



Grant Community High School

District Newsletter

February 2024

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Student of the Month

Austin Smith



The Grant Community High School February Student of the Month is senior Austin Smith, son of Justin and Megan Smith of Round Lake.

Austin's academic achievements include being inducted into the National Honor Society during his sophomore year, serving as Socials Committee Head of the National Art Honor Society, earning his place on Honor Roll each semester, earning the AP Scholar with Honor award, and being recognized as an Illinois State Scholar. He has taken numerous AP courses and holds a remarkable 4.99 GPA.



His extracurricular activities include Football, Track, and Lacrosse.

Austin has participated in numerous volunteer and community service opportunities through NHS and NAHS. He has been a referee and coach for the Grant Jr. Bulldogs football program, he is a Big Dawg Mentor, and volunteers his time as a Student Athletic Trainer at basketball games and after school in our athletic training room.

In addition to all of his activities, Austin previously worked as a dock boy at Jet Funn over the summer, and currently works as a cashier at Panda Express. In his spare time, he loves football and art, and can be found outdoors on bike rides or jet skiing.

His plans for the future include attending a 4-year university and then on to medical school to become an orthopedic surgeon. He is exploring the University of Iowa, Marquette University, or Iowa State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Science.

Board of Education

Steve Hill, *President*
Kathy Kusiak, *Vice President*
John Jared, *Secretary*

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BULLDOGS AT STATE

Dance Places 10th at IHSA Dance State Finals

After an extraordinary season filled with numerous top placements and an exciting routine, the Grant Varsity Dance Team finished in 10th Place at the IHSA Dance State Finals!

This year marks the seventh time in school history that our Varsity Dancers have qualified for IHSA State. Their season has been nothing short of extraordinary, placing in the Top Four at every single competition, each performance better than the last. Not only did they claim the title of

2024 NLCC Champions, but for the second time in Grant history, they were named Sectional Champions too! Throughout both days of their IHSA State competition, they put everything they had into their performances and left it all on the floor. With improvements in scores as the weekend went on, the team ended their State season on a high. Now, they are setting their sights on Nationals. Make sure to follow @GrantDanceTeam on Instagram for updates about their Nationals journey!



Top & Bottom: Grant Dance performs at IHSA Dance State Finals.



Grant Dance performs at IHSA Dance State Finals.

Cheer Places 15th at IHSA Cheer State Finals



Grant Cheer performs at IHSA Cheer State Finals.



Top & Bottom: Grant Cheer performs at IHSA Cheer State Finals.

Grant Cheer finished their season 15th in the state for the Coed Division!

For the 18th time in school history, our Varsity Cheerleaders qualified for IHSA State. It has been a season filled with determination, perseverance, and passion as these athletes worked to strengthen their routine and individual skills. With a hard-fought 5th Place Sectional win, they punched their ticket

to State. The team hit the mat with confidence and gave a Day One performance they can all be proud of. Congratulations to the team and coaches on a strong end to the season!



Wrestling Program's Teacher Appreciation Night

The **Wrestling** program has had a busy second half of their season. Prior to leaving for winter break, our Varsity team competed at the 58th Annual Rus Erb Invitational & had several Bulldogs secure a spot on the podium. With a 5-3 overtime win, Christian Wittkamp punched his ticket into the final round. He continued to dig deep, overcome his opponents, & finished the

day in 1st Place for the 165 weight class. Erik Rodriguez (138) & Vince Jasinski (113) earned 2nd Place for their respective weight classes after going up against tough competitors from Batavia & Lane Tech. Grayson Lennon & Landon Jones put up a good fight for their stand placements & showed a lot of strength. After coming back from break, the program hosted the Lake County Wrestling Invite over two days. They ended the weekend with several top placements, including two Lake County Champions! Congratulations to Ayane & Vince Jasinski on claiming the top spot in your weight classes and the champion title! To close out January, our Girls Wrestling squad competed at Regionals. Ayane Jasinski finished as runner-up, dropping a tough bout 3-2 in the finals to Bartlett's State Champion. With her 2nd Place finish at Regionals, she qualified for Sectionals and is scheduled to compete on Friday, February 9, at Schaumburg High School. Our Boys Wrestling squad competed at the Libertyville Regional and had four Bulldogs qualify for Sectionals. Erik Rodriguez earned the top spot and title of Regional Champ, and will compete alongside Adrian Khi, Vince Jasinski, and Carter Hutchinson at the Barrington Sectional on January 9. Follow Grant Wrestling on X and Instagram for more season updates!



Lake County Champions, Vince (left) & Ayane (Right) Jasinski, with Coach Jolcover



Seth Sider

Seth Sider represented our **Boys Bowling** program at the Warren Sectional over the weekend and had a good day on the lanes, averaging 193. While he didn't advance to State, Seth gained a lot of experience from his first Sectional, and as the youngest GCHS Sectional competitor we've ever had, he has an exciting three years ahead of him with the program.

Between their practice and game schedule, it's been a busy season for the **Girls Basketball** program. No matter how packed the schedule may be, they always have time to celebrate their Seniors! Their Senior Night celebrations were made extra special after earning the win over Antioch.



Girls Basketball Seniors (left to right): Jael Ivory, Nevada Holm, Alyssa Sandquist, Abigail Hobbs, & Isabella Gomezdelatorre



Will Schubert attempts to gain possession of the ball during Grant's game against North Chicago.

For their final matches of January, the **Boys Basketball** program went up against three NLCC schools. They hosted North Chicago and added another program sweep to their season record with Varsity taking down the Warhawks 59-51, Sophomore winning 69-35, and Freshman winning 57-24. Following their North Chicago match, the program hosted Grayslake Central. Varsity led the Rams most of the night but came up just three points short and closed out the game with a score of 47-50. Freshman A earned a win against the Rams with a score of 45-32. They traveled to Grayslake North for their final January game and the Knights out-shot our Varsity team, but the Freshman and Sophomore levels both brought home Grant wins.

A T H L E T I C S





Grant Girls Bowling Sectional Qualifiers

It has been quite the season for the **Girls Bowling** program! At the Grayslake North Invite, Varsity earned 3rd Place as a team. Savannah Dickson was named Individual Champion, and Desiree Dickson earned 15th Place. At their home invite, Varsity and JV took 2nd Place in their respective pools. At the Varsity level, Savannah earned 1st Place, and Desiree earned 2nd. At the JV level, Kat Glenn Porter earned 1st Place, Riley Blair took 6th, Kaitlyn Bartlett took 7th, and Clay Whitson took 9th. To close out January, the program took on the NLCC. Along with claiming the title of NLCC Champs and NLCC Tournament Champions, Varsity had three Bowldogs make All-Conference. Congratulations to Ella Avallone for taking 12th, Desiree Dickson for taking 6th, and our NLCC Champion Savannah Dickson for taking 1st Place! Savannah's

first-place, six-game series totaled 1,291 pins - a new school record! In addition to team and individual placements, Kyleah Baker was selected as this year's NLCC Sportsmanship Award recipient for Grant.

At their IHSA Regional competition, the Varsity Bowldogs brought home a 2nd Place team finish and a 2nd Place individual finish for Savannah Dickson! The team is scheduled to compete at the Palatine Sectional on Saturday, February 10. Follow Grant Girls Bowling on X and Instagram for updates on their State series journey!

Congratulations to our **January Athletes of the Month** - Landon Enters, Seth Sider, Jazzie McNellis, Ellie Gaedtke, Isabel Gomezdelatorre, Desiree Dickson, and Vince Jasinski! These Bulldogs have put in a great deal of effort all season and have represented their programs well. We look forward to seeing them achieve even more, on and off the court/lane/mat!

<p>Landon Enters Boys Basketball</p> <p>to the month of January, Landon leads our starting group with 11 points per game while also leading in field goal percentage at 40%.</p> <p>Athlete of the Month JANUARY</p>	<p>Seth Sider Boys Bowling</p> <p>Seth was our only Sectional qualifier this season. He averaged 192 on the season and became the IHSA Sectional qualifier we have ever had. We are looking forward to seeing what he can accomplish in his next three years.</p> <p>Athlete of the Month JANUARY</p>	<p>Jazzie McNellis Cheerleading</p> <p>Jazzie has really stepped up this past month in both her skills and leadership qualities. Her starting skills have improved dramatically since the start of our competition. She utilizes real talk to positively influence her teammates and give words of encouragement for new changes. Her helpful expertise is put to use confident throughout the routine.</p> <p>Athlete of the Month JANUARY</p>	<p>Ellie Gaedtke Dance</p> <p>Ellie is such a strong teammate and cheerleader while also being a strong light on the practice. She is dedicated and hardworking. She is a great role model for the team. She is always ready to help and always available. She is always willing to take on any challenge and always gives her best effort. She is a great role model for the team and always gives her best effort.</p> <p>Athlete of the Month JANUARY</p>	<p>Isabel Gomezdelatorre Girls Basketball</p> <p>Bella "Big Red" takes our games to another level. She is aggressive, always hustles, and has a lot of heart.</p> <p>Athlete of the Month JANUARY</p>	<p>Desiree Dickson Girls Bowling</p> <p>Desiree is a true team player and always gives her best effort. She is a great role model for the team and always gives her best effort. She is a great role model for the team and always gives her best effort.</p> <p>Athlete of the Month JANUARY</p>	<p>Vince Jasinski Wrestling</p> <p>Vince is currently 28-10 this season and is an Incredible Wrestler by Illinois Matinee. He is the world's Lake County Individual Champion and has 23 pins on the season. 8 away from breaking the school record!</p> <p>Athlete of the Month JANUARY</p>
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Congratulations to our **January Sportsmanship** winners - Adam Whiting, Samantha Archuleta, Linna Hidrogo, Nevada Holm, and Riley Blair! No matter the situation, these Bulldogs continue to show respect for their coaches, teammates, and opponents, put their best foot forward, and bring a positive attitude with them every day. Thanks for setting an example of what it means to have good sportsmanship and showing your fellow Bulldogs how to Keep It RED!

<p>Adam Whiting Boys Basketball</p> <p>Adam is always willing to do what is necessary to help the team in practice and is a true team-first player.</p> <p>Sportsmanship Winner JANUARY</p>	<p>Samantha Archuleta Cheerleading</p> <p>Samantha has earned the Sportsmanship Award for having such a positive attitude and always putting forth her best effort. She is a true example of our program values. She is on time for practice and always ready for a challenge. Samantha is not afraid to make a mistake and learn from it. We are proud of how much she has grown as an athlete this year.</p> <p>Sportsmanship Winner JANUARY</p>	<p>Linna Hidrogo Dance</p> <p>Linna is an amazing dancer and always takes time to help her teammates. She is everything you could ask for in an athlete. She is dedicated, respectful, and always gives her best effort. She is a great role model for the team and always gives her best effort.</p> <p>Sportsmanship Winner JANUARY</p>	<p>Nevada Holm Girls Basketball</p> <p>Nevada is a Senior Captain who consistently performs well on the court. Nevada remains calm under pressure and leads her team well through mutual respect.</p> <p>Sportsmanship Winner JANUARY</p>	<p>Riley Blair Girls Bowling</p> <p>As a one of our veteran bowlers, Riley leads by example on our JV squad. She encourages her teammates and models the high level of sportsmanship expected of our Grant Bowldogs. Through her leadership, our JV squad finished as a team, everyone knows what needs to be done and when it needs to be done. Plying together as a team allowed our JV squad to finish as Conference Champions at the season-ending Mt. Carmel JV Invite. Without Riley, the squad would not have been as successful as it was.</p> <p>Sportsmanship Winner JANUARY</p>
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SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION

- Track & Field (Boys & Girls)
- Soccer (Girls)
- Baseball
- Tennis (Boys)
- Badminton (Girls)
- Volleyball (Boys)
- Lacrosse (Boys)
- Softball

Spring Sports Registration is open!
All spring athletes must complete the online registration process

and must have a current physical on file. For more information, reach out to the Athletics Office or your sport's head coach.

Most sports begin before February ends so register ASAP!





Business Bulldogs Qualify for FBLA State

FBLA members recently competed in the Northern Area Regional Conference. After testing their knowledge and skills, 39 Business Bulldogs walked away with a top-ten finish and will be advancing to the FBLA State Competition in April!

GCHS Northern Area Competition Standings

1st Place—Julia Podgorski and Skyler Johnson for Public Policy, Isabella Little for Supply Chain Management, Diana Ngo for UX Design, Ashlin Driscoll and Pam Oropeza for Broadcast Journalism, Jacki Bendfeldt for Public Speaking, and Sophie Lelchuk, Emeri Oliver, and Vani Patel for Intro to Programming

2nd Place—Isabella Little for Human Resource Management, Melanie Ruiz for Insurance & Risk Management, Joseph Reiner and Izzy Ellington for Intro to Business Concepts, Kyle Pohlman for Computer Problem Solving, Catherine Fabian for Database Design, Kian Korach for Digital Animation, Ava Delgadillo & Chloe Labuca for Graphic Design, Milla Laskosky, Maria Olivares, and Angelina Sosa for Data Analysis, and Braden Cornell and Melanie Ruiz for Public Service Announcement

3rd Place—Casey McCleery for Journalism, Joseph Reiner for Intro to Financial Math, Vic Lin for Client Service, and Jasmine Bo, Angela Salamat, and Annabelle Smith for Visual Design

4th Place—Kiara Promenzio Napal for Health Care Administration, Jessi Von Helms for Agribusiness, Zuzanna Janicki for Securities & Investments, Zuzanna Janicki, Julia Podgorski, and Khushi Viramgami for Social Media Strategies

5th Place—Addison Smith for Intro to Business Procedures, and Miami De La Rosa and Brooke Horn for Website Design

6th Place—Jaelen Cournoyer for Advertising, Natalia Fafrowicz for Business Law, Addison Smith for Intro to Financial Math, Braden Cornell for Organizational Leadership, Izabela Podgorski for Intro to FBLA and Intro to Business Presentation

7th Place—Catherine Fabian for UX Design, Vic Lin for Intro to Business Communication, and Bloom Dawson and Jessi Von Helms for Business Plan

8th Place—Nicole Pawlus for Economics

9th Place—Pam Oropeza for Journalism

Recycle Batteries & Keep It Green

The Environmental Club is tackling battery recycling! After doing some research, club members discovered that batteries contain chemicals such as manganese, cobalt, and nickel which are harmful to the environment when not handed properly. When these chemicals leak from discarded batteries, water supply systems and ecosystems in general can be contaminated. To help stop this destruction to our environment, the club has placed several drop-off bins around the school so that students and staff can dispose of their batteries properly. When bins are filled, the Environmental Club will work with Waste Management to pick up the collected batteries. If you have AA, AAA, C, D, or 9-Volt batteries, stop by TSI, the Library, the Math Lab, or the Faculty Lounge and drop them in the bin. By doing your part in taking care of the environment, we can all Keep It RED by Keeping It Green.



Battery Recycling Bin

Illinois State Scholars

We are incredibly excited to share that 47 Bulldogs have been designated as Illinois State Scholars! The State Scholar Program is awarded to high school seniors based on ACT or SAT scores, sixth-semester class size, unweighted class rank, and GPA.

Each student designated as a State Scholar has received a congratulatory letter and a Certificate of Achievement for this amazing feat! To be named an Illinois State Scholar is an outstanding accomplishment, and we are so proud of these Bulldogs for what they have achieved.



Matthew Warmowski is the recipient of the January Social Studies' Golden Globe Award!

Throughout the school year, Matthew has established himself as an engaged student and hard worker. No matter the unit, Matthew has been eager to learn everything he can and is not afraid to ask questions when he is confused. As he expands his U.S. history knowledge through the provided curriculum, he asks deeper questions that help him and his classmates learn even more. Mrs. Thomas, Matthew's U.S. History teacher, said that "on a daily basis,

he is engaged in the material. However, Matthew goes beyond that. I believe his inquiry helps his fellow students too." In addition to his dedication to learning, Mrs. Thomas expressed that Matthew "strives to do his very best and has grit. I consider those attributes worthy of the recognition!" For all these reasons, Matthew is an excellent recipient of the Golden Globe Award. Keep up the amazing work, Matthew!



The Social Studies Department presented Matthew with the Golden Globe Award.

Caleigh Houdek is the recipient of the February Social Studies' Golden Globe Award!

The Social Studies Department is excited to award the February Golden Globe Award to Caleigh because of her passion for learning and willingness to help others. When the class is going over new material, it's clear that Caleigh is not taking information in just to pass a test. She digs deeper to make connections across various events and time periods, asks profound questions that expands the scope of discussed material, and encourages other students to share in the exploration. According to her teacher Mr. Robinson, "it has been truly remarkable witnessing how Caleigh's understanding and points of view about our world has developed over the course of the year and how she wants to continue growing as a learner in order to make personal improvements." Caleigh is a wonderful recipient of the Golden Globe Award and we can't wait to see what else she achieves.

Congratulations, Caleigh!



The Social Studies Department presented Caleigh with the Golden Globe Award.

Seal of Biliteracy

Grant Community High School offers students the opportunity to earn the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy is a recognition for students who demonstrate proficiency in English and one or more other languages. When earned, the Seal of Biliteracy will appear on the student's official transcript and diploma.

Students who earn the Seal of Biliteracy are also provided with the opportunity to earn early college credit. All public colleges and universities in the State of Illinois have criteria on how this credit is awarded. Students should reference the college or university website for their criteria about how the specific institution applies the credit.

To qualify for the State Seal of Biliteracy, a Grant student must accomplish one of the following to demonstrate proficiency in English:

- Earn a minimum score of a 480 on the Evidence Based Reading and Writing portion of an official administration of the SAT.
- Earn a minimum score of a 4.8 on the ACCESS test.
- Earn a score of a 5 on the AP English and Language Composition Test
- Earn a score of I-5 on the AAPPL English Test

And accomplish one of the following to demonstrate proficiency in another language:

- Earn a score of 4 or higher on the AP Spanish Test.
- Earn a minimum score of I-5 on the AAPPL test in the chosen language.

Testing dates for the AAPPL test will be announced at the beginning of each school year. Students wishing to earn the Seal of Biliteracy are encouraged to discuss the opportunity with their counselor. There will be one administration of the AAPPL test in the Fall semester for early graduates and another administration of the AAPPL test in the Spring semester Seniors wishing to obtain the Seal of Biliteracy. The fee for taking the AAPPL test is \$20.

Testing Dates

AAPPL Testing

- February 22, 2024

Students wishing to earn the Seal of Biliteracy are encouraged to discuss the opportunity with their counselor. The AAPPL test fee can be paid through [RevTrak](#). To register for the test, please also complete the [Seal of Biliteracy Language Proficiency Exam Registration](#).

5Essentials Survey

The Illinois 5Essentials Survey window opened on January 30 and will remain open until March 29, 2024. Parents, students and teachers across Illinois have an opportunity to participate in the statewide Illinois 5Essentials Survey. This opportunity allows stakeholders to share their thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in a survey about Grant Community High School. As a parent, we hope you will take this opportunity to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness at Grant Community High School. Your identity and survey responses will be kept completely confidential and will never be connected to you or your child. As per state requirement, students and teachers will also be completing the [Illinois 5Essentials Survey](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact 5Essentials Client Services at 1-866-440-1874 or 5essentials@uchicago.edu.

Talking Bulldogs Qualify for Sectionals



Talking Bulldogs Sectional Qualifiers

To close out January, the Talking Bulldogs competed in their last regular season competition and brought home a Top Five placement in Original Comedy thanks to Jacki Bendfeldt. Following their final tournament, the team hosted a Speech Showcase to introduce their Performance in the Round skit and shake off any remaining nerves before Regionals. They wowed the Grant community and then wowed the judges at their Regional competition. Looking ahead to Sectionals, we have 11 out of 14 events and the PIR advancing, including double Tournament Champions. Not only did the PIR take 1st Place, but Sammie Cruz and Jacki Bendfeldt both took 1st Place for their events! Sammie competed in and won the Regional Champion title for Dramatic Interpretation and Prose while Jacki earned the Regional Champ title for Humorous Interpretation and Original Comedy.

The team will be competing at Sectionals at Rochelle High School on Saturday, February 10. Follow the Talking Bulldogs on Instagram for updates on their State series journey!

National School Counseling Week

Standards-Based, Student-Focused

National School Counseling Week 2024 is scheduled for February 5-9. This week focuses public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems and how students are impacted as a result of what their school counselor can do for and with them. This week is sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) and works to highlight the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for careers.

School Counselors at Grant are actively engaged in helping students examine their abilities, strengths, interests and talents; work in a partnership with parents as they encounter the challenges of raising children in today's world; focus on positive ways to enhance students' academic, postsecondary and social/emotional development; and work with teachers and other educators to provide an educational system where students can realize their potential and set healthy, realistic and optimistic aspirations for themselves. School Counselors are certified, experienced educators with a master's degree in school counseling. The combination of their training and experience makes them an integral part of the total educational program.



Grant Counseling Team, Assistant Principal Geist, & Mrs. Wilhelm

With all that our counselors do to help students succeed, we encourage everyone to take a minute or two out of their day and send a note of appreciation to one of our amazing counselors—[Staff Appreciation Form](#). More information about National School Counseling Week, visit ASCA's website, www.schoolcounselor.org



Our Tangled-theme winter dance is approaching quickly! Leading up to the dance, we have a week jam-packed with dress-up days to get everyone in the dancing mood.

The week will kick off on Tuesday with "Tangle It Up" Hair Day. Students are encouraged to come up with some creative hairstyles, so grab all the hair ties and ribbons you can find for an epic up-do. Wednesday is all about Disney. Thursday is a Plaid Day for all. On Friday, wear your best purple and gold clothing for a day full of Tangled spirit.

The fun doesn't stop there! Our winter dance is on Saturday, February 24, from 7:00-10:00 PM in the East Gym. Students can purchase their tickets for \$15/person either online or from the Bookstore from February 15-23. Tickets **WILL NOT** be sold at the door. If students are looking to bring a guest that does not attend Grant, they must fill out the [Dance Guest Approval Form](#) and receive written approval from the Deans **BEFORE** purchasing a ticket. Anyone attending the dance should review the [Dance Policy and Dress Code](#).

With everything going on during the week, make sure you enjoy the fun! Any questions regarding the winter dance should be addressed to Ms. Gunsallus at agunsallus@grantbulldogs.org.

A promotional poster for a winter dance. The background features a stylized illustration of a castle with multiple towers and flags, set against a dark night sky with purple and blue hues. Numerous glowing orange lanterns are scattered throughout the scene. The text is written in a mix of fonts and colors. The main title 'Winter Dance' is in a light purple, cursive font. Below it, 'Tangled' with a Twist' is written in a larger, darker purple, cursive font. The date and time 'February 24 7:00 - 10:00 PM' are in a simple, black, sans-serif font. The location 'In the GCHS East Gym' is also in a black, sans-serif font. On the right side, the ticket information 'Tickets are \$15 sold between February 15th-23rd' is written in a black, sans-serif font, with the date range on a separate line.

Winter Dance
"Tangled" with a Twist
February 24
7:00 - 10:00 PM
In the GCHS East Gym
Tickets are \$15
sold between
February
15th-23rd

Summer School Information

Brochures and registration forms for summer school will be available in the Front Office and on our website. All classes are on a first come, first served basis. There are no refunds after the first day of class. Summer school is open to all students who reside within the District 124 attendance boundaries, and who have completed their Freshman, Sophomore, or Junior year. For further information, please visit our website (www.grantbulldogs.org) and see the headline listed: [Summer School 2024](#).



FRESHMEN: TURN IN PROOF OF YOUR DENTAL EXAM

ALL 9TH GRADERS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A DENTAL EXAM. PROOF OF THE EXAM MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HEALTH OFFICE DURING THE STUDENT'S 9TH GRADE YEAR. PLEASE VISIT THE "HEALTH SERVICES" SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE FOR THE FORM.

AP Exams

The 2024 AP Exams will be administered in schools during the first two full weeks in May: May 6-10 & May 13-17. All remaining fee balances must be paid by March 11, 2024.

Students with a new second semester AP course (US Government or Macroeconomics) need to communicate with their instructors if they DO NOT wish to take the spring AP Exams by March 1. Once a student indicates that he or she is taking the test, parents should go to our [RevTrak system](#) by March 11 to pay for the exam(s) if it was not included in the fall registration process.

If your student receives free or reduced lunch and is paying the reduced exam fee, please contact Mrs. Jones in our Curriculum Office or via phone at 847-973-3800. We will certainly work with individual students and families to make sure every qualified student is able to take Advanced Placement exams.

Important Deadlines for AP Exam Registrations:

- Friday, March 1, 2024: Students in a second semester only AP course, need to notify teachers if they DO NOT plan to take the AP exam.
- Monday, March 11, 2024: All exams must have the remaining balance paid or the exam will be canceled and the student will forfeit the \$40.00 Pre-Registration Fee.

Please feel free to contact your student's teacher or Dr. Noisy, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, if you have any questions regarding the Advanced Placement program. On behalf of our faculty and administration, we would like to wish all of our students good luck as they continue to prepare for these important exams.

AP Exam Schedule—May 2024

Week 1	Morning 8:00 a.m.	Afternoon 12:00 p.m.	Afternoon 2:00 p.m.
Monday, May 6	United States Government and Politics	Art History Chemistry	
Tuesday, May 7	Human Geography Microeconomics	Seminar Statistics	
Wednesday, May 8	English Literature & Composition	Comparative Government & Politics Computer Science A	
Thursday, May 9	Chinese Language & Culture Environmental Science	Psychology	
Friday, May 10	European History United States History	Macroeconomics Spanish Literature & Culture	
Art & Design: Friday, May 10 (8 PM EST), is the deadline for AP Art & Design students to submit their three portfolio components as final in the AP Digital Portfolio.			
Week 2	Morning 8:00 a.m.	Afternoon 12:00 p.m.	Afternoon 2:00 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Calculus AB & Calculus BC	Italian Language & Culture Precalculus	
Tuesday, May 14	English Language & Composition	African American Studies Physics C: Mechanics	Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
Wednesday, May 15	French Language & Culture World History: Modern	Computer Science Principles Music Theory	
Thursday, May 16	Spanish Language & Culture	Biology Japanese Language & Culture	
Friday, May 17	German Language & Culture Physics 1: Algebra-Based	Latin Physics 2: Algebra-Based	



**CELEBRATE TODAY,
OWN TOMORROW!**

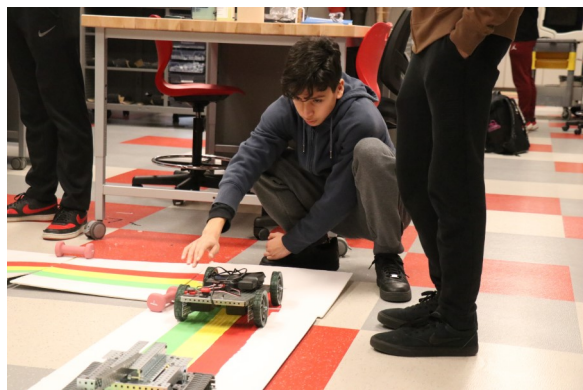
February is CTE (Career and Technical Education) Month and we are using that to celebrate the opportunities for our students through the CTE department. Over the past several years, our staff has worked hard to expand access and opportunities for our students to explore their career interests and expand their capacity through rigorous new curricula. In that time, our CTE department has launched courses in entrepreneurship, mobile application design, technology support, engineering, and education. The expansion in our curriculum has included dual credit courses, internships, and opportunities for students to earn industry credentials. These changes to our curriculum and our attention to developing career pathways for our students have led to exciting opportunities for our students.

In our entrepreneurship pathway, students have been engaged within the IncubatorEDU curriculum over the past four years. Students in this course have the opportunity to take an idea for a product and build their business

plan through the “lean start-up model”. As they do this, our students have the opportunity to engage with nearly twenty industry professionals and leaders to learn firsthand about how to start and run a business. Our students present their plans at minimum viable product pitches and then again at a final pitch to our Board of Advisors who select the best business plan within the group.



Mobile Maker



Project Lead the Way

Our future engineers have immersed themselves in our engineering pathway as they have worked through our Project Lead the Way course sequence. Through these courses, students learn critical thinking skills and the technical skills to prepare for undergraduate study in Engineering. Students engage with industry professionals in this course as they learn about the Engineering career and receive professional feedback about their work. Within these classes, students work to understand and use CAD programs, 3D printing, programming of robotic arms and belt systems, and the milling of material.

Grant’s future educators have jumped into their future careers by taking our new dual credit Introduction to Education course. As part of this class, our students are interning for nearly 60 hours at our feeder schools helping teachers in their classrooms.

In the past five years, students in our Tech Support Internship have earned over 200 industry credentials. These credentials include, but are not limited to, Microsoft Office Specialist Certification and the CompTIA ITF+ certification. Students also certify to fix our Chromebooks and offer all first-tier technical support for Chromebook issues across the school. These students have proved to be valuable assets to our teachers and students across the building.



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Food Preparation

Across all of our classes in the CTE department, we work to open doors to opportunities so that our students can be college and career ready. Whether you want to go into carpentry or manufacturing and are exploring our woods classes, fixing small engines in our Technology Exploration classes, learning culinary skills in our Food Preparation and Nutrition courses, or creating the next generation of iPhone app in our Mobile App Design course, we have a pathway for every student.

We encourage every student to go full steam ahead and take advantage of the opportunities available through the CTE department to prepare themselves for the workplace of tomorrow!

To learn more about CTE at Grant Community High School, please attend the February 28 Parent University highlighting CTE programs at Grant Community High School. If you would like information about course registration please contact your student's counselor, or the Divisional Administrator for CTE, Mr. Blair Schoell, he can be reached at bschoell@grantbulldogs.org.



Fashion Construction

Keep It RED

To get us all started on the right foot, we challenged our students to another Be On Time Challenge and the Senior Class was determined to win. Within the first two weeks of our challenge, the Seniors became the clear front runner and held onto their lead throughout the final week. With only 220 tardies, the Seniors secured their win along with an ice cream party and Bulldog Cup points. Although the Seniors are earning a grade level reward, we still have individual prizes to award. All students with zero tardies during the course of the challenge will be entered into a raffle to win tickets to the winter dance. Follow us on Twitter ([@KeepingItRED](https://twitter.com/KeepingItRED)) for updates on challenge winners.



Bulldog Buck Winners from the Week of February 2



Second Quarter Bulldog Buck Winners

GCHS is hosting a career fair for all students, grades 9-12, to help foster an exploration into the many career options available.



GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

The Annual Career Expo 2024

**MARCH 20, 2024
9:15 AM - 3:10 PM
GCHS FIELDHOUSE**

QUESTIONS?

**CONTACT BLYTHE MASURA (COLLEGE & CAREER COUNSELOR)
BMASURA@GRANTBULLDOGS.ORG**

Registration is required. Please register by March 6, 2024.

****We will not accept any registrations beyond that date****

For the registration link click or scan here:



CAREER REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE PROVIDED AN 8-FOOT TABLE, WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS, AND ACCESS TO ELECTRICAL OUTLETS IF NECESSARY. LUNCH AND SNACKS WILL ALSO BE SERVED.

Coffee Wednesdays



THE COFFEE SHOP IN FOX LAKE

IN NEED OF A MID-WEEK COFFEE?
WANT TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY?
DO BOTH AT THE SAME TIME!

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 7:00-9:30 AM

Mention Grant Community High School when ordering
& The Coffee Shop will donate 5% of the proceeds
back to The GCHS Foundation.

Bulldog Happenings

Academic Team Takes Conference



The Varsity Academic Team competed at Grayslake Central at the start of February for their annual NLCC Tournament. They beat Central in the semi-final and then took down Wauconda for the conference title. They finished the season with a 19-1 conference record, and are now shifting all their focus to preparing for Regionals in March.

Myles & Zach Take on ILMEA



Myles Foreman and Zach Langhoff were selected to represent Grant in the ILMEA All-State Honors Chorus on January 24. Not only did these talented Bulldogs get to work with music professionals as part of their ILMEA experience, but they also had the opportunity to perform alongside the best high school singers in the state!

Bulldogs Create Valentine's Day Cards for Seniors



As part of Senator Craig Wilcox's Valentine's For Seniors Card Drive, our English teachers provided students with time to create their own cards. Our students had a wonderful time and put together some truly creative cards for our community members.

Mathletes Earn Top Placements



Our Mathletes have been busy! They hosted the NLCC Math Meet and earned 3rd Place with scores from our Geometry, Algebra 2, Precalculus, Freshman/Sophomore 8-Person, Junior/Senior 8-Person, and Calculator teams. Individually, Jirah Lanzar tied for 3rd Place in Algebra 2 and earned the Golden Calculator for her awesome performance! Over the weekend, they took a trip to Hononegah for their invitational and earned 4th Place. Along with their team placement, Taiseer Mumin secured 1st Place for Algebra 2, and our Algebra 2 Team, made up of Mumin, Evan Weisheit, Hunter Seymour, Jirah Lanzar, and Colin Noordyke, took 2nd Place.

Marching Bulldogs Visit Gavin



Our Marching Bulldogs had the privilege of performing for the students and staff at Gavin South, and it was an amazing experience for all! Thank you to all the staff members who made this happen and helped bring our Marching students together.

Counselors' Corner

Course Selection Appointments

Counselors are currently working with Freshman and Sophomore students on course selections for the 2024-2025 academic year. All students will meet with their school counselor by the end of February and review course for the next year. Course Selections will be mailed home by mid-March. Students wishing to make changes can contact their school counselor by March 22, 2024 with any change request.

National School Counseling Week (NSCW):

NSCW 2023 (February 5-9) is focused on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems. This week, sponsored by ASCA, highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

Summer School:

Registration for Summer School is open online for enrichments and credit recovery. Check the [Grant website](#) for more information and registration links.

FAFSA:

It is required for the graduating Class of 2024 to complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#), [Alternative Application for Illinois Student](#), or complete a waiver that states your student will not be filing a FAFSA. See your School Counselor with any questions.

Career Center News:

[February Newsletter](#)

First-Gen Group:

If you are part of the Class of 2025 and a first-generation student, meaning you are the first in your family to attend college, reach out to [Mrs. Schaefer](#), [Mrs. Gill](#), or [Mrs. Smith](#), to join the First-Gen Group. This group assists students in navigating the college

admission process and is ready to help answer all the questions you may have.

Website Resources:

- [College Board](#)
- [ACT](#)
- [Khan Academy/SAT test Prep](#)

Reminders:

- Early Graduation Applications are due to counselors by March 15, 2024.
- The deadline to make changes to 2024-25 courses is March 22, 2024.



C A L E N D A R

February

Feb. 5	Start of National School Counseling Week (2/5-2/9)
Feb. 7	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Progress Reports
Feb. 14	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Feb. 15	Ticket sales for winter dance begin Board of Education Meeting
Feb. 16	Staff Institute Day, no student attendance
Feb. 19	President's Day observed, no school
Feb. 21	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Feb. 22	Seal of Biliteracy testing Best Buddies @ Wauconda
Feb. 23	Last day of winter dance ticket sales
Feb. 24	Winter Dance
Feb. 26	Softball, Baseball, Lacrosse, Badminton, Girls Soccer, & Boys Tennis seasons begins
Feb. 28	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Parent University: Career & Technical Education

March

Mar. 4	Boys Volleyball season begins
Mar. 6	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Music In Our Schools Concert
Mar. 8	Grant's Got Talent!
Mar. 11	AP Exam balance payment due
Mar. 12	Blood drive
Mar. 13	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Progress Reports
Mar. 14	Parent University SEL Series Session: Technology & Emotional Health
Mar. 15	Early graduation applications due
Mar. 20	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Career Expo
Mar. 21	Board of Education Meeting
Mar. 22	Deadline for 2024-25 course change requests
Mar. 25-29	Spring Break

April

Apr. 3	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Parent University: Writer's Week NHS induction ceremony
Apr. 10	PSAT/SAT Testing Activity & Athletic Fair (Class of 2028)
Apr. 17	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Apr. 18	Board of Education Meeting
Apr. 19	Progress Reports Opening night of Annie (spring musical)
Apr. 20	Fido Festival & Adoption Event (Canine Connections)
Apr. 24	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Parent University: Financial Aid Night (Juniors)