



Grant Community High School

District Newsletter

January 2024

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Student of the Month

Milla Laskosky



The Grant Community High School January Student of the Month is senior Milla Laskosky, daughter of Michael and Paulina Laskosky of Fox Lake.

Milla's academic achievements include earning Honor Roll status each semester, successfully taking several AP courses, being awarded the Scholar Athlete award, and representing Grant at the World Affairs Seminar during the summer of 2023. She holds an impressive 4.92 GPA.



Her extracurricular activities include participating in the Principal's Advisory Council and serving as Captain of the JV Academic Team, Vice President of the Meds Club, Captain of the Varsity Tennis team, and President of Student Council.

Milla participates in many community service opportunities, such as pop-up food banks, volunteering for families within the 114 School District, and helping the Booster Club. She has also enjoyed being a World Languages tutor this year at Grant.

In addition to her activities, Milla started her own tutoring business by advertising to middle schools. She quickly built a clientele of students, each having shown progress in their grades. She also hosts frequent study nights for her peers in AP classes before exams. In her spare time, Milla enjoys going to the gym, learning to play instruments, and water sports such as surfing and wakeboarding. She is also loving her year as a host to an exchange student, Maria, from Paris.

Her plans for the future include attending her dream school, Northwestern, to earn a degree in Business and Marketing with an additional major in Health Sciences. With her love of travel, she plans to do an International Exchange Program during her time at university.

Board of Education

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

Shelly Booth
Ivy Fleming
Ed Lescher
Bob Yanik



Happy New Year

2024

We're ringing in the new year, but still thinking about all the great events that took place in first semester. Between welcoming so many new Bulldogs to the building, a packed Homecoming week, Football making it to the Playoffs, band and choir concerts, Clue: On Stage, Bulldog Buck and Pride winners (and so much more!), we created a great deal of memories and kicked off the year strong.

There are more exciting events to come and memories to make as we enter 2024. Within the first month of being back on campus, students will participate in a school-wide pep assembly to celebrate the accomplishments of our fall sports and get an update on how winter sports and clubs are performing. In addition to all the pep, we are excited for big second semester events including the winter dance, spring musical, Music In Our Schools, Fido Festival, prom, and graduation! We may be just starting the month of January, but May is going to be here before we know it. Although it can be bittersweet to think about the end of the school year, especially when we have to say goodbye to so many wonderful students, it's exciting to think about what else our students will achieve during the second half of the year.

There are still a few days left of winter break, so please continue to enjoy your time at home and all the relaxation that comes with that. We cannot wait to hear about your winter adventures and the memories created during your time off.

Wishing you warmth and good cheer this holiday season, and all the best in 2024.

- Your Bulldog Family



Excellence in Education Award Winners



Kristen Arndt is an outstanding model of Excellence in Education. She is dedicated to the success of every student on her caseload and in her classroom. She works tirelessly to ensure that all of her students have full access to every opportunity to develop the skills needed to be successful beyond their four years at Grant. What truly stands out about Kristen is her deep care and concern for each student. She refuses to accept excuses and firmly believes in their potential. Kristen's approach is one of empowerment, as she motivates her students to overcome challenges and reach their goals. She fosters a sense of ownership, responsibility, and accountability. She instills in them the belief that success is attainable through hard work and determination, and these are the most valuable lifelong attributes in our Portrait of a Bulldog. Her contributions to our school community are immeasurable and make her incredibly deserving of the Excellence in Education Award.



Principal Schmidt, Mrs. Sonders, Mrs. Gaura, & students celebrate Mrs. Arndt for being chosen as our Second Quarter Excellence in Education recipient.



Mrs. Whitman, Ms. Martin, Mrs. Rueb, Principal Schmidt, & Mr. Ross celebrate Mrs. Bowles for being chosen as our Second Quarter Excellence in Education recipient.

Cory Bowles is incredibly deserving of the Excellence in Education Award because she is an amazing team member who epitomizes the core values of the Blueprint of Grant Staff. Cory has been a Grant staff member for over 10 years and has brought an added level of Bulldog spirit and pride with her every year. Since joining our Grant staff family, Cory has proven herself to be adaptable, understanding, and a support to our community. During her time in the Main Office and now, in the Athletic Department, she effectively communicates with students and has established a welcoming environment for all. Day in and day out, she demonstrates what it means to Keep It RED and sets a positive example for those around her. Throughout her many years as a staff member, Cory has helped strengthen the “community” in GCHS with a great deal of compassion and kindness. As a Grant graduate and current staff member, Cory is a great representative of GCHS and continues to be instrumental in our mission. It is for all of these reasons and many more that Cory Bowles is deserving of the Excellence in Education Award.

To learn more about Kristen and Cory, visit our [Excellence in Education webpage](#).

Bulldogs Qualify for ILMEA All-State Honors Chorus

For the first time in many years, we will have two Choir students representing Grant at the ILMEA All-State Festival in January! Congratulations to Myles Foreman and Zach Langhoff on qualifying for All-State, and even more impressively, the Honors Chorus. The Honors Chorus, which is the highest accomplishment at All-State, includes students who scored in the top 5% in their vocal audition. Make sure to keep an eye out for more information as we get closer to January 24!



Myles Foreman



Zach Langhoff

NLCC Invitational Honor Band Festival



Cole Tellez
Clarinet



Zen Felipe
Bass Clarinet

The 6th Annual NLCC Invitational Honor Band Festival will be held on February 5 & 6, 2024, at Wauconda High School. This year, we had four Grant Band students selected to participate! These students will prepare extremely advanced, to collegiate level, repertoire. The two bands that perform at the Invitational Concert are the 9th & 10th Grade Honor Band and the 11th & 12th Grade Honor Band.



Linnea Hauser
Tenor Saxophone



Braden Cornell
Trombone

Grant will be represented in the 9th & 10th Grade Honor Band by Freshmen Cole Tellez (Clarinet) and Zen Felipe (Bass Clarinet), and in the 11th & 12th Grade Band by Junior Linnea Hauser (Tenor Saxophone) and Senior Braden Cornell (Trombone).

Congratulations, and good luck! We can't wait to see you perform in February!

French Students Create *Bûches de Noël*

French classes had a jump start on celebrating the holidays by making their *bûches de Noël*. This traditional Christmas cake, made and decorated to resemble a Yule log, is a dessert staple in France and other French-speaking countries. The history behind the cakes is that Napoleon Bonaparte had issued a proclamation ordering the people of Paris to close their chimneys during the winter. It was thought that the cold air coming into the houses was causing the spread of illnesses. Since the use of hearths was prohibited, Parisians wanted some sort of traditional symbol that could be enjoyed with their family and friends during Christmastime.



Nicole Sak's Bûche



Cayden Zeller & Madison Dunski's Bûche

Grant teachers and staff judged the French students' cakes in two categories: most traditional and most creative. Our winner for the most traditional *bûche* was made by Nicole Sak (French II), and our most creative "macaron" *bûche* was made by Cayden Zeller (French II) and Madison Dunski (French II).

Joyeuses Fêtes!

(Happy Holidays!)



FRESHMEN: TURN IN PROOF OF YOUR DENTAL EXAM

ALL FRESHMEN ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A DENTAL EXAM. PLEASE TURN IN PROOF OF A DENTAL EXAM, DATED WITHIN THE LAST YEAR. FORMS CAN BE FOUND UNDER THE [HEALTH SERVICES SECTION OF THE GCHS WEBSITE](#).

FORMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF OR EMAILED TO HEALTHOFFICE@GRANTBULLDOGS.ORG. FOR QUESTIONS, CALL THE HEALTH OFFICE AT (847) 973-3452.

Save the Date for 2024 Parent University Events!

Parent University is a series of workshops and events designed to support parents, guardians, and caregivers. Throughout second semester, we will be hosting several events for parents focused on supporting our students, Career & Technical Education, financial aid, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL). [Pre-registration](#) for each event is encouraged, but not required.

- January—Supporting Our Students (video release only)
- January 11—SEL Series Session #3: Gratitude, Kindness, & Empathy
- February 28—Career & Technical Education
- March 14—SEL Series Session #4: Technology & Emotional Health
- April 3—Writer’s Week
- April 24—Financial Aid Night (Juniors)



For all sessions, the doors open at 6:00 PM for registration. We recommend parking in the student lot and entering through Door 9. Sessions begin at 6:30 PM. Check out the [Parent University](#) section of the Grant website for more event information.

2024 SAT Preparation Class

Bulldogs Test Better

Grant has again partnered with Mrs. Sandy Martinez to teach Grant’s 2024 SAT Prep Class. Mrs. Martinez is an Associate Professor from the College of Lake County and is a veteran test prep teacher with years of experience working with various test preparation companies in multiple area high schools. The curriculum we follow utilizes the College Board’s Official Digital SAT Study Guide. Utilizing a combination of teacher-led instruction, strategy and content acquisition, and individual practice the course is designed to provide students the resources, structure, and content instruction to be successful on the digital SAT.

Why SAT?

The SAT is the most widely accepted college entrance exam. Additionally, the State of Illinois has adopted the SAT as a graduation requirement.

April 10, 2024 is the State-wide required SAT administration date in which all juniors take the SAT.

The Logistics

Class is open to all currently enrolled Grant juniors. Four class times are available — Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday evenings from 7:00-9:00 PM, and Sunday mornings from 9:00-11:00 AM. All classes will be held virtually via Zoom.

Class Schedule

Monday Dates:

February 5
February 12
February 26
March 4
March 11
March 18
April 1
April 8

Wednesday Dates:

February 7
February 14
February 21
February 28
March 6
March 13
March 20
April 3

Tuesday Dates:

February 6
February 13
February 20
February 27
March 5
March 12
March 19
April 2

Sunday Dates:

February 4
February 11
February 18
February 25
March 3
March 10
March 17
April 7

Cost

The cost for this eight - week class is \$80 and includes one copy of “The Official Digital SAT Study Guide” as well as custom, additional practice and instructional materials. Payments can be made online through Revtrak. Payment cannot be put on student obligations. Students eligible for free & reduced lunch or who may need financial assistance should see their school counselor to waive fees.

Enrollment

Enrollment begins on January 8 and closes on January 31. Enrollment is limited and will be on a first come basis. Students are automatically enrolled in the course once payment is accepted via Revtrak.

**Please note that this schedule reflects no class on February 19, and no classes during spring break March 25 - 31.*

Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School: Pay Attention to Attendance

Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students access learning opportunities and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job. Families can also advocate for resources to help students learn if they cannot attend in-person.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your teen maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and non-Covid-19 related medical appointments during the school day.
- Keep your student healthy, and if you are concerned about Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your teens must stay home because they are sick or in quarantine, make sure they have asked teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom.

Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your children feel engaged by their classes, and feel safe from bullies and other threats.
- Make sure your teens are not missing class because of challenges with behavioral issues or school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, contact the school and work with them to find a solution.
- Monitor your teen's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors when necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage your teen to join meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.
- Notice and support your students if they are showing signs of anxiety.

Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- Check on your teen's attendance to be sure absences are not adding up.
- Seek help from school staff, other parents or community agencies if you need support.

Updated November 2022



Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!

ReferralGPS

Connecting People to Treatment

Recognizing the profound impact of untreated mental health conditions, we are excited to share that GCHS is collaborating with ReferralGPS, a socially-driven organization dedicated to breaking down barriers to mental health care. This partnership extends access to ReferralGPS Care Navigator services to families and staff within the school district, completely free of charge.

The alliance with ReferralGPS reinforces our unwavering commitment to ensuring accessible mental health care and fostering a resilient community where all individuals have equal opportunities to flourish. With the understanding that mental well-being is a cornerstone of overall health, Superintendent Dr. Sefcik stated, "this collaboration with ReferralGPS is a significant victory for our faculty, staff, and students. We take pride in offering our District families a service that simplifies navigation within the complex and fragmented mental health care landscape."

Functioning as a central care hub, ReferralGPS streamlines communication and coordination to match individuals with the right resources and appropriate level of support. All of our Student Services staff play a crucial role as liaisons between homes, communities, and educational resources. Assistant Principal Mr. Geist shared that "this partnership equips [Student Services] with additional tools, enhancing their ability to offer even more effective support to students and their families, thereby nurturing both emotional and academic growth."

Through a people-centered approach supported by technology, ReferralGPS Care Navigators, proficient in multiple languages, act as guides through the intricate mental health care system on behalf of individuals. They assist in finding the perfect fit for unique needs and insurance requirements while providing an empathetic and compassionate framework for all those in need of mental health support.

For more information on utilizing ReferralGPS services, families within the school district can visit our [ReferralGPS - Grant webpage](#) or reach out to Student Services.



We are excited to announce that the application for Grant Community Scholarships has opened! If you are a current Senior and are interested in applying for these scholarships, join the Community Scholarships Schoology page with the access code: T5ZF-HSVC-SXMF.

The application deadline for our scholarships is January 31, 2024, at 11:59 PM. Please note the Google Form to select the applications you are applying to, the Community Scholarship Application, and any applicable addendums must ALL be completed and submitted by the deadline. Instructions and a video tutorial can be found on the Schoology page. If you have any questions about the scholarships or the application process, please reach out to Ms. Wilhelm at awilhelm@grantbulldogs.org or stop into the Student Services office.

Bulldog Happenings

Holiday Band & Choir Concerts



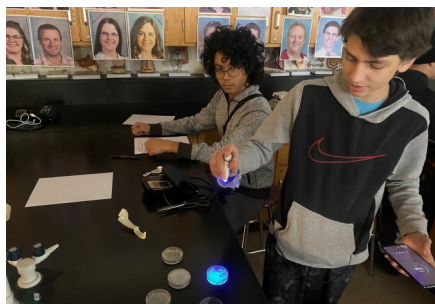
It was a music wonderland in the auditorium as our Band & Choir programs held their annual holiday concerts before Winter Break. It was a treat to hear what these musicians and vocalists have been practicing, and we can't wait to see them perform again in the

Candy Cane Grams



The Sophomore Class Council delivered Candy Cane Grams to students and helped spread a little joy before finals.

Biology Glow-Up



Honors Biology students combined jellyfish DNA with e-coli bacteria to see if they could make the bacteria glow. Every one of our Freshmen scientists was successful in this intense and tedious lab.

Half-Century Biking Challenge

Mrs. Collins tasked her PE 9 classes with riding a half-century (50 miles) on the spin bikes within five classes. Although this may have seem like a daunting task to start, her students pedaled with determination. The top two bikers from each period were named Class Champions, and the period with the highest number of cumulative miles were named Overall Champions.

3rd Hour Champions: Hunter Tarczan and Ian Trinidad pedaling 41.6 miles

4th Hour Champions: Jesziah Hagge and Justin Morales pedaling 49 miles

11th Hour Champions: Draegen Franzen and Ryan Buchenberger pedaling 53.3 miles, earning them not only a beverage of their choosing, but also a cycling medal for breaking 50 miles.

Overall Champions: 11th Hour with 419.8 miles pedaled! For their hard work, Mrs. Collins rewarded them with a donut party during their scheduled final exam.



3rd Hour Champions



4th Hour Champions



11th Hour Champions



Overall Champions

Tangled in the Music

Winter Dance

The Sophomore Class Council is gearing up for the winter dance and is excited to get “Tangled in the Music” with you all! The winter dance will be held on Saturday, February 24, from 7:00-10:00 PM in the East Gym. Tickets will be on sale for \$15 in the bookstore from February 15-23. The Council is planning a spirit week leading up to the dance and will post more information as we get closer to February. Reach out to a Sophomore Class Council member or their sponsor, [Mrs. Gunsaulus](#), with any questions.

Valentine's Day Chocolate Sale

\$1/EACH

BUY YOURS ON
JANUARY 31 IN
THE COMMONS

CHOCOLATE WILL BE
DELIVERED ON FEBRUARY
13 DURING TEAM

PRESENTED BY THE SOPHOMORE CLASS COUNCIL

Summer School Information

Brochures and registration forms for summer school will be available in the Front Office and on our website.

Registration is open January 8, 2024. 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](#).



Keep It RED

Happy New Year, Bulldogs! Over winter break, we have been thinking a lot about our Keep It RED culture and what it means to our school community. For some, it's about focusing on academics, participating in as many sports and activities as possible, or being helpful to everyone who crosses your path. No matter how our Bulldogs choose to Keep It RED, they continue to exemplify the three main characteristics—Respectful, Engaged, and Dependable. Throughout first semester, we celebrated 128 Bulldog Buck winners and 24 Bulldog Pride winners for their display of RED behaviors and for setting a good example for their classmates. We look forward to celebrating even more Bulldogs for their RED behaviors when we return from break. So, if Keeping It RED means cheering on teams with the Dawg Pound, showing up to every class on time, or picking up trash in the cafeteria, keep it up and continue to set an example for others.

As we begin 2024, we encourage the entire Bulldog community to Keep It RED and make it a great year!



Happy Holidays!

Counselors' Corner

Registration Information:

In January, school counselors will begin the course selection process for our current Sophomore and Freshman students for the 2024-25 academic year. Students will receive information from their school counselors during English 9 or World History classes and attend one-on-one meetings with their counselors to confirm class selection. Please see the [curriculum guide](#) on the GCHS website to review courses with your student. If you need more information please feel free to email your student's counselor with any questions you may have.

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- Instructions and a video tutorial can be found on the Schoology page.
- If you have any questions about the scholarships or the application process, please reach out to Ms. Wilhelm at awilhelm@grantbulldogs.org or stop into the Student Services office.

Career Center News:

- [January Newsletter](#)

Financial Aid:

The FAFSA will help you and your family determine if you qualify for financial aid for college. You can find the FAFSA at www.studentaid.gov. If you will not be completing the FAFSA then please complete the non-participation waiver. Either of these is a

graduation requirement and is available in both English and Spanish.

The 2024-25 Financial Aid Application Nonparticipation Form will be available when the FAFSA/Alternative Application filing period begins. At that time, the Nonparticipation Form will be available only via the ISAC Student Portal. PDF versions of the Nonparticipation Form will be available only by request via e-mail to the Illinois State Board of Education.

NCAA:

If your student is interested in playing Collegiate level sports at a D1, 2 or 3 school, eligibility needs to be met with the NCAA clearinghouse. Please refer to the resources below or reach out to your student's School Counselor with questions.

- [NCAA Eligibility Quick Reference Guide](#)
- [NCAA Student Eligibility Center](#)
- [NCAA Division I Toolkit](#)
- [NCAA Division II Toolkit](#)
- [NCAA Division III Toolkit](#)

Website Resources:

- College Board - www.collegeboard.org
- ACT- www.actstudent.org
- Khan Academy/SAT test Prep- <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

We look forward to seeing all of our incoming 8th Graders at 8th Grade Enrollment Night on January 17 & 18!



C A L E N D A R

January

- Jan. 8 School Resumes, Second Semester Begins
Summer School & SAT Prep Class registration opens
- Jan. 10 School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
- Jan. 11 Parent University SEL Series Session: Gratitude, Kindness, & Empathy
- Jan. 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, legal school holiday
- Jan. 17 School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
8th Grade Enrollment Night
- Jan. 18 8th Grade Enrollment Night
Board of Education Meeting
- Jan. 24 School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
- Jan. 31 School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start

February

- 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 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. 28 School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Parent University: Career & Technical Education

March

- Mar. 6 School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
- Mar. 13 School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Progress Reports
- Mar. 14 Parent University SEL Series Session: Technology & Emotional Health
- Mar. 20 School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
- Mar. 21 Board of Education Meeting
- Mar. 25-29 Spring Break