

Grant Community High School

District Newsletter
December 2023

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Student of the Month Rylan Art



The Grant Community High School December Student of the Month is senior Rylan Art, son of Kevin and Elaine Art of Round Lake.

Rylan's academic achievements include induction into the National Honor Society during his sophomore year. He has earned Honor Roll status each semester, has taken several AP courses, and is an Illinois State Scholar, holding an impressive 4.852 GPA.

He was named a Boys State Nominee, Bulldog Pride Award winner, a four-year NLCC All-Academic Athlete in football, and a two-year NLCC All-Academic Athlete in track.



His extracurricular activities include football, where he was a four-year varsity athlete, Captain in 2022 and 2023, Offensive MVP in 2022, NLCC Sportsmanship Player of the Year in 2021, and two-time NLCC All-Conference Selection. Rylan was also recognized as the Lake County Offensive Player of the Week during his sophomore season. Additionally, he was a two-year varsity track & field athlete.

At Grant, Rylan serves as a Big Dawg Peer Mentor and has been an Office Aide. In the community, he has volunteered with the Jr. Bulldog football program and served as an usher at St. Bede Parish.

In his spare time, Rylan enjoys music, art, sports, and spending time with family and friends.

His plans for the future include pursuing a degree in physical therapy or speech therapy. He is also currently considering playing football in college but is undecided about where he will attend.

Board of Education

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

Shelly Booth Ivy Fleming Ed Lescher Bob Yanik



Myles Foreman

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.



Zach Langhoff

Clue: Murder Mystery Solved & Audiences Entertained

It was a weekend full of murder, mystery, and comedy as our talented cast performed Clue. From the set and lights to the acting and costumes, there was so much to enjoy. We hope you enjoy seeing how these characters worked to find the murderer, stay alive, and protect their secrets. Bravo to all our actors, crew, and directors!



Students perform in the fall play.

Head to the **Grant Facebook page** for more photos from this performances.



Students perform in the fall play.



Clue Cast & Crew



Students perform in the fall play.



Growing a Resilient Mind

Parent Edition

Join us for this special in-person presentation by therapist, Audrey Grunst, LCSW from Simply Bee Counseling. This presentation focuses on teaching five foundational tools for building emotional wellness through the Growth & Resiliency Model. Students in grades 6-12 are welcome to attend the presentation with their parents. Childcare will be available for children ages 2-12.

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.

Parent University is a series of workshops and events designed to support parents, guardians, and caregivers. <u>Pre-registration</u> is encouraged, but not required. Check out the <u>Parent University</u> section of the Grant website for more event information as we get closer to 2024.



GROWING A RESILIENT MIND: THE PARENT EDITION

This presentation focuses on teaching five foundational tools for building emotional wellness through the Growth & Resiliency Model. Our mission is to provide parents the necessary skills that support mental & emotional growth during challenging times.

DECEMBER 6TH 6:30-7:30 PM

Objectives:

Understand the 4 key elements to become self aware

Observe automatic reactions

Learn to respond skillfully to stressors

Integrate new skills within your social support

Reflect, change and grow an optimal mindset



PRESENTED BY:

AUDREY GRUNST, LCSW SIMPLY BEE COUNSELING CEO & THERAPIST

HOLIDAY CHOIR CONCERT

FEATURE
PERFORMANCES
BY TREBLE CHOIR,
BASS CHOIR,
CONCERT CHOIR,
ADVANCED
TREBLE CHOIR, &
CHAMBER SINGERS.

December 14 / 7:00 PM

Auditorium

No charge for admissions Donations will be gladly accepted

We hope you can join us for an evening of holiday cheer!

DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH DECEMBER 15, 2023





DONATE NEW TOYS TO GRANT'S

TOY DRIVE

SPREADING CHEER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Ages K-5

Toys priced \$15-\$20 Support Toys for Tots & bring joy to children in our community



Save the date to celebrate Homecoming with your Bulldog family next year! Homecoming 2024 will be the week of September 16, 2024. We hope to see many of you there throughout the week!

When the 2024-2025 school year begins, keep an eye out for more information on Homecoming week festivities including our annual block party, Powderpuff game, football game, and Hall of Fame celebrations.



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 evenings 7:00-9:00 PM, Tuesday evenings 7:00-9:00 PM, Wednesday evenings 7:00-9:00 PM, Sunday mornings 9:00-11:00 AM, and Sunday evenings 7:00-9:00 PM. All classes will be held virtually via Zoom.

Class Schedule

Monday Dates:	Tuesday Dates:
February 5	February 6
February 12	February 13
February 26	February 20
March 4	February 27
March 11	March 5
March 18	March 12
April 1	March 19
April 8	April 2

Wednesday Dates:	Sunday Dates:
February 7	February 4
February 14	February 11
February 21	February 18
February 28	February 25
March 6	March 3
March 13	March 10
March 20	March 17
April 3	April 7

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

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.

Free SAT Practice Course & Resources

Students who took a fall PSAT/ NMSQT exam at GCHS can access their scores online using their College Board accounts. We encourage students to use their PSAT/NMSQT score report to receive free, SAT Practice from Khan Academy and develop an SAT study plan. Khan Academy's digital SAT course content includes videos, articles, and worked examples designed to help them understand and experience the digital SAT Suite of Assessments.

Students who have not <u>created</u> accounts should do so ASAP. If your student already has a College Board account, but doesn't remember the credentials, contact the College Board for assistance by phone at 866-756-7346.

The SAT is used for school accountability, college admissions, financial aid, placement, and other purposes. In the spring 2017, ISBE began requiring all public-school students in grade 11 to take the SAT with Essay, unless the student takes the grade 11 DLM-AA instead.

Beginning in the spring of 2024, the state required SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 will transition to an **all digital test** format. GCHS students took the PSAT/NMSQT digital exam in October as a measure of academic progress and to become more familiar with the digital platform. For more information about the new digital format, please visit the College Board website where you can review <u>FAQs</u> or watch this <u>video overview of the new test experience</u>.

Braylon Grev goes up for a lay-up during the Turkey Tourney.

Boys Basketball hosted their annual Turkey Tourney over Thanksgiving break and racked up several wins. Our Freshman team ended the tournament in 1st Place and our Sophomore team finished in 2nd Place! After returning from break, the program took on Woodstock and earned themselves a program sweep. Varsity ended the first quarter leading the Blue Streaks by 5 points, but extended their lead throughout the game for a final winning score of 59-44. The Sophomore and Freshman levels contributed to a program sweep (57-25 and 31-24).

To kick off their season, our **Girls Bowling** program competed at the Antioch Invite over Thanksgiving weekend. The Varsity squad racked up 4,689 pins with a high game of 871 and earned 2nd Place! In addition to their high team placement, the Dickson sisters secured a 1st and 3rd Place individual finish too. Savannah Dickson bowled a 1,215 series, rolled the highest game of the day (268), and finished the day in 1st Place! Desiree Dickson bowled a 1,101 series with a high game of 220 to earn her 3rd Place finish. Our JV squad was short handed but kept spirits high throughout the day. The squad was led by Clay Whitson, who was named



Varsity Girls Bowling Places 2nd at Antioch Invite

Tournament Champion, with a high game of 190 and a series of 849. Great job on the lanes, Bowldogs!



Varsity Boys Bowling Wins Bronze Division Championship

The **Boys Bowling** has been picking up pins and wins since their season started. After Varsity took down Mundelein with high series scores from Kyle Hobson (706), Lucas Hamilton (630), Austin Murrell (602), and Seth Sider (760). Not only did they put up huge scores in each game, but Sider recorded the third-highest series recorded for Grant! Following their Mundelein match, Varsity competed in the Spartan Eliminator Tournament and won the Bronze Division Championship.

Varsity competed in the Mundelein Invite prior to Thanksgiving weekend and took 9th out of 19 teams. Hobson had a strong day on the lanes and finished 11th overall. Keep it rolling, Bowldogs!

The Varsity Girls Basketball team started their season by competing in the Mundelein Holiday Tournament. They went up against several tough team and brought home wins against Grayslake North and Niles West. For their skills on the court and sportsmanship shown throughout the tournament, Lily Capulong and Alyssa Sandquist were chosen as All-Tournament Athletes!



Alyssa Sandquist fights for ball possession with opposing player.

Livia Yaras represented GCHS at the IHSA Lake Forest Swimming Sectional and did an incredible job. She took 6th Place in the 50 Yard Freestyle with a personal best time of 25.07 second and in the 100 Yard Freestyle with a time of 55.93 seconds.



Varsity Coaches & Placed Wrestlers at Barrington Invite

It was a packed break for our **Wrestling** program as they competed in four tournaments, including a two-day varsity invitational. Varsity took a trip to Barrington High School for the Moore-Prettyman Thanksgiving Tournament. The team ended Day Two 8th overall and had four Bulldogs place. Congrats to Vince Jasinski for taking 2nd Place, Erik Rodriguez and Christian Wittkamp for taking 3rd Place, and Sammy Mendez for taking 7th Place! Our squad of female Varsity wrestlers competed in the Inaugural Sandy Gussarson Wrestling Invitational at Antioch and brought home two top placements. Congrats to Freshmen Riley O'Grady for taking 2nd Place

and to Myla Reyes for taking 4th Place! The Sophomores traveled to Wauconda for the Wrestling Turkey Shoot and finished in 4th Place as a team. In addition to their high team placement, Bruce Walker and Mikey Cronkrite both earned titles! Congrats, Sophomores! The Freshmen team competed at Rockford East and had an incredibly strong showing across the board. Congrats to John Von Hoene for earning 1st Place, Cameron Chavez for taking 2nd Place, Andrew Ocampo and Angel Meza for securing 3rd Place, Elian Lemus for taking 4th Place, and Jeziah Hagee for taking 6th Place!

Clara O'Brien and Katelyn Rossini are officially committed! After graduation, Clara is heading to Carthage College, and Katelyn is heading to Bryant University to continue their education and volleyball careers. We cannot wait to see them achieve all their goals and wish them the best of luck in their journeys!



The Varsity Volleyball team supports Clara O'Brien and Katelyn Rossini as they commit to their future colleges.

Congratulations to our **November Athletes of the Month** - Landon Enters, Lily Capulong, Clay Whitson, Olivia Farley, Emma Matoka, and Christian Wittkamp! These Bulldogs have put in 100% effort since their winter season started and have been great representations of their program. We look forward to seeing them achieve even more this season!













Congratulations to our **November Sportsmanship** winners - Ayden Sheppard, Abigail Hobbs, Kyleah Baker, Peyton Atkocaitis, and Kellyn Harmer! From day one of their winter season, these Bulldogs have shown a great deal of respect for their coaches, teammates, and opponents. No matter how intense a practice or match may get, they 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!











Bloom(ing) in the Community Garden

Bloom Dawson Completes Eagle Scout Project

Bloom Dawson, Class of 2024, recently led an effort to construct a message board and strawberry garden at our local Fox Lake Community Garden for their Eagle Scout project. To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Scouting's highest rank, Bloom had to plan, develop, and provide leadership to others in a service project. Bloom decided to work with the Community Garden because of their love for nature and wanting to give back to the community.



When Bloom joined the Scouts in 2019, they were completing the Citizenship in the Community merit badge in the garden, and "one of the master gardeners came up and told [them], "When you're older and doing your Eagle Scout project, you should do something for the garden!" Although there were a couple of other project options, Bloom said completing a project for the Community Garden is "full circle" for them and ties to their childhood roots.



Bloom shows off completed message board in Community Garden.

After working with the Parks & Recreation Department to determine their needs, Bloom began developing plans for the project, which included creating a digital representation of what the space would look like and assembling her team of experts. With significant research under their belt and plans finalized, the only thing left to do was build. Bloom's team worked together in the Community Garden to ensure every step of the construction process was followed correctly.

Although it can be a long and tedious process, Bloom surrounded themself with hardworking individuals who helped complete a successful project for the Community Garden and brought them one step closer to becoming an Eagle Scout. Good luck with the rest of your project and presentation, Bloom!



Bloom shows off completed strawberry garden.

Final Exam Schedule

Additional information will be available on our website - www.grantbulldogs.org

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

1st Period: 7:40 - 8:55 AM 3rd Period: 9:02 - 10:17 AM 4th Period: 10:24 - 11:39 AM Makeup: 11:46 AM - 1:01 PM <u>Thursday, December 21, 2023</u> 5/6/7 Period: 7:40 - 8:55 AM 7/8/9 Period: 9:02 - 10:17 AM

10th Period: 10:24 - 11:39 AM Makeup: 11:46 AM - 1:01 PM Friday, December 22, 2023 11th Period: 7:40 - 8:55 AM Makeup: 9:02 - 10:40 AM





Natalie Araujo is the recipient of the December Social Studies' Golden Globe Award!

The Social Studies Department is excited to award the December Golden Globe Award to Natalie Araujo for her exemplary work, ability to find personal connections, and willingness to assist her classmates when needed. According to her teacher, Mr. Schmadeke, Natalie "is constantly ahead of the

'production game' in World History" and submits high quality work well before the assigned due date. Even when Natalie is ahead, she fills her time digging further into the discussed material to find deeper connections between her world and the history being reviewed. Natalie's desire to learn more than what may be provided



The Social Studies Department presents Natalie with the Golden Globe Award.

has proved to be a benefit to the entire class. Throughout the semester, she has put effort into filling knowledge gaps her peers made need assistance with mastering. In his nomination for Golden Globe, Mr. Schmadeke expressed that Natalie "is beyond proficient, beyond respectable, engaged, and dependable, and beyond approachable. You will be lucky to have Natalie in class." For all these reasons and more, Natalie is the perfect recipient of the Golden Globe award. Keep up the amazing work, Natalie!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FIDO FESTIVAL



The Canine Connections Club would like you to save the date for their first-ever Fido Festival Adoption and Fundraising Event on Saturday, April 20. The Fido Festival will be held in Grant's Commons from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. The Canine Connections Club will be joining forces with several other clubs and programs to raise money for the four dog rescues that will be on-site that day. All proceeds from the sale of raffle baskets, dog treats and toys, face painting, and painted rocks will go directly to these rescues. There will also be several vendors, animal-related organizations, and a food truck present. Additionally, there will be a different dog demonstration each hour. Mark your calendars now for this family-friendly event and watch for more details to come as we get closer to the date!



Come on out and join the GCHS Winter Color Guard for their 2023-2024 season! Winter Guard uses equipment and dance to create entertaining and competitive routines. Our Bulldogs will compete in various competitions throughout the latter part of the winter season. All are welcome and there are no try-outs. Reach out to Ms. Gier for more information and get started today!



Color Guard members perform at the 2022-2023 NLCC Winter Showcase.

Spring Musical Auditions

This year's spring musical will be *Annie!* The directors will host an informational meeting on December 18 for all students interested in performing, creating sets/costumes, and helping the magic happen on stage. More information will be available in the daily announcements. Performances are scheduled for April 19-21. We hope to see you there!



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.



Bulldog Happenings

BPAC Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Celebration





It was a fun night at Stanton Middle School as families within Districts 37, 114, and 124 joined for a Dia de los Muertos celebration. We can't wait to see you all again at the next BPAC event!

Bulldogs Zoom to Spain





Students in Senora Harker's Spanish class have been working with a classroom in Spain and held their first Zoom session of the year. The class in Spain is learning English, so this was a great way for everyone to work on their foreign language skills while building connections across the world!

Bulldogs Participate in Senator Wilcox's Youth Advisory Council





It was a fun day for our AP Government students as they got the chance to connect with various members of local government as part of Senator Craig Wilcox's Youth Advisory Council at the Lake Villa Public Library. Each student was able to play a role for the committee meetings and gain a better understanding of how state and local government works.

Annual Ceramics "Cupetition"



Our ceramic artists are getting ready for the annual GCHS "Cupetition"! At the start of December, they'll put their creations up for staff to judge. In addition to being named "Cupetition" Champs, winners will also earn a hand-delivered Starbucks drink courtesy of Mr. Carlson. Stay tuned!

Bulldogs Create Felt Monsters for Big Hollow Students





Fashion Construction students are creating monsters based on creative drawings from Big Hollow Primary. We can't wait to see how they all turn out and to deliver them later this month!



KEEP IT RED



With the passing of Thanksgiving, we are officially in the home stretch of first semester! Although we had a shortened month due to Thanksgiving Break, we celebrated 24 students through our weekly Bulldog Buck drawings. From attending scheduled meetings on time to participating in clubs/activities to volunteering as the student example, these Bulldogs are great examples of what it means to Keep It RED. Check out our RED Twitter account (@KeepingItRED) and stay up-to-date about all the awesome things our students are going.

Last month, we put together a video for students reminding them of the various resources available to them on campus. With everything that our Student Services team provides, there are so many avenues our students can take to work through problems and overcome obstacles. Outside of Student Services, there are an incredible number of staff members here to support students on a social, emotional, and educational level. We know school can be stressful and we want to ensure that every student can find an adult to confide in. If your student is in need of extra assistance, please encourage them to reach out to their Red Team or send us an email and we will connect with them. Remember, we are one Bulldog family.

With that being said, we wish all our Bulldogs good luck as they finish out the semester and tackle finals! 2024 is just around the corner, and we are excited to see how students Keep It RED in the new year.













Counselors' Corner

Early Grads

To our early grads who are embarking on their next steps post-high school, we wish you well and hope that you take what you have learned and achieved here at Grant into the next phase of your life. You will be receiving a survey to complete with where you would like your final transcript sent.

This survey will be emailed to you and will also be available in Schoology.

Course Selection:

- Counselors have been meeting individually with each junior students in November and December.
 During these meetings, we reviewed grades, graduation requirements, teacher recommendations, post-secondary planning, and next steps. Students also selected their courses for senior year and have until March 22 to make changes to their course requests. We encourage you to have conversations at home about your student's post-secondary plans and course selections.
- Here are some things you can work on this year with your Junior student to prepare for their future:
 - Utilize SCOIR for <u>College and Career</u> Research
 - Explore Post- Secondary options in the <u>College and Career Center</u>
 - o Review College Planning- 11th Grade
 - o Review <u>NCAA requirements</u> and apply for eligibility through the NCAA Clearinghouse
- Course Selection for Sophomore and Freshman Students will begin in January when we return from Winter Break.

Helpful Resources for Juniors:

- 2024-2025 Senior Year Course Selection Options
- 50 Questions to Ask on a College Visit
- College Planning 11th Grade Year
- Find Your Fit
- Explore Tech Campus
- Career Research

Financial Aid:

- The FAFSA is coming by December 31!
 Make sure you are prepared! You can create your FSA ID now.
- Follow Federal Student Aid on YouTube for helpful videos: FSA YouTube Channel

Website Resources:

- SAT College Board
- <u>ACT</u>
- Khan Academy/SAT Test Prep





	December		
	Dec. 4	Toy Drive & Candy Cane Gram Sale Begins	
	Dec. 6	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start	
		Parent University: Growing a Resilient Mind	
_	Dec. 8	NAHS Paint Night	
A	Dec. 12	Holiday Band Concert	
	Dec. 13	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start	
	Dec. 14	Holiday Choir Concert	
	Dec. 18	Spring Musical Informational Meeting	
	Dec. 19	Last Day of All-Student Attendance (First Semester)	
T	Dec. 20	Final Exams	
	Dec. 21	Final Exams	
		Board of Education Meeting	
	Dec. 22	Final Day of First Semester	
		Final Exams	
	Dec. 25 - Dec. 31	Winter Break	
H;		January	
	Jan. 1-7	Winter Break	
	Jan. 8	School Resumes, Second Semester Begins	
		SAT Prep Class Enrollment Opens	
XX	Jan. 10	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start	
	Jan. 11	Parent University: SEL Gratitude, Kindness, & Empathy	
TA	Jan. 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day, legal school holiday	
	Jan. 17	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start	
	Jan. 18	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	
		SAT Prep Class Enrollment Closes	
		February	
	Feb. 7	Progress Reports	
		School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start	
	Feb. 14	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start	
	Feb. 15	Board of Education Meeting	
	Feb. 16	Institute Day, no student attendance	
R	Feb. 19	President's Day, no school	
	Feb. 21	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start	
K	Feb. 28	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start	
		Parent University: Career & Technical Education	

