



Grant Community High School

District Newsletter

September 2023

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Student of the Month

Khushi Viramgami



The Grant Community High School September Student of the Month is senior Khushi Viramgami, daughter of Alpesh and Nandita Viramgami of Round Lake.

Khushi's academic achievements include induction into the National Honor Society her sophomore year, currently serving as President. She has been on the Honor Roll each semester and by the end of senior year, she will have taken 11 AP classes, earning all A's. She has also taken Multivariable Calculus and is currently self-studying Linear Algebra with Computational Applications. She holds an impressive 5.17 GPA.

Khushi earned the AP Scholar with Honor and the AP Scholar with Distinction awards. She was selected to attend the NLCC Leadership Conference twice and was nominated to attend Girls' State. She scored a 1540 on her SAT, with a perfect 800 Math score. She also received the Social Studies Department Golden Globe award.

Her extracurricular activities are numerous and varied, including Class Vice President, Student Council, Math Team where she has qualified for State every year for both individual and team events, FBLA, competing as a team in Website Design, placing 2nd in State and 5th in National competition, Chamber Singers, SAALT, and the Academic Team. Outside of GCHS, she participates in the annual We Connect the Dots Code-a-thon, and the STEAM Scholars program. She is an athlete as well, in varsity tennis and badminton, earning the Scholar Athlete award multiple times.

Khushi volunteers with numerous NHS opportunities, community events, and Feed My Starving Children. She works at the Wauconda Kumon Learning Center and as a tutor for SAT and many other school subjects. She has her black belt in karate, learned Indian folk dancing, loves swimming, cycling, and reading.

Her plans for the future include majoring in Computer Science or other related programs, such as CS + Bioengineering, and she is exploring colleges such as University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Purdue, University of Michigan, and Georgia Tech.



Board of Education

Steve Hill, *President*

Kathy Kusiak, *Vice President*

John Jared, *Secretary*

Shelly Booth

Ivy Fleming

Ed Lescher

Bob Yanik





Welcome Bulldogs!



On behalf of Grant Community High School District 124, I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome to the 2023/24 school year. As we prepare to embark on another exciting year, I want to take this opportunity to share our enthusiasm and outline some of the wonderful opportunities that await our students.



- Opportunities for students to focus on specific career pathways, career internships, and service learning opportunities continues to grow. These courses are all designed to allow for students to explore areas of interest and prepare them for future employment in a variety of career pathways. Students can look forward to continued expansion of these career specific exploration opportunities.
- We are shifting into year two of our Multi-Tiered System of Supports Framework. The goal of the framework is to ensure that every student receives the appropriate level of academic and social-emotional support they need to be successful. We learned a great deal in year one and have made changes to the Framework going into this school year, which continues to guide our instruction and the delivery of targeted, evidence-based interventions that equitably meet specific student needs. We look forward to school personnel beginning to utilize Branching Minds, a new MTTTS platform, to create personalized interventions plans tailored to student needs.
- Our partnership with experts at a local university will continue on our journey to becoming a more inclusive school community, with the goal to deliver programs, comprehensive support, and educational opportunities that all students need to be successful.
- Senior student, Julia Podgorski, began her tenure as the student representative to the Board of Education on July 1st. She hit the ground running in this position, after shadowing the former student representative for several months. We look forward to continued increased communication between students, staff, the administration and the Board of Education!
- We have a few August activities planned to establish solid lines of communication between school and home. We invite you to be a part of Parent University, a program hosted throughout the school year to provide information and support for GCHS parents. The first Parent University program will be held the evening of August 9th and is strongly recommended for parents of freshmen students. We do know that there are many demands of your time, but hope you will join us for these valuable programs.
- School safety, of course, continues to be a top priority. We go to great efforts to maintain a safe and secure campus, including maintaining a safety planning team that meets regularly to evaluate and refine our safety plans. We will begin practicing our safety drills with students the week of August 21st. Please encourage your students to take these drills seriously so we are well prepared. We will be testing the Skylert emergency alert system, our method of communicating in the event of a potential emergency, on Wednesday, August 16th at approximately 5:00 p.m.
- Students and staff will enjoy a new coffee and snack shop this year! The coffee shop will be open to all students before school, during passing periods (grab-and-go only), and after school. Senior students that qualify for Red Zone privileges, based on academics, attendance and behavior, will be able to visit the coffee shop during their study halls as well and enjoy the café style seating in the auditorium lobby. Senior students eligible for the Red Zone, will find it listed on their student schedule when distributed.

I invite you to follow the wonderful things happening this year on the [school website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter \(X\)](#), or [Instagram](#). We look forward to seeing students in two weeks for the start of what will be an exciting 2023/24 school year!

Sincerely,

Christine A. Sefcik, Ed.D.
Superintendent





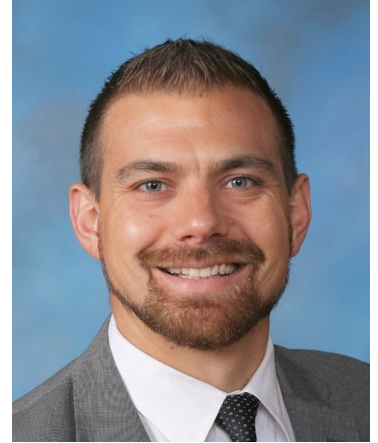
Success Starts Here



Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We had an amazing kick-off to the school year with excellent attendance at Material Pick-up Days, Freshmen Orientation, and Parent University. Moreover, our “Freshman Five” first day of school schedule and Red Carpet Welcome were a few strong ways to start off our new school year.

The building has a great feel to it this year, and with more than 468 incoming freshmen and over 1,828 total students enrolled, we certainly continue to be a big place. Undoubtedly, the uniqueness of each individual contributes to the power of the whole community.

As a school community, every year we learn, grow, and work to improve, and this year is an excellent example of that philosophy in action. Student voices from forums like the Student Council, Keep It RED, Principal’s Advisory Council, Student Athletic Activities Leadership Committee, and National Honor Society have significantly shaped school-wide improvements to the campus. Please ask your students about the new changes this year.



Some of these improvements are physical, tangible changes. Students are getting used to the building’s new directional signage for our colored hallways and a new snack café that has been named by student vote as “The Dawg Bowl.” The hallway signage will help students navigate the halls, and The Dawg Bowl will be open daily to provide more food and drink options for students. Moreover, select staff are piloting eHallpass, a digital version of a traditional, physical hall pass. Students are beginning to become familiar with the system, and we are interested to see how the pilot progresses.

If you have senior students, check in with them and ask if they’re part of “The RED Zone.” Seniors who “Keep It RED” have schedules that don’t show study halls with assigned rooms. Instead, they have the daily flexibility to report to multiple areas on campus to study, socialize, or grab a snack. Eligibility for “The RED Zone” will be updated quarterly; so if your student isn’t eligible yet, encourage them to keep it respectful, engaged, and dependable to qualify next semester. If your student isn’t in the RED Zone and believes they meet the criteria, please have them see their school counselor for an appeal form.

Instructionally, this year again we are continuing to use Skyward as our Student Information System and Schoology as our learning management platform. Parents have access to both systems, giving you access to your student’s academic progress. Please our Technology Department, for any access questions. Both systems’ information give parents timely information and easy starting points to talk with your children about their school day.

The excitement that comes with every new school year is tangible and real, and this year undoubtedly has a great feel to it. We know that each and every student contributes in some way to the larger Grant community, and we look forward to all of the ways that individual students will embrace the opportunities and challenges that present themselves this school year. So, I am confident speaking for the entire staff when I say that we look forward to all of the fantastic things that your student will accomplish this year!

Keep It RED,

Dr. Jeremy Schmidt
Principal

FBLA Impresses at Nationals



In April, we had 32 Bulldogs compete at the FBLA State Leadership Conference and 20 of them placed in the Top Ten! Once their State competition ended, all attention and preparation shifted to Nationals. Although there was a tough group of competitors, our students were ready for the challenge. Not only did our chapter's president, Emily Hawkins, take 10th Place for the Equedi Dreams to Reality Scholarship Program, but we also had a trio place in the Top Five. Khushi Viramgami, Diana Ngo, and Julia Podgorski joined forces for Website Design and secured their 5th Place finish at Nationals. We are so proud of their achievements and cannot wait to see our Business Bulldogs compete again this year!



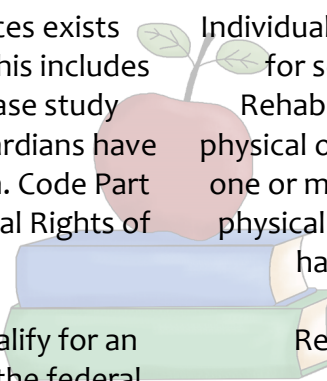
Business Bulldogs at Nationals

A continuum of special education services exists through Grant Community High School. This includes the opportunity for a comprehensive case study evaluation when appropriate. Parents/guardians have the right to receive a copy of 23 Ill. Admin. Code Part 226 and "A Parents' Guide- The Educational Rights of Students with Disabilities."

Students with disabilities who do not qualify for an individualized education program under the federal

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, may qualify for services under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 if the student (1) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, (2) has a record of a physical or mental impairment, or (3) is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment.

Requests or inquiries should be directed to a student's counselor of record.



The Student Online Personal Protection Act, or SOPPA, is the data privacy law that regulates student data collection and use by schools, the Illinois State Board of Education, and District #124 vendors.

On August 23, 2019, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker signed into law a new version of SOPPA that gives parents/guardians greater control over student data. Among the changes is a new requirement to enact breach notifications that are available to the public. SOPPA will also require Illinois school districts to provide additional guarantees that student data is protected when collected and that data is used for beneficial purposes only. The law is effective on July 1, 2021.



District #124 values your child's privacy and strives to ensure that parents/guardians are aware of what web-based tools and applications that are being used for educational purposes. A list of all District #124 approved web-based tools, written agreements with operators, and a list of data elements shared can be found here:

[D124 Data Privacy Agreements](#)

Parents/guardians have the right to inspect, review, and correct information maintained by the school, operator, and the Illinois State Board of Education. All requests should be directed to the Director of Technology by using the following email address: soppa.request@grantbulldogs.org.

For more information about SOPPA, visit our [SOPPA resources page](#).

Skills USA Nationals

Sydney Rinkenberger competed at the State level for SkillsUSA earlier this spring and secured a Gold Medal for EMT. During the last weekend of June, Sydney showed off her skills again, but this time, at the national level. It was a real battle as she went up against the best in the nation, but Sydney did a great job and finished the weekend with a 6th Place finish. Way to go, Sydney!

We look forward to seeing you achieve even more in your post-high school life!



Sydney Rinkenberger

Safety Update on “Swatting” Calls

The District is sharing information proactively to communicate with all families about a malicious act known as “swatting” that is taking place at schools in Illinois and throughout the nation. As we understand that this term might be unfamiliar to some in our community, we would like to take a moment to explain what swatting is.

Swatting is defined as a false report of an ongoing emergency or threat of violence intended to prompt an immediate law enforcement response. Unfortunately, there have been several swatting incidents in nearby communities in the short time that schools have been back in session. With each of these incidents, an individual placed a false call, making a serious threat against the school or claiming there was an ongoing threat.

Swatting is illegal. It creates unnecessary stress within our school communities and it strains valuable law enforcement resources. Thankfully, there are significant consequences for the responsible parties.

While we are hopeful we never have to face such an event, we have prepared and are in close communication with law enforcement. We will take all reports of potential threats seriously. Our top priority remains the safety and well-being of our students and staff and we are committed to maintaining a safe and secure learning environment.

Military Information Student Directory

As part of federal legislation, schools are required to release directory information for all students as requested by military recruiters. Student Directory Information includes the student’s name, address, and phone number. Parents have the right to request that this information not be disclosed without written consent. If a parent wishes not to disclose directory information about their student, direct a written or email request to jmartin@grantbulldogs.org by **October 6, 2023**. **There is no reason for you to give a written or email request for your student if you already have done so.** The written or email request will remain on file for the remainder of the student’s high school career.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Beth Miller
Beth Thomas - Runner-Up



Grant Community High School is pleased to announce the selection of Mr. Howard “Bud” Scott (in memoriam), Mr. William Lomas, & Mr. Mark Barczak to the Hall of Fame.

Howard “Bud” Scott graduated from GCHS in the Class of 1953 and was an active member of the Grant/Fox Lake community for many years afterward. During his time at Grant, Mr. Scott was involved in several activities including Varsity Football and Latin Club. Following graduation, he attended the University of Illinois and then joined the Marine Corps, serving in active duty from 1954-1957. He entered the Inactive Reserve in 1957 while continuing his education at Western Illinois University and Northern Illinois University, where he earned his Bachelor’s Degree. During his time in the Inactive Reserve, Mr. Scott began serving the Fox Lake community as a police officer and eventually becoming a Lake County Sheriff’s Deputy in 1964. Mr. Scott put his Business Education degree to good use by joining District #35’s staff as a teacher and coach. He quickly moved into his role as Superintendent and served in that capacity for four years. While working at the Channel Lake Grade School District, Mr. Scott was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps as a Sergeant. No matter his status, Mr. Scott continued to show support for the military by working at the American Legion Post 703 while pursuing more educational and career advancements. He earned his Master’s Degree while teaching and coaching at the Antioch School District #34 and then worked as an Elementary Principal at the Lincolnshire Prairie View School District. After his time as a principal, he returned to Grant in 1968 as Assistant to the Superintendent and worked tirelessly for 22 years. For many members of the Grant community, Mr. Scott was seen as someone that anyone could go to for advice, guidance, and understanding. His positive influence was felt and appreciated by all that had the pleasure of interacting with him. In addition to his patriotism and dedication to education, Mr. Scott placed a great deal of attention and effort into civic engagement. He was highly visible in the local political circuit, serving as the Lake Villa Republican Precinct Committeeman beginning in the 1960s, a Lake Villa Township Trustee, a member of the Lake County Planning Commission and Lake County Board, Commissioner of the Lake County Forest Preserve, Chairman of the Fox Waterway Agency, and a two-term Director of the Fox Lake Chamber of Commerce. Along with his various civic duties, Mr. Scott served as the President of the Lake Villa Fire Protection District Board and presided over the construction and 2008 opening of the substation in Lindenhurst. With his vast amount of community involvement, the State of Illinois commemorated him as a “true public servant who loved his community” by establishing Senate Resolution No. 11 in his honor. Although Mr. Scott’s reach and influence stretched far beyond the border of Fox Lake, he made a lasting impact on our campus and community, leaving a legacy of respect, appreciation, and pride.

William Lomas graduated from GCHS in the Class of 1973 and has been involved in the Fox Lake community for many years. During his time at Grant, he participated in G-Club, Language Club, and the Homecoming Committee. He played football, basketball, and baseball all four years at GCHS. During his senior year of football, Mr. Lomas served as captain, earned All-Conference, and was awarded the “Football Hustler” award. After graduating from Grant, Mr. Lomas stayed close to home and started his teaching career in 1978 at Shady Lane School (currently Stanton Middle School). Although he was just beginning his career, he took on a big role by working as the Chairman of the Social Studies Department and continued to fulfill those responsibilities for 11 years. In his seventh and ninth year as a teacher, Mr. Lomas was featured in the “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers” publication. In 1986, he was promoted to Assistant Principal. In this role, Mr. Lomas developed the school’s Code of Conduct and began serving as the Director of District Transportation. He moved into the principal position in 1988 and earned his Master’s Degree from Northeastern Illinois University. That same year, he was named the Illinois Principals Association’s (IPA) Lake Region Herman Graves Award winner for developing and overseeing the successful partnership with SEDOL which added six Special Education classrooms to Shady Lane. During his time as Principal, Mr. Lomas developed the school’s teacher evaluation instrument and policy manual, coordinated computer system installation for the district, served as Chairman or Co-Chairman on several committees (Communication Council-Discipline Committee, Principal’s Advisory Committee of Elementary Schools to GCHS, and Articulation Committee of Elementary Schools to GCHS), and facilitated the merger with Lotus School District 10. While the majority of his work focused on the students and

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staff of Shady Lane, Mr. Lomas put a lot of effort into positively impacting schools across the state. Through his involvement in the IPA, he served as Region IX Director-Elect for Lake and McHenry counties, State Executive Board Committee member, Congressional Meeting member, Advisory Committee member to the State Superintendent, Regional Director of Lake County, Strategic Planning Committee member, conference presenter for “Technology in Middle Schools,” and Lake Region Immediate Past Director. For Lake County specifically, Mr. Lomas worked as a Lake County Project Pass Board member, Advisory Committee member for the Lake County Area Vocational Central program, and developed a mentor cohort program as part of the Lake County Leadership Center. After completing his Educational Doctorate degree from Loyola University, Mr. Lomas was the perfect choice for Associate Superintendent in 2000. He was selected for the IPA Lake Region Middle School Principal of the Year in 2001. After retiring as Principal in 2009, Hawthorne Lane was honorably named William T. Lomas Drive. Mr. Lomas officially retired in 2010 as Associate Superintendent. While some may treat retirement as a time to relax, Mr. Lomas continued to stay active by volunteering and giving back to the community. He has served on the Open Arms Mission Food Pantry Board, delivered for Meals on Wheels, volunteered for the Lake Management Water Quality Program, and is the Harvester Program Manager for the Loon Lake Management Association. In 2022, Mr. Lomas and his wife, Mary, established the Fox Lake Grade School Scholarship at GCHS for students who attended Stanton Middle School and who are planning to attend a 2- or 4-year vocational school or college. No matter his role in education, place in life, or ever-growing list of commitments, Mr. Lomas has made a lasting impact on many students, staff members, and families within our community.

Mark Barczak was a staff member at GCHS for 33 years, serving as a teacher, coach, Assistant Athletic Director, Athletic Director, and source of guidance for many. Mr. Barczak joined the Social Studies Department in 1978 and taught a variety of courses including Geography, Civics, and Economics. While the majority of his classes focused on Social Studies, he also taught Health and CHAMPS. His interest in physical activity continued beyond the classroom as he took on several coaching roles within the Wrestling and Football program. After working as an Assistant Coach for Football, Mr. Barczak took on the role of Head Coach in 1992. During his 14 years as Head Coach, he led his teams through tremendously successful seasons and made them known for their quality, discipline, and integrity. With five appearances in the State Playoffs and Grant’s first-ever playoff victory in 1999, Mr. Barczak has the most career wins among any of Grant’s head football coaches. Even with a full teaching schedule and coaching responsibilities, he served as the Assistant Athletic Director for nine years. Mr. Barczak continued to stay close to athletics and became the Athletic Director in 2006. As the Athletic Director, he was involved in many high-profile projects including the turf installation at Paul G. Lewis Stadium, the building of the John Benedetti Field House, and the relocation of the weight room. Along with campus improvements, he was responsible for hiring many current and former head coaches that have elevated the status of their various programs. Although he retired in 2011, the bonds he created and his passion for Grant Athletics pulled him back to the GCHS campus for three more football seasons. Mr. Barczak formed a deep connection with the Grant community in 1978, inspiring many students in and out of the classroom throughout his many years as a Bulldog. Between various campus projects and the personal relationships he built, Mr. Barczak will be remembered at GCHS for many years.

Our inductees will take part in several homecoming activities, including a reception in their honor on September 21, 2023, a school pep assembly, the varsity football game, and the homecoming parade. Please join us for the following homecoming activities to recognize our Hall of Fame recipients:

September 21, 2023— A reception at 6:30 PM in the auditorium lobby followed by a Board of Education meeting at 7:00 PM to formally recognize the inductions.

September 22, 2023— Recognition at an all-school pep assembly that begins at 12:30 PM in the field house and at the beginning of the varsity football game that evening. Please report to the football field by 6:30 PM.

September 23, 2023- Homecoming parade on Grand Avenue at 9:00 AM. Please report to the student parking lot no later than 8:45 AM.

HOLLYWOOD

HOMEcoming 2023

Our Hollywood-themed Homecoming week is approaching quickly! It's a week jam-packed with dress-up days and events, during and after school. Hopefully, everyone can join in and show their Bulldog spirit between September 18th and September 23rd!

The week will kick off on Monday with "Best Dressed/ Paparazzi." Which side of Hollywood do you belong to? Dress to impress or document the best! 7:40-9:25 AM, seniors will be out in the community painting windows of local businesses. After school there are a lot of events students can participate in! Powderpuff players, junior and seniors, will have practice from 3:30-5:45 PM.

Tuesday is "Stunt Double." Double up with a friend and dress alike. Powderpuff will practice from 3:30-5:45 PM. Today is also the last day for Seniors to vote for Homecoming Royalty!

Wednesday is "On Wednesdays, We Wear Pink." Reference one of Hollywood's most iconic movies and wear pink! When classes are done, students are welcome to join us for our annual Block Party! Our Block Party will take place between 4:30-6:30 PM outside the fieldhouse. This event is free to students and food, games, and face painting will be available. Following the Block Party, we will cheer on the Juniors and Seniors as they take the field for Powderpuff. The Powderpuff game will run from 7:00-9:00 PM, so make sure you're there cheering on the Juniors and Seniors! The gate to the game opens at 6:30 PM and tickets are \$3.

On Thursday, dress as your "Celebrity Crush." Hollywood is full of hunks and hotties. Show off who you're crushing on. Class/activity window painting will finalize their murals after school.

And of course, Friday is a "Red Out." Roll out the red carpet for your best spirit wear! Wear as much spirit wear as you can! There will be a pep assembly during school to get everyone pumped up for the football games that night! The Homecoming Court will be announced before the Varsity game. Freshmen play at 5:00 PM and the Varsity game kicks off at 7:15 PM.

The fun doesn't stop there! Our Homecoming parade starts at 9:00 AM on Saturday for the whole community to watch. If you would like to be in the parade, please fill out the [Parade Entry Form](#). There will also be building tours for alumni and community members starting at 10:30 AM. Later that night is the Homecoming dance from 7:00-10:00 PM.

Saturday evening the students of Grant look to celebrate victory with the Homecoming dance at 7:00 PM in the Fieldhouse. Students can purchase tickets to the dance at the school bookstore from 7:30 AM-3:00 PM starting on Monday, September 18th. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. **PRIOR** to purchasing a ticket. Tickets **WILL NOT** be sold at the door. Anyone attending the dance should review the [Dance Policy and Dress Code](#).

With everything going on during the week, make sure you enjoy the fun! Any questions regarding Homecoming should be addressed to Mrs. Payton Montemayor at pmontemayor@grantbulldogs.org.

School Safety

Welcoming all to a safe, secure, and supportive environment is one of Grant Community High School District's ongoing goals. As part of that effort at the start of the new school year, this article is intended to communicate several safety-related matters.

- We maintain a secure campus and all visitors must report to the security station at our main entrance (door #1). At the security station, all visitors are asked to present a driver's license or valid State ID for a background screening. Visitors without appropriate ID are not allowed into the building. Visitors who successfully clear the background screening, may be granted access to the building. Visitors who do not clear the screening will be addressed by an administrator, Student Resource Officer, or other school official. This layer of security compliments other ongoing safety measures, including safety training, video surveillance, security guards, and the electronic access-controlled doors. Campus opens for student access at 7:00 AM. From 7:40 AM – 3:10 PM all exterior doors are locked.
- Another important safety-related topic is "reunification." There are a number of circumstances that could cause the district to evacuate students, release students early, or release students later than the normal schedule. These circumstances may include: severe weather or flooding, power or water outage, hazardous materials, or a crisis near or at the school. In situations like these, it may be necessary for families to come pick up students in a formalized and controlled release process in coordination with the local fire department, police department and school district. This is called reunification.
- Reunification may be a time-consuming process. In the event a reunification is necessary, please be patient so that we may assure the safety of all students and staff during this controlled release process. It is our goal to reunify students with their parents as soon as it is safe to do so. Please understand that during an emergency, there may be a need to shelter students in a safe place within the school or move students to an alternative location. Multiple alternative locations have already been identified and procedures have been developed in case such a need arises. For the safety of our students, those locations will not be communicated in advance.
- If a reunification is necessary at school or in an alternative location, parents will be notified through Skylert and provided reunification instructions. For that reason, it is important that your contact information is accurate and up-to-date. Changes may be requested by you directly through Skyward or you may contact the school at (847) 587-2561.
- A Skylert emergency alert test was performed on August 16th. If you did not receive a call or email, please contact the Main Office at (847) 576-2561 and share updated contact information.



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.



As we enter into the 2023 Football season, please keep the following information in mind:

- All CURRENT Grant students will be admitted to games for FREE. Students must show their 2023-2024 school ID for free admission.
- Outside food and drink, backpacks, noise makers, signs, flags, and athletic equipment (balls) are not allowed.
- All students younger than a Freshman must be accompanied by an adult.
- There is no re-entry.



GCHS Hardhat Update

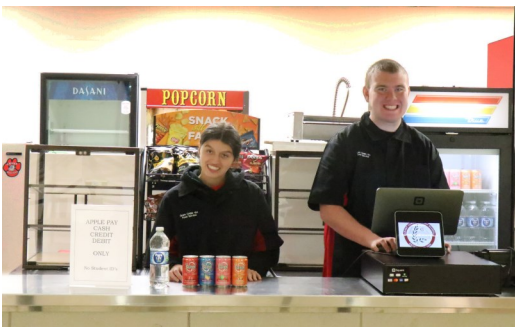
It was a busy summer for our maintenance crew as they worked tirelessly to update various spaces in our building. Over the past several years, we have been renovating classrooms to promote 21st century learning for all students. This summer, nine classrooms had carpeting installed and previous furniture was replaced with adjustable chairs and desks. By providing our teachers and students with easily movable furniture, they are able to work in an environment that is more cohesive to how they learn and classroom needs. In addition to our 21st century updates, we now have hallway directional signs! Thanks to the efforts of our Principal's Advisory Council, signs have been hung and floor decals have been placed at hallway intersections to better direct students looking for a specific hallway (yellow, blue, red, green or orange).



21st Century Classroom Renovations



Hallway Floor Decals (above) and Signs (below)



Transition Students are ready to serve Bulldogs at The Dog Bowl.

Along with classrooms and hallways, our biggest change on campus is The Dawg Bowl. Our new coffee shop is located in the concession stand across from the East Gym and will be a part of our RED Zone. The Dawg Bowl will be a great addition to our campus and will offer a variety of coffee drinks, teas, and snacks. Quest Food Services will ensure that all items meet nutritional guidelines and are affordable for students and staff. We hope that the coffee shop will become a

popular spot on campus and a place where students and staff can connect and recharge. Make sure to stop by and see what they have to offer!

COLLEGE SAVINGS & SCHOLARSHIP EVENT



Join Laura Faver Dias on September 14 at the University Center of Lake County for "Managing the High Cost of Higher Education." This event is beneficial for families with children of all ages, starting as early as babies and until they're actively in college. Both in-person and virtual options are available, and the event is organized so that families can attend any and all sessions that meet their needs.

SESSIONS:

- 6:00 pm - College Savings and Bright Start 529 Program, presented by the Illinois State Treasurer's Office. This session is ideal for families who are just starting the college savings journey.
- 6:45 pm - Financial Aid and Money Saving Tips, presented by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. This session is ideal for anyone looking for ways to save on the cost of education, and looking to apply for grants and other forms of financial aid.
- 7:30 pm - Findings & Applying for Scholarships, presented by Lake County Commission John Wasik. Did you know millions of dollars in grants and scholarships go unused every year? John will provide information about how to tap into those resources to find and apply for scholarships.

Your College Athletic Pathway: Eligibility and Recruiting from A to Z

Powered by **HONEST**GAME®

Wednesday, September 6, 2023
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Waukegan High School
Trapp Auditorium
2325 Brookside Ave.
Waukegan, IL 60085

Calling ALL Lake County high school student-athletes and families!

Learn everything you need to know about taking the next steps on your college athletic journey.

This is your chance to gain a competitive edge and make informed decisions to pursue sports at the collegiate level.



Hosted by:

- Lake Forest High School
- Lake Zurich High School
- Libertyville High School
- Mundelein High School
- Stevenson High School
- Warren Township High School
- Waukegan High School
- Zion-Benton High School



The Canine Connections Club and the National Honor Society will be partnering up with the Village of Fox Lake on Saturday, September 16th for its annual Fox Lake Go Walk Pet Walk at 9:00 AM. The event will take place at Grant Woods South Trail off of Monaville Road. Follow the road all the way back to the third parking lot next to the pavilion. There will also be some pet activities to try out before the 30 minute walk. The walk is free and open to everyone, so grab a family member, friend, or four-legged pal and join us for some fun and fitness.



COMMUNITY WALK



No Gala in 2023, But Save the Date for November 2, 2024 *Your Continued Support is Still Needed!*

As you may already know, the Gala has been the cornerstone of the Grant Foundation for many years, allowing us to raise funds to support students in financial need and provide scholarships to assist students in continuing their education. Based on a variety of factors, the difficult decision was made not to hold a Gala in 2023.

Although we are taking a one-year hiatus, the needs of the Foundation are ongoing and the support of our community continues to be welcomed and appreciated. The impact of your contributions is immeasurable, and without them, our mission to support students would not be possible.

Monetary donations are welcome and can be made at any time through our [website](#). Every dollar makes a difference and the GCHS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Through the community's unwavering support over the years, Foundation funds have created a multitude of opportunities for students that may not otherwise have existed. Many thanks!

While we will miss gathering in 2023, we are already looking forward to the excitement and joy of coming together again on Saturday, November 2, 2024. Let's continue to work hand in hand. There are several ways you can assist us with in preparing for the 2024 event:

- **Volunteering** your time and skills are invaluable to us. If you can spare some time to volunteer, please reach out, and we will gladly put your expertise to use!
- **Spread the Word:** Help us raise awareness about the GCHS Foundation and the upcoming Gala. Share our social media posts, invite your friends and family, and help us grow our giving community.
- **Corporate Sponsorship:** If you represent a company or organization that aligns with our mission of supporting students, consider becoming a corporate sponsor for our 2024 Gala. This partnership will have a lasting impact on the community we serve.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or ideas for collaboration. Together, we can make a difference!



Coffee Wednesdays



THE COFFEE SHOP IN FOX LAKE

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 7:00-9:30 AM

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



Working together to create success for your student.

Parent University is a series of workshops and events designed to support parents, guardians, and caregivers. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required. RSVP by completing our [Parent University Registration Form](#).

Most events run from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. A reminder Skyward message will be emailed to parents the week before the event. Any available recordings and resources can be found on the [Parent University](#) webpage on the GCHS website. This year, we are hosting a special series of Social Emotional Learning sessions for parents and caregivers to support the emotional health of their students. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to attend all or drop in for a single event.

September 6 – [College Night/Financial Aid Night](#) (Grades 11-12)

September 7 – SEL Series Session #1

October 4 – GCHS Pathways to Success: College & Career Readiness (Grades 9-11)

October 12 – SEL Series Session #2

November 1 – AP & Dual Credit Night

December 6 – Supporting Our Students' Social/Emotional Health

January – Supporting Our Students (video release only)

January 11 – SEL Series Session #3

February 28 – Career & Technical Education

March 14 – SEL Series Session #4

April 3 – Writer's Week

April 24 – [Financial Aid Night](#) (Juniors)

Connect with GCHS



Grant Community High School District 124



Grant HS Bulldogs



Grant Community High School



Grant Bulldogs



Keep It Red



TEAM Live is back! Every Friday we are bringing announcements straight to your TEAM room beginning at 8:50 AM. If you ever miss a [TEAM Live](#) or are looking for more information, check out our [Announcements](#).



Bulldog Happenings

Baseball—Spring 2023



Last spring, our Varsity Baseball team took down Streamwood (4-0) to clinch the title of Regional Champions!

Environmental Club



Environmental Club entered three kinds of herbs for judging at the Lake County Fairgrounds. They received 1st Place, overall Grand Champion on the 400 division, and third place for their peas!

Andy Montoya



For his Eagle Scout project, Andy Montoya decided to plant four new trees on our campus! Thanks to Andy, we now have a new tree outside the auditorium and three alongside the East Pick-Up/Drop-Off Lane.

Kaya Williams



From placing 12th in the USA Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) Nationals last year to taking 2nd at the Scholastic 3D Archery (S3DA) Eastern Nationals Archery

Tournament this June, Kaya Williams is making a name for herself in the world of archery. Even with a 2nd Place victory at Nationals, Kaya was determined to take her competitive season one step further and compete in the championship shoot for the Pro/Am tournament series in Cullman, Alabama. Kaya and her family prepared for the trip, but what they and the rest of the competition were not ready for was the weather. After getting rained out the first day, Kaya showed up for Day Two, eager to test her shooting and see how her skills compared to those alongside her. Although she felt satisfied with her performance, as Kaya saw the numbers coming in for her competitors, she did not think she would place at the end of the day. So, Kaya and her family packed up the car and left the shooting range for lunch. As they sat down, Kaya and her mother realized that she did place. In fact, she was Third in the Young Adult Open Female Division! They rushed out of the restaurant, got back to the range, and Kaya took her place on the podium.

Although Kaya has proved to be a worthy competitor in archery, she did not immediately start with competitions. When Kaya was 10, her father bought her first bow and began coaching her while out on hunting trips. Since then, Kaya has continued to grow her skills and has been able to enjoy the sport alongside her father and brother. With all her success and the desire to improve, Kaya is keeping her sights set on future competitions and hopes to one day compete at the Olympics for archery. We wish Kaya the best of luck in her archery career and can't wait to hear about the next competition!



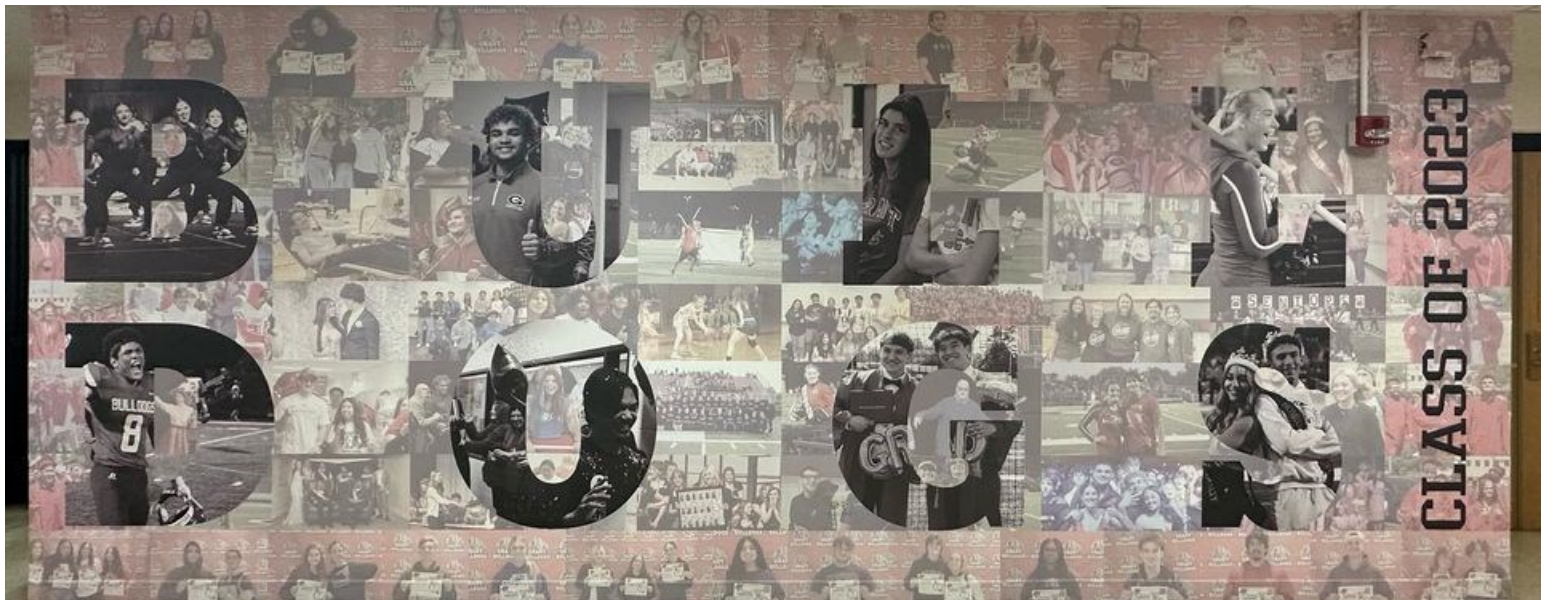
KEEP IT RED



It may be a new year, but the message remains the same: Bulldogs Keep It RED! At the start of every school year, we roll out several lessons that teach our Bulldogs what it means to Keep It RED, how they can earn/redeem Bulldog Bucks, and what are expected student behaviors. At Grant, we have built a culture around being respectful, engaged, and dependable (RED). We expect our students to display those three characteristics in all areas of the school and while representing Grant. These expectations go further than our building and will most likely follow you your entire life. To aid in the understanding and development of these attributes, our PBIS Committee has implemented strategies and programs that make Grant a great place for students to thrive.

In addition to these lessons, we recently ran the Be On Time Challenge. This challenge pushes students to exhibit RED behaviors by showing up to their classes on time. By showing up to class on time, they are respectful of academic time, can be fully engaged in the curriculum, and are seen as dependable students to all. For this challenge, we offered an ice cream party to the grade level with the lowest amount of tardies, as well as Bulldog Cup Points. The Freshman Class did an amazing job and earned themselves an ice cream party! Along with the grade level prize, all students with zero tardies will be entered into a raffle to win Homecoming tickets. Keep an eye out for our winner's announcement!

Beginning with the Class of 2020, it has become a tradition that the outgoing Class of Bulldogs leave a mark in the form of a mural. To honor the Class of 2023, the PBIS Committee, aided by the Senior Class Council, created a mural that not only focuses on what they achieved, but the memories they created. Although all of our graduates will be missed, they will never be forgotten in the halls of Grant and minds of staff.



Transition Program Gained a New Teacher

As if hitting your 20th year wasn't big enough, Mike Kennedy is making a change as he leaves the Deans Office and joins the Transition Program! In his new role as our Learning Opportunities Transition Teacher, Mike is excited to work with our Transition students and assist them in developing life skills that will help them live on their own. We look forward to a great year with Mike on the Transition team.



Mr. Kennedy & our Transition Students

Counselors' Corner

Post-High School Plans

Senior Meetings to work on Post-High School Plans will start mid September. In the meantime, students can check their School Counselor page in Schoology for post-high school planning information. They may also begin working in [SCOIR](#) to manage college applications and request transcripts and letters of recommendation. Students and parents can view our [Helpful Tips for Seniors document](#) for assistance with navigating SCOIR. Students can also schedule appointments with our College and Career Counselor Blythe Masura.

College Search & Application

Looking for further guidance in the college search/application process? Join us for Parent University's College Info Night on September 6 beginning at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium. All Junior and Senior parents are welcome to attend.

FAFSA Night will be postponed. The application is undergoing some changes and is expected to open in December 2023 for the Class of 2024. Be on the look out for a November FAFSA Night to educate all parents on the updates.

Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)

One preparation you can do ahead of the application opening is for you and your student to create a FSA ID. This is required and can be done by visiting the [Federal Student Aid](#) website.

College & Career Center News

[September Newsletter](#)

Helpful Counselor Information

Need help reaching your student's counselor or general information about Students Services? Check out our [SST Resource Document](#) for assistance.

Reminders

SAT: October 7, 2023. You must register by September 7 at www.collegeboard.org

ACT: October 28, 2023. You must register by September 22 at www.actstudent.org





Grant Community High School



District 124 CALENDAR

2023

2024

- Aug. 9 Freshmen Orientation
- Aug. 10, 11 Institute Days, No Student Attendance
- Aug. 14 1st Day of Student Attendance
- Aug. 16, 23, 30 School Improvement Meetings, 9:25am Flex Time Start
- Aug. 31 Back to School Night, 1:35 Early Release

- Sept. 4 Labor Day, Legal School Holiday
- Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27 School Improvement Mtgs, 9:25am Flex Time Start
- Sept. 13 Progress Report
- Sept. 22 Homecoming

- Oct. 4, 18, 25 School Improvement Meetings, 9:25am Flex Time Start
- Oct. 6 Institute Day, No Student Attendance
- Oct. 9 Columbus Day, Legal School Holiday
- Oct. 11 PSAT/NMSQT Testing
- Oct. 17 Progress Report
- Oct. 26 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:00 to 8:00 pm
- Oct. 27 Parent/Teacher Conf., 8:00am-Noon, No Student Attendance

- Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29 School Improvement Meetings, 9:25am Flex Time Start
- Nov. 16 Progress Report
- Nov. 22, 23, 24 Thanksgiving Recess, No School

- Dec. 6, 13 School Improvement Meetings, 9:25am Flex Time Start
- Dec. 20, 21, 22 Semester Exams
- Dec. 25 - Jan 5 Winter Break

- Jan. 8 School Resumes, 2nd Semester Begins
- Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31 School Improvement Meetings, 9:25am Flex Time Start
- Jan. 15 Martin Luther King's Birthday, Legal School Holiday

- Feb. 7 Progress Report
- Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 School Improvement Meetings, 9:25am Flex Time Start
- Feb. 16 Institute Day, No Student Attendance
- Feb. 19 Presidents' Day Observed, No School

- Mar. 6, 13, 20 School Improvement Meetings, 9:25am Flex Time Start
- Mar. 13 Progress Report
- Mar. 25-29 Spring Break

- Apr. 3, 17, 24 School Improvement Meetings, 9:25am Flex Time Start
- Apr. 10 PSAT/SAT Testing
- Apr. 19 Progress Report

- May 1 & 8 School Improvement Meetings, 9:25am Flex Time Start
- May 3 Prom, 1:35 Early Release
- May 14, 15 Senior Final Exams
- May 17, 20, 21 Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior Final Exams
- May 19 Graduation
- May 22, 23, 24, 28, 29 - Emergency Days, if necessary
- May 27 Memorial Day

◆ Freshmen Orientation

★ First Day of School

○ Parent/Teacher Conf.

✗ No Student Attendance

△ Flex Time Start-9:25am

□ End of Semester

⚙ Graduation

August '23							September '23							October '23							November '23							December '23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	△4	5	✗6	7				△1	2	3	4						1	2
6	7	8	9	✗10	✗11	12	3	✗4	5	△6	7	8	9	8	✗9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	△8	9	10	11	3	4	5	△6	7	8	9
13	△14	15	△16	17	18	19	10	11	12	△13	14	15	16	15	16	17	△18	19	20	21	12	13	14	△15	16	17	18	10	11	12	△13	14	15	16
20	21	22	△23	24	25	26	17	18	19	△20	21	22	23	22	23	24	△25	△26	△27	28	19	20	21	△22	△23	△24	25	17	18	19	20	21	△22	23
27	28	29	△30	31			24	25	26	△27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	△29	30			24	✗25	✗26	✗27	✗28	✗29	30

January '24							February '24							March '24							April '24							May '24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						6					1	2	3						1	2		1	2	△3	4	5	6				△1	2	3	4
7	8	9	△10	11	12	13	4	5	6	△7	8	9	10	3	4	5	△6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	△8	9	10	11
14	✗15	16	△17	18	19	20	11	12	13	△14	15	✗16	17	10	11	12	△13	14	15	16	14	15	16	△17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	△24	25	26	27	18	✗19	20	△21	22	23	24	17	18	19	△20	21	22	23	21	22	23	△24	25	26	27	19	20	21	△22	23	24	25
28	29	30	△31				25	26	27	△28	29			24	✗25	✗26	✗27	✗28	✗29	30	28	29	30					26	✗27	28	29	30	31	

**Calendar is subject to revision
Updated: 5/18/2023**