



Grant Community High School

District Newsletter

November 2023

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Student of the Month

Zuzanna Janicki



The Grant Community High School November Student of the Month is senior Zuzanna Janicki, daughter of Maciej and Anna Janicki of Fox Lake.

Zuzanna's academic achievements include induction into the National Honor Society during her sophomore year and serving as Publisher/Treasurer. She has earned Honor Roll status each semester, qualified for Microsoft certification, has taken several AP classes, and currently holds an impressive 4.78 GPA.



Her extracurricular activities are varied and include Student Council serving as Secretary, FCCLA, Academic Team, Theater Costume Designer, Snow Dogs, Class Council, Bulldog Buddies, and she was named Captain of the Varsity Academic Team. She attended Illinois Theater Fest, the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Innovation Camp, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago Portfolio Class, Fashion Design and Construction. She was awarded the "Golden Rose" award from the Archdiocese of Chicago, PAS costumes award, silver medal in FCCLA State competition for Casual Apparel Construction, and a Bulldog Pride award.

Zuzanna has been an altar server and vacation bible school leader at Transfiguration Church in Wauconda, a peer helper for 6-8th graders, summer Innovation Camp volunteer, Feed My Starving Children, other NHS opportunities, and a social studies peer tutor. In addition to all of her activities, Zuzanna has worked at the Northbrook Park District as an Assistant Costume Designer for the Children's Community Theater and as a freelance tailor/ seamstress. She enjoys movies, sewing/designing/ fashion, reading, photography, snowboarding, camping, and going to concerts.

Her plans for the future include pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theater Design and Technology with an emphasis in Costume Design at Columbia College in Chicago.

Board of Education

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

Shelly Booth
Ivy Fleming
Ed Lescher
Bob Yanik



Excellence in Education Award Winner: Courtney Spreitzer



Courtney Spreitzer is deserving of the Excellence in Education Award because she exemplifies the mission, vision, and values of Grant Community High School. She demonstrates adaptability and perseverance through her instruction of students, her dedication in her Professional Learning Team, and her collaborative efforts with our PBIS Team and schoolwide efforts.

She is a masterful educator who supports her students by meeting them

where they are, but encouraging them to exceed their own beliefs and expectations about themselves. She utilizes data in her decision making efforts, and is looked to as a leader among interventionists in working with new strategies and initiatives. She works with new programs as a means to further student learning and achieve personal goals that they work together in establishing.

Furthermore, she works tremendously well with her co-teacher, creating a balanced space where students know they will be held accountable by trustworthy adults. She demonstrates empathy with students in their educational pathways, and values communication in her work. Courtney supports her department by never shying away from questions, demonstrating how and why to use resources, and championing evidence-based strategies and tools.

Outside of the classroom she promotes healthy and inspiring relationships with students through her work with PBIS. Her collaborative efforts help to further our efforts in emphasizing the RED initiative, and she holds students and staff accountable in being the best they can be.

For these reasons and many more, Courtney is undoubtedly deserving of this award.



Ordering Yearbook Photos

Looking for your student's photos from picture day? Ordering and packaging information can be found on our [VIP GCHS Landing Page](#). After pictures are taken, families are encouraged to visit the landing page and search for their student's photos in the "Portrait" gallery. If you need assistance with ordering photos, contact [VIP \(support@vipis.com\)](mailto:support@vipis.com).



Bulldogs Represent at ILMEA

After a rigorous audition process, four music students have been selected to represent Grant at the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) District 7 Festival on Saturday, November 4, at Glenbrook South High School in Glenview. Senior trumpet player, Ella Avallone, will be returning to the District Band for the FOURTH year in a row! On the Choir side, three Grant singers have been selected. Seniors Zach Langhoff and Abbey Schiller, as well as sophomore Myles Foreman will be singing with the District Choir. During the Festival, Grant students will join forces with hundreds of other top musicians from all over District 7, which encompasses the far northeast corner of the state. Students will engage in a full day of rehearsals under the direction of collegiate level conductors. The Festival day will conclude with a finale concert featuring performances by the District 7 Band, Choir, and Orchestra. Congratulations to Ella, Zach, Abbey, and Myles on this achievement, and good luck at the Festival!



Ella Avallone



Zach Langhoff



Abbey Schiller



Myles Foreman

Dancing with the Dogs

The Grant Dance program held the inaugural Dancing with the Dogs event on Thursday, November 3, and put together some entertaining routines. With the help of Dance program members, our Football, Lacrosse, Band, and Girls Golf teams took the floor and had an incredible amount of fun showing off all the moves they learned. Congratulations to the Lacrosse team for winning the People's Choice Award and to the Football team for being our FIRST EVER Dancing with the Dogs Champions!



Dancing with the Dogs Champions

If you missed the performances, Grant Dance has you covered with a [performance presentation](#)! For those looking to snag a fun auction item (or two), Dance has moved their [silent auction online](#) and will be running it all weekend. Check out what they have up for auction and place your bid before the weekend ends. The program is incredibly grateful for all the support they have received and can't wait to hand off prizes. Make sure to follow the Dance team on [Instagram](#) as they begin their winter competition season!



Dancing with the Dogs People's Choice Award Winners



Dancing with the Dogs—Dancer & Team Coaches



Upcoming Parent University Programs

Working Together to Create Success for Your Student

November 1 - AP & Dual Credit Night

This informational evening was designed for parents whose students might consider AP or Dual Credit courses. Amanda Harmer, the new Program Manager for College Readiness and Dual Credit at the College of Lake County, was the keynote speaker at this event and provided valuable insight into how these course can benefit students in the long-run. Additionally, each AP or Dual credit course provided a short presentation for parents. Information from this event can be found on the [Parent University](#) section of our website.

December 6 – 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.

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. [Pre-registration](#) is encouraged, but not required.

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.

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



SEL
Caregivers
Series

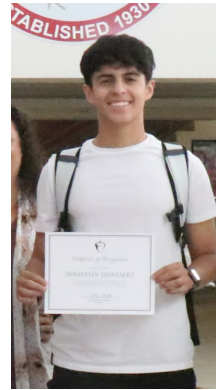
January 11
Gratitude
Kindness and Empathy
Mindfulness

March 14
Technology and SEL
Goal Setting
Reflection



Bulldog Selected for Penwasciz Health Careers Program

The Penwasciz program has been an active student volunteer program at Condell Medical Center for over 60 years. It gives Juniors and Seniors in high school (who are at least 16 years old) in the Lake County area the opportunity to shadow and meet health care professionals of all backgrounds. Exposure to the different careers seen can help students better understand what a realistic day is for a healthcare professional. This year, 37 students were accepted into the program and will be placed into clinical groups that participate in weekly two hour rotations shadowing health care personnel in nursing and support services areas within the hospital. Out of those 37 students, we had one Bulldog chosen out of an application field of 305. Through direct patient interactions and observations, Penwasciz will assist in enhancing Sebastian Gonzalez's hospital experience and help reinforce his desire to pursue a career in the medical field. We wish Sebastian the best of luck in his new adventure and cannot wait to hear about his time at Condell!



Sebastian Gonzalez

PSAT/ NMSQT®

 **CollegeBoard**
NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Students who took the PSAT/NMSQT exam on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, can access their scores starting on November 6 through their College Board accounts. Students who have not created a College Board account should visit their website to [create an account](#) today. 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.

Students can use their scores to practice and improve their spring scores. Use your PSAT/NMSQT score report [to receive free, tailored resources from Khan Academy](#) and develop a study plan. Khan Academy's digital SAT course content includes videos, articles, and worked examples designed to help you understand and experience the digital SAT Suite of Assessments.

The spring test date for GCHS will be April 10, 2024.

Class of 2013 Gives Back to Grant Community

Bulldogs Supporting Bulldogs

It's always wonderful to see our alumni on campus for Homecoming events, and this year's Homecoming was exceptionally heartwarming as we were able to experience the growth of our students who have truly become responsible and productive citizens firsthand. Not only did the Class of 2013 gather to cheer on our football team, participate in the parade, and reconnect with old friends, but they also worked to raise money for the GCHS Foundation. Class President Kevin O'Neil, with the help of several classmates, worked with Whistle Stop to donate a portion of sales from that weekend to the Foundation. In addition to the support from a local business, the Class donated their remaining reunion funds - resulting in \$500 going to the Foundation!

Whether they stayed close to home or traveled far after graduation, the Class of 2013 proved that the Bulldog spirit and love for our Grant community remains within them. Principal Dr. Jeremy Schmidt expressed that the Class of 2013 is "setting an amazing model for future classes...it's amazing to see all the impressive things our alumni are doing with their lives out in the world. I'm proud to know our alumni are doing such great things with their lives, but also returning back to their roots and giving back" Although reunion and fundraiser planning can take a lot of time and effort, Kevin shared that "it was amazing getting back in touch with the community that raised us." We look forward to seeing the Class of 2013 and other graduated Bulldogs at future events, hearing about their journeys, and continuing to strengthen the Grant community with them.

National School Psychology Week

November 6-10, 2023

National School Psychology Week (NSPW) is the perfect time to recognize and show appreciation for school psychologists, who support students' learning and mental and behavioral health, promote positive and inclusive school climates, serve on school safety and crisis teams, and collaborate with families, teachers, and administrators to improve student outcomes. The theme of "Let's Grow Together," recognizes four aspects of growth that are fundamental to effective learning environments and to school psychologists' role in supporting student well-being and learning. We are lucky enough to have three psychologists on our team: Mr. Fischer, Dr. Petrova, and Ms. Lesiak.

Individuals grow in their way, often in their own time, a process influenced by engagement and interaction with their surroundings. School psychologists are critical to helping others understand what supports and strategies, as well as changes in contexts, will best help each student.

Engagement and interaction with others—being part of a vibrant community—supports our growth. This includes creating welcoming, inclusive schools; helping to build students' social-emotional skills; and ensuring that every student is connected to a trusted adult. School psychologists can help students and staff identify ways to strengthen these connections and see themselves as both being a benefit to and benefiting from the broader school community.

Diversity is a powerful ingredient in our growth. School psychologists have a responsibility to reinforce inclusive schools in which every student feels seen and valued. We really can grow—and grow closer—together when we try to understand our differences through the lens of respect.

Every season contributes to a continuum of growth. There are seasons in which growth is rapid and robust. For students, this often includes learning new skills, mastering content, overcoming a challenge, or achieving a goal. There are seasons for building the capacity for growth. School psychologists can be champions in this process, which can include evaluating needs, advocating to improve the ratio to improve service delivery, or overall systems change to support students better.

School Board Member Appreciation

November 15 will mark the official statewide observance of School Board Members Day in Illinois. This honorary day is an opportunity for the district and community to show support for our Board of Education and their commitment to the students of GCHS.

School board members serve the public as unpaid volunteers for the benefit of the students and community residents. They are the front-line advocates that provide a local voice and vision for the District and seek to create meaningful educational opportunities for each and every child.

Board members dedicate a significant amount of their own personal time to the District. They attend monthly meetings, committee meetings, participate in professional development activities, attend a variety of school functions, and work to ensure students have access to the educational resources they need to succeed. This dedication often takes them away from time that could be spent with their own family.

Successful communities have high quality public schools that are a source of local pride among residents. The leadership and vision exemplified by board members directly impacts not only the school district, it touches the lives of nearly every resident in one way or another. November 15 has been designated as School Board Members Day in Illinois. Leadership for our community and our schools begins with the tireless work of the local board of education. Please recognize the efforts of our local school board members on this honorary day.

*Thank
you!*

Steve Hill
President

Kathy Kusiak
Vice President

John Jared
Secretary

Shelly Booth

Ivy Fleming

Ed Lescher

Bob Yanik



AP Exam Registration

It is time to pay for the AP exams or provide a pre-registration fee so it can be ordered on your student's behalf if your student is enrolled in one or more Advanced Placement (AP) courses this year at Grant Community High School. After a student has decided that he or she is taking the test, parents should go to our RevTrak system at grant.revtrak.net to pay for the exam(s). A pre-registration payment must be made no later than November 14 in order for the exam to be reserved for your student.

AP exams are an important part of all AP courses. This is a standardized test created by the College Board that is administered across the nation and serves as a benchmark in recognizing your student's ability. Although participation in the exam is optional, we do encourage all students to take the exam. With a successful score, college credit or advanced placement may be earned at various colleges through this examination. The examination fee is less than the college tuition for taking this same course.

There is a fee associated with this exam. The total cost for taking each AP exam is \$98.00. The College Board and the State of Illinois also offer programs to subsidize fees for students who receive free or reduced lunch. If this is the case, the exam fee is \$62.00 per exam. 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 for Year-Long or Semester One Courses:

- Friday, November 3, 2023: Students taking the exams must pay a minimum \$40.00 Pre-Registration Fee per test.
- Friday, November 10, 2023: AP teachers will verify with all students that exam registration is accurate in the system and pre-registration fees have been paid.
- Monday, November 13, 2023: AP Exam registration is finalized. Any exam registrations that do not have the \$40.00 Pre-Registration Fee paid by then will be canceled.
- Wednesday, November 15, 2023: Late registration fees or test cancellation fees go into effect. If students sign up for a year-long or first semester course AP exam on this date or after, an additional \$40.00 late fee will be incurred. If a student decides to cancel an exam on this date or after, the student forfeits the \$40.00 Pre-Registration Fee.
- Friday, February 23, 2024: All exams must have the balance payment paid or the exam will be canceled and the student will forfeit the \$40.00 Pre-Registration Fee.
- Second semester AP courses will have a different set of deadlines and will be notified at the beginning of the second semester.

Please feel free to contact your student's teacher or Dr. Noisey, 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 our students all the best as they continue to prepare for these important exams.

*Thank
you!*

Thank you to every parent and student that attended our Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences! We appreciate you taking the time to meet with your student's teachers and look forward to many more meaningful conversations in the future.





Clue's Opening Night is on the Horizon

Based on the iconic 1985 Paramount movie which was inspired by the classic Hasbro board game, *Clue: On Stage* is a hilarious farce-meets-murder mystery. The tale begins at a remote mansion, where six mysterious guests are invited to a dinner party thrown by an anonymous host, where murder and blackmail are on the menu. Given aliases-- Colonel Mustard (Payton Evans), Mrs. White (Sammy Hernandez), Mr. Green (Frank Niecikowski), Mrs. Peacock (Jacki Bendfeldt), Professor Plum (Ian Hansen), and Miss Scarlet (Sammie Cruz) – and discouraged from revealing personal information, it is soon discovered that all of them have fallen victim to the same blackmailer, Mr. Boddy (Evan Johnson) their very host of the evening.

Each is presented with a weapon and an option: pay their extortionist double or kill the innocent butler. When their host turns up dead, they all become suspects. Led by Wadsworth (Zach Langhoff) – the butler, Miss Scarlett, Professor Plum, Mrs. White, Mr. Green, Mrs. Peacock and Colonel Mustard race to find the killer as the body count stacks up. What follows is a madcap, slapstick evening full of murder, mystery, and laughs as they seek to puzzle out the culprit amongst criminals. *Clue* is the comedy whodunit that will leave both cult-fans and newcomers in stitches as they try to figure out...WHO did it, WHERE, and with WHAT! It's not just a game anymore, murder, mystery, and mayhem await! Join in on the festivities as the cast takes the stage on November 17, 18, & 19!

Tickets can be purchased [online](#) for \$7 for adults and \$5 for students/senior citizens. Be aware there is a \$1 fee for each ticket purchased online. Tickets will be available at the door each night, but seating options may be limited.

Camila Serrano is the recipient of the October Social Studies' Golden Globe Award!

The Social Studies Department is excited to award the October Golden Globe Award to Camila Serrano for her dedication to academic success and drive to do her best. According to her teacher, Ms. Becmer, Camila "does not cut corners; No matter the assignment, she puts in 100% effort, and it pays off." This mindset positively impacts her entire class as Camila often adds great thoughts to discussions

that push her classmates to dig deeper into the text or topic. Camila's hunger for knowledge and passion to meet expectations (either those set for her or by her) makes her a perfect recipient of the Golden Globe. Keep up the amazing work, Camila!



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

Anakari Remback is the recipient of the November Social Studies' Golden Globe Award!



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

The Social Studies Department is excited to award the November Golden Globe Award to Anakari Remback because of her eagerness to grow, learn, and comprehend content throughout the semester. Kari is currently taking AP Psychology with Mrs. Notriano, and while some days can be harder than others because of the faster pace, Mrs. Notriano expressed that she has been "extremely impressed with [Kari's] determination and effort...Kari does not give up." With so much content being covered in AP Psych, Kari makes good use of the resources around her, including classmates. Mrs. Notriano shared that Kari often offers support to her tablemates and encourages them no matter the task. Overall, she

has made a great addition to the class, is someone people can turn to, and is dedicated to doing her best. For all these reasons, Kari is a great example of what a Golden Globe recipient looks like - congrats, Kari! Keep up the awesome work!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Leland Austin Gagnebin
Class of 1965



After graduating from Grant in 1965, Leland Austin Gagnebin went on to attend the University of Illinois and Kendall College before being drafted in 1969. After going through the Army's training, Leland was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division 3rd Brigade Air Cavalry stationed in Vietnam. While it was a turbulent and stressful time for Leland's platoon, he expressed that the connections he made with his comrades is what helped sustain him through the long days and nights. 54 years later, Leland published a book about his time in Vietnam, what his return to "normal" looked like, and his experience of visiting Vietnam again in the late 2000s. *Where the Light Enters: A Soldier's Journey* is not a war story, but rather a story of war that depicts the "unyielding perseverance, strength, nobility, and courage" of those serving alongside Leland. Documenting this part of his life was not easy or a quick process, but Leland felt it was necessary to shine a light on what happened during his service and how those events continued to impact him, like many veterans, for years after.

Bulldogs Celebrate Dia de los Muertos

Students in Señora Catarino's Spanish 5 class spent time learning about Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), the cultural significance of the celebration, and were then tasked with creating ofrendas (offerings).

Dia de los Muertos is a Mexican celebration in which families gather to honor the memory of deceased loved ones. Ofrendas can be made up of two, three, or seven levels, each decorated with incredible symbolism. Candles are placed near the top to symbolize their love for deceased relatives and act as a guiding light for their spirits. Paper is placed below the candles to represent the union between life and death. Incense is used to purify the souls of the dead and ward off evil spirits. Flowers are placed as guides for spirits in the mortal world as they make their way back to their families. Many more elements make up an ofrenda, but at the root of it all is a familial bond.

For their assignment, students researched deceased famous people to learn more about their lives and what was important to them. After collecting all their information, they began building the base for their ofrenda and then decorated each display to include three things that were significant to the individual researched.



Señora Catarino's Spanish 5 students present their ofrendas.



BPAC PRESENTS
Day of The Dead

NOV 4 Saturday | **10 am - 1 pm**
Stanton Middle School
101 Hawthorne Lane
Fox Lake, IL 60020

Tattoos, Music, Face and Pumpkin Painting.
Feel free to wear your Halloween costume.
Please help us decorate the Altar of the dead.
Bring a photo and something special of your loved ones.

FREE Event for families of Districts 114, 124, and 37.



Varsity Volleyball team celebrates a victory at their Pink Out match.

Girls Volleyball traveled as a whole program for their final season and conference game against Lakes. Going into this match, our Varsity team and Lakes were both undefeated in conference. The gym was packed with fans from both sides and the energy was high through all three sets. No matter the point difference, our Bulldogs kept pushing and ended the night with a Second Place finish in the NLCC. Following their Lakes match, JV hosted a quad where they lost a tough match to Stevenson and defeated Mundelein and Antioch. They ended their day tied for First Place with Stevenson. The following week, Varsity hosted Regionals and went up against McHenry for the

first round. The Warriors gained momentum quickly and took home a win after two sets. With so much growth and progress throughout the season, we are excited to see the program take the court again next

Football earned their spot in the playoffs this season after taking down the North Chicago Warhawks for the final regular season game. Our Bulldogs were matched up with Wauconda for the first round of playoffs - giving us another Battle of the Bulldogs opportunity! Wauconda started off the night with a touchdown in the first four minutes and our Bulldogs tied it up pretty soon after with a touchdown pass from Matt Gipson to Jose Munoz. With a great defensive line, we forced Wauconda to punt and Grant took over the ball on Wauconda's 26 yard line. Halfway through the second quarter, Gipson threw to Jake George in the back of the end zone for another Grant touchdown. Heading into the fourth quarter, Wauconda carried out their possession and added another touchdown to the board. Three minutes later, Wauconda intercepted a Grant pass and earned another touchdown to take a 21-14 lead. With a minute left in the fourth quarter, Grant scored a touchdown and made the decision to run the ball for two points in hopes of securing a win. Wauconda denied the two point conversion and took control of the ball for the final play of the night. Although it wasn't the final score we were hoping for, there was great effort all night and our athletes made Wauconda earn their win.



Teammates celebrate with Jose Munoz after he scored a touchdown for Grant.



Boys Cross Country Team—Sectional Qualifiers

Our Boys **Cross Country** team competed at Sectionals last weekend and concluded their season with a 15th Place finish. They had their best 1-5 split of the season with Ryan Golden and Nathan Kempf running new Personal Bests, and Niko Dayment, John Nehmzow, Maxx Haas, and Memphis Roman running new Course Bests. Michael Johnson had a great bounce back race this weekend as well. Congrats on a phenomenal season, winning Conference, and qualifying for Sectionals for the fourth straight season!

The Varsity **Boys Soccer** team competed in Round One of Regionals last month and took on the Vikings from Guilford. 20 minutes into the match, our Bulldogs earned the first point with a goal from Fred Kunzer and an assist from Alex Luna. Miguel Nunez followed up with another goal and assist from Diego Bueno in the second half, still leading the Vikings. They closed out the night with a 2-0 victory over Guilford. In the Regional Championship match against Streamwood, our team pushed for a positive result, but fell in the end to the Sabres. Overall, it was a successful season for the team and they have laid a great foundation for future teams.



Varsity Boys Soccer returns home after defeating Guilford in Round One of Regionals.



Julien Tennyson & Katie Pratt take First Place for doubles in Bocce Ball.

Our **Special Olympics** athletes competed in their qualifying competition for State and brought home several top placements for Bocce ball. Chris Davis earned Bronze, Nathan Pendell and Claire Watkin both earned Silver for their divisions, and Katie Pratt and Julien Tennyson secured Gold in Doubles! Katie and Julien will be competing in the State finals this spring, so keep an eye out for celebration information as we get further into the school year.



The **Grant Cheerleading** Annual Spaghetti Dinner was a huge success! Thank you so much to the GCHS community for all of your support! This tradition is extremely helpful to our program and we truly appreciate all of the love and support we received. We'd like to give a few special thank you's to our donors and the ones who helped make the night a success.

GoldFish Swim School

Dog N Suds

Renn Family

JV Sushi

McNellis Family

Venture Athletics

Buona Beef

Olando's

Home Depot

Hosler Family

Lauren Bocox

Fanella's

Foxy Nails & Spa

Rookies

Crystal Ice House

Tomasetti Family

Polka Family

Central Clothing Company

G Nails

Carrie Joray

Lisa Kelley

Vichy Salon

Miles Family

Ace Hardware

JJ Twigs

Fairmont Shores

Werner Engraving

Salon Coccole

G's Skin Studio

GJB Cheerleading

McKee Family

Dabrowski Family

Ramirez Family

Fisher Family

Davis Family

Hamm Family

Routledge Family

Biundo Family

Lloyd Family

Inman Family

Gentile Family

Docker's

Fratello's

Sheryl Dempsey

Fitness 120

Blooms by Brigita

Carlos's Mexican Grill

Special thank you to the GCHS Kitchen Staff, GCHS Maintenance Staff, and GCHS for helping make this event a success!

2024-2025 Curriculum Updates

MISSION

What is our fundamental purpose;
why do we exist?

Grant Community High School will educate each and every student to be a responsible and productive citizen who will be able to effectively manage future challenges. Students will be provided with the opportunity to develop intellectually, emotionally, and physically in a safe and supportive environment.



VISION

What must we become in order to
accomplish our fundamental purpose?

Because all students can learn and belong, we will become a united community of empowered, engaged, and intentional role models who foster a culture of reciprocal trust and accountability.



VALUES

How must we behave to achieve
our mission, vision, and goals?

Grant staff demonstrate: adaptability, communication, collaboration, social empathy, and integrity.



GOALS

How will we know if we are making a difference?

Grant students demonstrate: adaptability and perseverance, problem solving, integrity, empathy, power of communication, and an empowered learners mindset.

It is the mission of Grant Community High School to educate each and every student to be a responsible and productive citizen who will be able to effectively manage future challenges. In the spirit of our mission, the Grant administration proposed several curriculum changes to the Board of Education for approval at the October meeting. All changes were approved.

The curriculum work is guided by the district's mission, vision, values, and goals. The recommendations were a result of focused efforts to improve future student achievement including:

- On-going, comprehensive, standards-based curriculum audit and revisions
- Standards, assessments, and curriculum alignment work within departments
- Student data analysis at numerous levels within the organization
- Continued development of the MTSS structure
- Prioritization of professional development
- The development of the College and Career Pathways structure to support College and Career Readiness

These recommendations are about creating opportunities for more students. The following information outlines all approved curriculum changes for the 2024 - 2025 school year.

Dual Credit Courses - Grant Community High School has a partnership with the College of Lake County to allow GCHS students to take some CLC courses for dual credit. Next year, we will extend our offerings of dual credit courses. Students in these classes will meet the same prerequisites, learn the same curriculum outcomes, and earn credit at both CLC and GCHS for the successful completion of the course. These courses will carry AP weighted GPA credit.

- BIO 123: Principles of Biology
- CHM 121: General Chemistry
- ENG 121: Composition I
- ENG 122: Composition II
- HST 121: History of Western Civilization to 1500
- HST 122: History of Western Civilization 1500 to Present
- PSC 221: Comparative Political Systems
- EDU 124: Child Development

Science Changes - Next year the Biotechnology II course will be revised and renamed AP Seminar: Biotechnology II to incorporate the research-based AP Seminar course. As a result, it will become an AP course rather than an Honors course. In addition, the prerequisites for the following

Continues on page 13...

courses have been modified to allow incoming sophomores access if they have successfully completed Honors Chemistry during their freshman year.

- Physics
- Honors Anatomy & Phys
- Honors Biotechnology 1
- Honors Earth Science
- Honors Physics
- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Physics 1

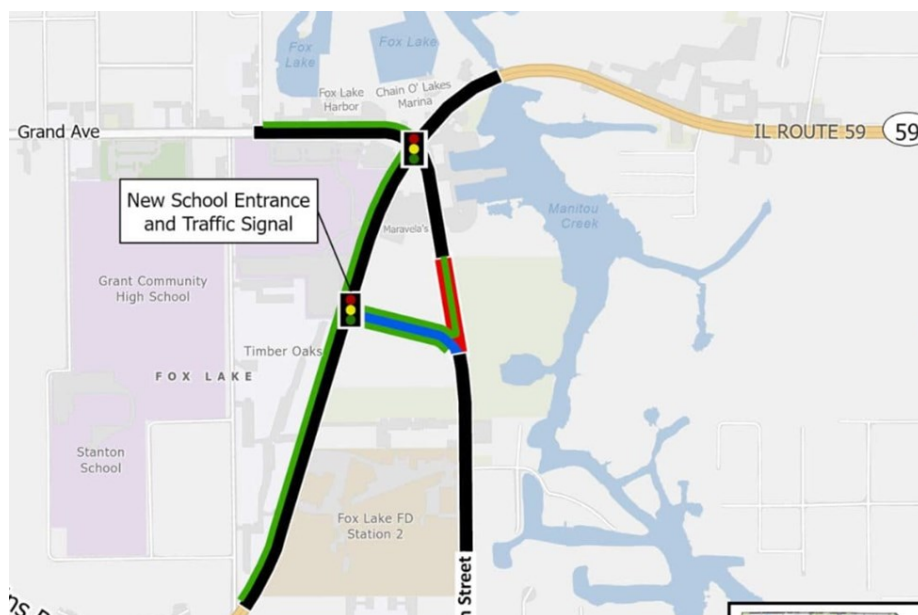
English - In a continued effort to revise the English curriculum, we will remove the current English 10 course. Curriculum committees will modify the Advanced English 10 curriculum and the Honors English 10 curriculum. The Advanced English 10 course will be renamed to English 10.

Career and Technical Education - To allow students more flexibility in their schedules, we will split Mobile App Design into two semester-long classes, Mobile App I and II. They are both available next year but can be taken by students over two years if they want to complete the full course.

Our mission, vision, and values guide all decisions we make to help our students achieve the competencies identified, as a school community, in the Portrait of a Graduate. It is with our students in mind that we strive to create more opportunities for success. The curriculum proposals this year support our mission of preparing students for the world beyond Grant Community High School to become responsible and productive citizens who will be able to effectively manage future challenges.

Construction Coming Soon...

Beginning in the next few weeks, the long-awaited intersection improvements at Grand Avenue and Route 59 will begin. District officials have been included in planning meetings with the Lake County Department of Transportation and we are working together to minimize the impact to campus traffic, to the greatest extent possible. Construction will begin this November and continue through the spring of 2025. You can monitor progress of the project at <https://il59andgrand.com/>. We thank you, in advance, for your patience and flexibility as we work with the County on this sizeable project. With new turn lanes and a stop light being installed at what will be a new entry/exit for the student parking lot onto Route 59, the end result will be a major safety improvement for all!



Illinois School Report Card

GCHS Receives Commendable Rating

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released the annual [Illinois Report Card](#) this month. The Report Card shows how well our school district is progressing on a wide range of educational goals. One component of the School Report Card is the annual summative designation, a descriptor of how well our schools are meeting the needs of all students. The designations recognize schools with strong overall performance across a range of academic and student success indicators. There are five designations a school can receive – Exemplary, Commendable, Targeted Support, Comprehensive Support, or Intensive Support. We are happy to report that Grant Community High School received a COMMENDABLE designation from the State of Illinois!

Multiple areas of growth stand out on this year's School Report Card, including ELA and science proficiency. Not only did proficiency improve dramatically for each, but our students performed well above the state average. Our graduation rate, at over 90%, is also above the state average, with 77% of students pursuing higher education beyond Grant High School. Chronic absenteeism, which includes excused and unexcused absences, continues to improve, but efforts are still needed to increase the number of days students are in attendance. Having a strong staff is an integral component of supporting student learning, so we are happy to report a teacher retention rate of 95%, with 73% of our teaching staff having earned a Master's degree or above.



We are also pleased to report an increase in the number of students taking and being successful in dual credit courses and advanced coursework, earning industry certifications, and completing career internships.

We are proud of our students, faculty, staff, parents, and community as the Report Card demonstrates positive gains on a multitude of academic, cultural, and climate fronts. District 124 thanks you for your continued partnership to ensure the success of each and every student!

RED Zone

BULLDOG REWARDS

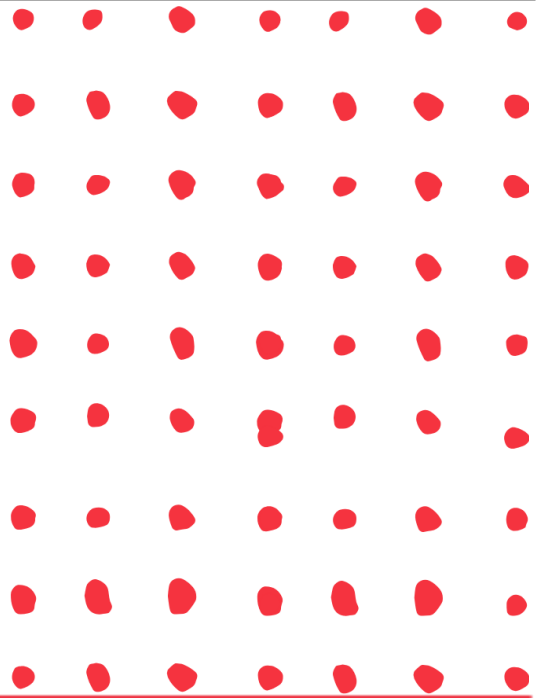
How do I switch out my study hall for access to the RED Zone?

- Stay academically on-track for graduation
- Be in attendance for at least 90% of school days
- Have three or fewer behavioral incidents (detentions, referrals to the Dean's Office, etc.)

What rewards are part of the RED Zone?

- More time to utilize academic resource labs
- Use the library for a quiet study or collaborative group work area
- Enjoy the new Bulldog Cafe located in the Auditorium lobby

Student grades, attendance records, and behavioral referrals are checked every quarter for an up-to-date list of **Senior students** who qualify for the RED Zone.



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!

Recycle Textiles & Keep It Green

Did you know that 85% of all clothing and textiles end up in U.S. landfills every year? With limited landfill capacities and a mission to deter materials from them, the Environmental Club is looking for your help to fill our SWALCO bin. This full-circle program allows community members to discard their used clothing without polluting the environment and gives them the opportunity to support environmental education/outreach.



Textile collection bin

Throughout November, community members are encouraged to drop off any unwanted or outgrown Halloween costumes, tote bags, backpacks, or other clothing items, stop by our SWALCO bin off of Devlin Road to drop them off. All items must be bagged and make sure to check their acceptable/unacceptable items list before donating. With November 15 being designated as "America Recycles Day," now is a great time to start getting your collection ready for drop-off!

Cyberbullying Warning Signs Red flags that a child is involved in cyberbullying



Sameer Hinduja, Ph.D. and Justin W. Patchin, Ph.D.

Cyberbullying impacts at least one out of every four middle and high school students. Many of those who experience it don't tell anyone. If a child displays any of these signs, he or she might be involved. However, not all youth who are cyberbullied or who cyberbully others will display these signs, and some who do show these signs may have other issues in their lives that should be addressed. Take the time to investigate further if you see any of these red flags among the youth you care for.

A Child May Be a Target of Cyberbullying If They:

- unexpectedly stops using their devices
- appears nervous or jumpy when using their device(s)
- appears uneasy about going to school or to other events where their peers are
- appears to be angry, depressed, or frustrated after texting, using social media, or gaming
- is oversleeping or not sleeping enough
- becomes abnormally withdrawn from family or friends
- shows an increase or decrease in eating
- seems regularly depressed
- makes passing statements about suicide or the meaninglessness of life
- loses interest in the things that mattered most to them
- avoids discussions about what they are doing online
- frequently calls/texts from school requesting to go home ill
- desires to spend much more time with parents rather than peers
- becomes unusually secretive, especially when it comes to online activities

A Child May Be Cyberbullying Others If They:

- quickly switches out of apps/games or hides their screen when you are close by
- uses their device(s) at all hours of the night
- gets unusually upset if they cannot use their device(s)
- laughs excessively while using their device(s)
- avoids discussions about what they are doing online
- seems to be using multiple online accounts or an account that is not their own
- is dealing with increased behavioral issues or disciplinary actions at school (or elsewhere)
- appears overly concerned with popularity or continued presence in a particular social circle or status
- demonstrates increasing insensitivity or callousness toward other teens
- starts to hang out with the "wrong" crowd
- demonstrates violent tendencies
- appears overly conceited as to their technological skills and abilities
- stops caring about their relationship with you

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Bulldog Happenings

Fall Choir Concert



Our singing Bulldogs hosted their annual Fall Choir Concert last month and provided the audience with a night full of great performances. In addition to their rehearsed pieces, current Choir members were joined on stage by returning alumni looking to support the program.

Dodgeball Tournament



The Freshman Class Council hosted their Dodgeball Tournament this week, and Wodrich Dodgeball Academy walked away as champions! Congratulations to our champs on the first-place victory, to the Purple Pummeling Platypuses on winning "Best Team Name," The Untouchaballs for winning the "Best Costume" award, and to the Freshman Class Council on a well-run event. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Bulldogs Help Save Lives at Fall Blood Drive



Thank you to everyone who donated blood last week & did their part to help save lives! Because of you, life doesn't stop.



KEEP IT RED



We've made it to November and although it feels like we just started the new school year, we are just weeks away from finishing the first semester.

We are happy to announce that we have celebrated another round Bulldog Pride winners, 32 Bulldog Buck winners, and staff members for their RED behaviors! Whether they are helping fellow Bulldogs, putting in the extra effort to keep their grades up, or helping various members of the community, these Bulldogs are great examples of what makes up a Grant Bulldog.

During October, we provided an activity to TEAM rooms focused on anti-bullying. Our Expect Respect lesson incorporates the SWAT and SBL method introduced several years ago. During the Expect Respect lesson, students are taken through a scenario in which a student is being harassed and goes to a teacher for help. While talking to her teacher, this student is encouraged to stand up for herself by following the SWAT method. If someone is bothering you, you should ask the person to STOP. If the behavior doesn't stop, you should then WALK AWAY from that person. If the person follows you and continue the behavior, that is when you should TALK and tell a trusted adult.

If you find yourself in a similar situation and another person is telling you to STOP, you should use the SBL method. The SBL method focuses on STOPPING the behavior, taking a minute to BREATHE, and LEAVING the situation if necessary. In case students run into similar situations, we have placed posters throughout the school that outline these methods for reference. We found these acronyms very helpful and look forward to seeing how our Bulldogs utilize these methods.



Counselor's Corner

Junior Registration Meetings

Juniors will be starting the process to register for their 2024-25 courses in November. Counselors will be in U.S. History classes on November 6, 2023, reviewing course selections and post high school planning. Starting November 7, counselors will be meeting with Junior students individually to discuss course options and finalize their choices. This is a great opportunity for students to discuss post high school plans with counselors. Make sure to take a look at the [2024-2025 Curriculum Guide](#) and select courses that not only help you meet requirements, but prepare you for the future career you would like to pursue.

Scholarships:

- [Grant Scholarship Database](#)
- The Grant Community Scholarships will open later this month—Seniors, stay tuned!

Career Center News:

- [November Newsletter](#)
- November 1, 2023 is the application deadline for many colleges

Website Resources:

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



C A L E N D A R

November

Nov. 1	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Parent University: AP Night
Nov. 2	Picture Retake Day Dancing with the Dogs
Nov. 4	BPAC—Day of the Dead @ Stanton Middle School
Nov. 8	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Nov. 9	School Board Meeting
Nov. 11	NLCC Chess Tournament @ Grayslake North HS
Nov. 15	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Nov. 16	Progress Reports
Nov. 17-19	Fall Play
Nov. 22-24	Thanksgiving Recess, No School
Nov. 29	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start

December

Dec. 2	Math Team Invite
Dec. 6	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Parent University: Growing a Resilient Mind
Dec. 12	Band Holiday Concert
Dec. 13	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Dec. 14	Choir Holiday Concert
Dec. 16	NLCC Speech Competition
Dec. 20-22	Semester Exams
Dec. 21	School Board Meeting
Dec. 25 - Dec. 31	Winter Break

January

Jan. 1 - Jan. 5	Winter Break
Jan. 8	School Resumes
Jan. 10	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 am Flex Time Start
Jan. 11	Parent University: Gratitude, Kindness, & Empathy
Jan. 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School
Jan. 17	ACCESS Testing Window Opens School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 am Flex Time Start NLCC Scholastic Bowl @ Antioch
Jan. 18	School Board Meeting
Jan. 24	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 am Flex Time Start
Jan. 25	NLCC Math Team Competition
Jan. 26	Winter Pep Assembly
Jan. 31	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 am Flex Time Start