



# Grant Community High School District 124

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Christine A. Sefcik, Ed. D.  
*Superintendent*

Jeremy N. Schmidt, Ed. D.  
*Principal*

Beth Reich  
*Business Manager*

Dear GCHS Families,

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year! The first day of school is always such a joyful one and today was no exception. It was great to see our students' bright smiles and eager faces once again - filling classrooms and hallways with energy and enthusiasm. We are looking forward to a wonderful school year, full of opportunities for our students to grow and learn. High school years do go by quickly, so we encourage students to be engaged and take advantage of the many opportunities available to explore their interests and develop new skills.

For those new to Grant this school year and as a reminder to our returning families, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) made the decision last spring to transition the required state assessment for all Illinois high schools from SAT to ACT, effective this school year. You can read the initial announcement [here](#). ISBE communicated that a transition support plan would be made available to schools by July 15, but we are still awaiting those details. As such, I wanted to let you know very early on that there will not be a fall testing day for students. The October date that was previously dedicated to testing has been shifted to a normal day of student attendance. We will continue to offer the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQST) on October 22 for interested students. The District calendar will be updated with spring ACT testing details, once those details are known. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding as we await further details from ISBE.

We look forward to a strong connection between school and home this upcoming school year! Your involvement and support are crucial to the success of our students. We encourage you to communicate, be involved, and reach out if you have questions or concerns. We are here to support you and your student throughout the school year. You are especially encouraged to participate in Parent University, a program designed specifically to support YOU! We also hope to see you on Tuesday, August 27, for Back to School Night.

Please be on the lookout for details from Dr. Schmidt regarding next week's safety drills. School safety will always be a top priority for us and we go to great efforts to maintain a safe and secure campus. That includes maintaining a safety planning team that meets regularly to evaluate and refine our safety plans. 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 14, at approximately 5:00 p.m.

I invite you to follow the wonderful things happening this year on the [school website](#), [Facebook](#), [X](#), or [Instagram](#). On to day two! Let's make this school year a memorable and successful one!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine A. Sefcik".

Dr. Christy Sefcik  
Superintendent