deep breath. You got this. I believe in you.

STANFIELD

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Stanfield's favorite time in history is Medieval Europe then the Renaissance and Reformation. However, his favorite thing to teach about is Economics.

"In my opinion [Social Studies] is one of the most important things to learn about," he said. "I teach kids how to engage their brains and be skeptical. I teach them how to be citizens and vote and to be active participants in our democratic process. I teach kids the importance of managing money and learning how money actually works. All of these things are critical for being successful in real life. I like teaching Social Studies because it is easy to make real-world connections. The skills you learn in my class, you will use when you're an adult."

When Stanfield first started college, he was a culinary arts major. He was not one of those people that knew he always wanted to be a teacher.

"I learned very quickly that being in the kitchen professionally was not very fulfilling to me. So, in the middle of an existential crisis, I went to my advisor (who also happened to be one of my history professors at the time) for advice. He and I spoke and he pointed out that I was doing very well in his history class. I had started a study club for other students in the class, and by extension those students had started doing better. He then asked me a question that would change the course of my life, 'Brandon, have you ever considered becoming a teacher?' When he asked me that question, it was like a light was turned on in my brain. I switched my major to history with an emphasis in secondary education and pedagogical sciences," he said. "I became a teacher, and I never looked back. It was the best decision I have ever made."

Stanfield got his bachelor's degree in history and secondary education from Colorado Mesa University. He then got his master's in curriculum and instruction from Western Governors University. He taught at East Middle School in Grand Junction prior to GVMS.

"When my school closed last year, it was very hard for me," he said. "I am happy to have landed here. You all have been very kind and welcoming. Thank you so much."

