



Grant Community High School

District Newsletter

September 2024

Student of the Month

Jirah Lanzar



The Grant Community High School September Student of the Month is senior Jirah Lanzar, daughter of Omar and Anna Mae Lanzar of Round Lake.

Jirah's academic achievements include induction into the National Honor Society during her sophomore year and she is currently serving as President. She has earned her place on Honor Roll each semester, has taken seven Advanced Placement courses, and two Dual Credit courses. She holds a remarkable 5.219 GPA.

Her extracurricular activities include Math Team where they placed 6th in the Regionals Tournament, and assists her peers as a math lab tutor. She is working on founding and becoming president of an Asian Cultural Club. She is also looking forward to participating in the Fall Play and the Spring Musical this year.

Jirah participates in the community service activities with National Honor Society, and volunteers at a food pantry, and helps with childcare at Willow Creek Community Church.

In addition to all of her activities, Jirah enjoys styling and designing clothes, drawing, and karaoke.

Her plans for the future include earning a degree in Chemical Engineering and pursuing a career in renewable energy. She is evaluating her university options but is interested in the University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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Board of Education

Kathy Kusiak, *President*
John Jared, *Vice President*
Shelly Booth, *Secretary*

Ivy Fleming
Laurie Hembrey
Ed Lescher
Bob Yanik





Welcome Bulldogs!



Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2024/25 school year! It's hard to believe, but we are quickly approaching the one-month mark. Over the past few weeks, I have been inspired by the energy and enthusiasm displayed throughout the District. GCHS staff have been going to great lengths to build belonging and ensure every student feels welcome and supported.

Our Big Dawg mentors and peer tutors are also working hard to establish connections, provide support, and build culture as well. They exemplify our Portrait of a Bulldog competencies on a daily basis and their leadership efforts are evident in classrooms and hallways. Keep up the great work!

We look forward to great things ahead for all students, from academic challenges and growth opportunities to exciting upcoming events and activities! We are thrilled to share that student participation in after school activities, both activities and athletics, is near record levels!

I want to thank families as well, as they have also been instrumental in our early successes this school year. Thank you for the great turnout at the first Parent University of the year and Back to School Night. Your involvement, whether through attending events, or simply supporting learning at home, it does make a difference.

We appreciate your continued support and dedication to our school community and we look forward to a terrific school year ahead!

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



**Grant Community High School Foundation
27th Annual**

Gala Dinner Dance

Live and Silent Auction

Saturday, November 2, 2024

Maravela's on Route 59, Fox Lake

Committee Members/Volunteers Welcome!

Contact: Christy Sefcik, Ed. D.

(847) 587-7940 or csefcik@grantbulldogs.org



Success Starts Here



Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! We had an amazing start to school with excellent attendance at Material Pick-up Days, Freshmen Orientation, Parent University, Fall Athletics Night, and Back to School Night. Thank you to all the families and students who got involved in those events to start the year in such a strong, positive way.

The building has a great feel to it this year, and with more than 417 incoming freshmen and over 1,807 total students enrolled, we certainly continue to be a big place. Undoubtedly, the uniqueness of each individual contributes to the power of the whole school community. There is so much to look forward to this year; every student has a place at Grant, and our improvements are increasing how students engage with their school community.

As a school community, we learn, grow, and work to improve each year. This year as a staff, we are focused on developing belonging throughout the school, and working with students through new and existing structures to foster belonging is part of that work. Student voices from forums like the Student Council's Bulldog Buzzfeed, the Superintendent's Council, and the Principal's Advisory Council will be making a concerted effort to connect students and contribute to school-wide activities.

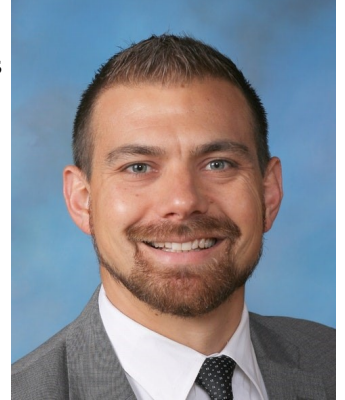
Moreover, from an instructional perspective, it has been wonderful to see so many students taking advantage of the expanded course offerings. Our collectively developed [Portrait of a Bulldog](#) details our goals for our graduates, and our [Career Pathways Guide](#) helps students navigate their high school experience. A new tool for us this year, through our Student Services Teams, students will be introduced to the SchoolLinks platform to support their college and career planning. All of these efforts are proving to be meaningful to students, as our enrollment in Lake County Technology Campus courses, Dual Credit courses, and Advanced Placement courses continue to grow again this year.

Beyond instruction, there are many physical, tangible changes happening on campus to improve our learning environment and enhance our students' experiences. As part of the District's long-standing Future Ready Pledge, another 13 instructional spaces were updated this summer with interactive projectors, device-casting technology, carpet, and flexible furniture. Additionally, with four years of physical education as a state-wide graduation requirement, and 827 students enrolled in Strength and Conditioning as their PE class, many students, as well as our Health and Wellness Department, are eagerly looking forward to the completion of the field house addition. This new area will have stations for weight and resistance training, as well as space for plyometrics and circuit training.

With so much happening at Grant, staying connected with your student is always important. 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 see our Technology Department, for any access questions. Both systems' information provides parents with timely information and easy starting points to talk with your children about their school day.

The excitement of the new school year is palpable, and it feels great to get the year underway. Each student plays a vital role in the Grant Community, and we eagerly anticipate the unique ways in which they will capitalize on the opportunities and rise to the challenges that come their way. On behalf of the entire staff, we look forward to celebrating all the incredible achievements our students will accomplish this year!

Keep It Red,
Dr. Jeremy Schmidt
Principal



New Superintendent Beginning 2025-2026

In May, Dr. Christy Sefcik announced her retirement to GCHS families, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. We are sure this public announcement was news to our families! However, Dr. Sefcik communicated her intention to retire to the Board of Education more than four years ago, and we have had a great deal of time to contemplate the district's leadership succession plan. Those succession plans began in earnest this past December, after Dr. Sefcik formally shared her upcoming retirement with GCHS faculty and staff.

Selecting a superintendent to lead the district is our most important responsibility and one we took very seriously. After careful consideration, we are thrilled to announce that the Board of Education has selected Dr. Jeremy Schmidt as the next Superintendent of Grant Community High School District 124. Dr. Schmidt has been the beloved principal at Grant Community High School for the past 11 years, and he served as a divisional administrator and English teacher at GCHS prior to his role as principal. He will officially assume the role of superintendent on July 1, 2025.



Principal Schmidt presenting awards to staff.

Dr. Schmidt's leadership abilities, passion for education, and commitment to student success have been on display for the Board for more than a decade. With Dr. Schmidt actively participating in every Board of Education meeting during his 11 years as principal, he has distinguished himself as a leader instrumental in fostering a culture of academic excellence, innovation, and inclusivity. He brings with him a wealth of experience, valuable relationships, and a deep understanding of our school community. We are confident that Dr. Schmidt will continue to uphold the values and traditions of our district while charting a course for even greater achievements in the years to come. His proven leadership, dedication, and vision make him the ideal candidate to lead us into the future.

Upon being selected, Dr. Schmidt shared, "I am exceptionally honored to be selected as the next superintendent of District 124. Being fortunate to have been part of the Grant community since 2005, I am eager to continue working with students, parents, faculty, staff, and the larger community in this new capacity. I recognize the full significance of this responsibility, and I am committed to further developing Grant Community High School's rich history by working together to expand the opportunities we provide all students. I look forward to working alongside Dr. Sefcik over the next year to learn from her and better understand the community from the superintendent's role. Moreover, I appreciate the School Board's foresight in planning for this transition so we can continue to provide seamless leadership while moving from one superintendent to the next. I am excited to take these next steps together and thank you for your support."

As one of the many benefits of promoting internally to a qualified candidate, we are looking forward to a very smooth transition. Dr. Sefcik has more than a year to pass along the knowledge and experience she has gained as our superintendent, and Dr. Schmidt has an equal length of time to prepare to fill his current school leadership role.

This decision was also an act of financial stewardship by the Board of Education. With an ideal internal candidate fully prepared to take on this new leadership role, a costly superintendent search, estimated on average to be between \$40,000-\$100,000, was avoided.

We hope you join us in congratulating Dr. Jeremy Schmidt on his selection as the next superintendent of Grant Community High School District 124!

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Christi Flaker
Pam Skeels - Runner-Up



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 on our [D124 Data Privacy Agreements](#) webpage.

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](#).

SOPPA
SECURING OUR STUDENTS' FUTURE

**Grant Community High School is pleased to announce the selection of
Mrs. Sharon Burr & Mrs. Kimberly Schnoor to the Hall of Fame.**

Sharon Burr graduated from GCHS in the Class of 1971, representing a long legacy of GCHS graduates. Sharon's father, Thomas "Ray" Walk, and several of her aunts graduated from GCHS, dating back to 1935. This is where Sharon met her high school sweetheart and husband, Carl "Rick" Burr (Class of 1970). Rick and Sharon's children and grandchildren have all attended GCHS as well. Sharon encompasses all things Grant Community High School and she is known throughout the community as a lifelong resident of Fox Lake who is passionate in her support of GCHS! During her time at Grant, Mrs. Burr was involved in multiple activities including serving on the Student Council, Homecoming Court, as a student aide, and participating in cheerleading all four years, including serving as Captain of the Varsity Cheer Team. Her unwavering devotion to GCHS is what drew her back as an employee, where she served as a dedicated employee for more than 30 years. She wore many hats during her tenure and worked in several departments, before retiring from the Business Office in June 2016. For many, many years, Sharon played an integral part in planning the annual Grant Community High School Foundation Gala, supporting students in financial need. She continues to serve on the Board of Directors for the GCHS Foundation. Sharon also continues to give back to the community, donating time and resources to the Fox Lake Round Lake Area Rotary Club and to Grant Township. Her days of cheerleading may have ended when she graduated in 1971, but to this day, she is the unofficial cheerleader in the community for Grant Community High School, always positively promoting GCHS in all that they do for children and families alike.

Kimberly Carlson Schnoor graduated from GCHS in the Class of 1973. The Schnoor and Carlson families include three generations of graduates from GCHS, starting with her mother-in-law Letra McNeil Schnoor, who was the valedictorian for the Class of 1943. All have achieved success in various endeavors since their time at Grant. Just a few short years after graduation, in 1980, Kim began giving back to GCHS by serving on the Board of Education. She served as a Board member for 10 years, the Vice-President for 9 years, and as the Board President for 6 years, culminating in a total of 25 years of dedicated community service. She played an integral part in the school facility being what it is today, as the Co-Chair of the 2000 Referendum Committee and Chair of the 2008 Referendum Committee, both of which were successful under her leadership and permitted us to have school facilities that are second to none. In her profession, Mrs. Schnoor is a well-respected and successful real estate broker in the local area. She is the recipient of the Re/Max Hall of Fame Award, Re/Max Lifetime Achievement Award, National Winner of Re/Max International's Highest Honor: The Platinum Club Award, and the Miracle Agent/Donor: Children's Miracle Network Hospital. Mrs. Schnoor continues to give back to the community, by being a long-standing member of the Fox Lake Round Lake Area Rotary Club, serving as the Vice-President and President, before becoming an honorary member in 2009. She has served in a variety of leadership roles at the Joyful Spirit United Methodist Church, including Lay Leader and Member of the Administrative Council. She currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Antioch Area Healthcare Accessibility Alliance, serving families in need. From 2005 to 2015, Mrs. Schnoor graciously provided the Letra (Lee) McNeil Schnoor scholarship for GCHS students. She has also been an annual participant in the GCHS Career Day. Mrs. Schnoor's service has, no doubt, had a lasting impact on many students, staff members, and families within our community.

Our inductees will take part in several homecoming activities, including a reception in their honor on September 19, 2024, 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 19, 2024—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 20, 2024—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.

September 21, 2024—Homecoming parade on Grand Avenue at 9:00 AM.



MAMMA MIA!

HOMEcoming 2024

Our Mamma Mia-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 16th and September 20th!

Fun fact! All of the spirit days are inspired by the songs from Mamma Mia. The week will kick off on Monday with "Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!". Give us your best lazy outfit and wear pajamas to school. 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, juniors and seniors, will have practice from 3:20-5:35 PM.

Tuesday is "Money, Money, Money". Wear as much green as you can. Powderpuff will practice from 3:20-5:35 PM. Today is also the last day for Seniors to vote for Homecoming Royalty!

Wednesday is "Lei All Your Love On Me". Join the Science department and show off your best Hawaiian shirt! 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. The gate to the game opens at 6:45 PM and tickets are \$3.

On Thursday, dress for "The Name of the Game". Represent by wearing your favorite sports jersey or shirt.

And of course, Friday is "The Winner Takes It All". Break out 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 16. 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.

— HERE WE GO AGAIN —





Brian Mullen, Director of Safety & Security

Director of Safety & Security Joins Bulldog Family

We are pleased to announce the appointment of our new Director of Safety & Security, Brian Mullen, who joins us with a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to creating a safe and secure environment for our students, staff, and families.

Residing in Grayslake, IL, Brian brings a robust background in law enforcement and public safety to Grant Community High School. He graduated from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, in 1994 with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology, and began his career in safety and security shortly thereafter.

Brian served with distinction in the Waukegan Police Department for 27 years, starting as a patrol officer and eventually rising to the rank of Deputy Chief. Throughout his career, he held various roles, including

Community Policing Officer, Detective, Detective Supervisor, Juvenile Officer, DARE Officer, Crisis Negotiator, and Patrol Commander. His extensive experience in law enforcement, particularly in working with juveniles and local school districts, makes him an invaluable asset to our community. More recently, he managed public safety for three hospitals in Northern Illinois with Advocate Healthcare, where he oversaw security operations and ensured the safety of both staff and patients.

His passion for safety and security was sparked at a high school career day, where he was inspired by two Dallas police officers to pursue a career in law enforcement. This passion has only grown over the years, driven by his desire to positively impact the lives of young people. Reflecting on his experiences, Brian shared, "I remember the adults who helped me when I was struggling as a teenager, and I wanted the opportunity to provide the same guidance they provided me. When students are engaged, a safe environment follows."

In addition to his professional qualifications, Brian has a personal connection to educational settings, having fond memories of his own high school years at Bishop Lynch High School in Dallas, Texas, where he graduated in 1990 and was part of the 1988 state championship football team. His educational philosophy, "Find value in every life experience, good or bad. Some of the most amazing accomplishments come from struggle," reflects his belief in the importance of resilience and learning through challenges.

Outside of work, Brian is an avid fan of college football and track, and enjoys supporting the Chicago Bears. He is also a proud father of fraternal twins who are freshmen in college, one at Michigan State University and the other at the University of Dayton, where his eldest daughter also graduated.

As he steps into his new role at Grant, Brian is eager to connect with the community and listen to feedback from faculty, students, parents, and visitors. His primary goal for his first year is to learn what makes Grant unique and to provide a safe learning environment for everyone. He is committed to leveraging his experience and dedication to ensure that our school remains a place where every member feels secure, valued, and able to thrive.

We are confident that Brian's leadership will greatly enhance our commitment to safety and security at Grant, and we look forward to the positive impact he will have on our campus community. Please join us in welcoming Brian Mullen to the Bulldog family!



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 14. 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 2024 Football season, please keep the following information in mind:

- All CURRENT Grant students will be admitted to games for FREE. Students must show their 2024-2025 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.

Bulldogs on Staff



Holly Ascencio

We are thrilled to welcome Holly Ascencio to our Special Education Department! Holly, a GCHS alumna, has a B.S. in Special Education from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She comes to us with experience as a Behavior Specialist and Teacher at SEDOL. Holly will be teaching Cross-CAT Math this year. Outside of school, Holly loves arts and crafts, running, and reading. A fun fact about Holly is that she is ambidextrous! She looks forward to finding her place at Grant and being a guide for our students. Welcome back, Holly!

Join us in welcoming Luke Blaszczyk as a Full-Time Substitute! Luke graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2024 with a degree in Economics. He has experience in tutoring and lifeguarding and enjoys playing sports and video games. A fun fact about Luke is that he did research with Hawksbill Sea Turtles in Belize. He looks forward to making meaningful connections with our students and staff. We're excited to have Luke at Grant!



Luke Blaszczyk



Joey Califf

Welcome Joey Califf to his first full year as a Full-Time Substitute! Joey, a GCHS alum (Class of 2019), graduated from Illinois State University with a History Major and a Political Science Minor. He has experience as a Gymnastics Coach and continues to coach cheer and tumble. Joey will also be the Assistant Varsity Cheerleading Coach at Grant. In his free time, he enjoys video games and golfing. Fun fact: Joey can solve six different types of Rubik's cubes! We're glad to have you back, Joey!

We're excited to welcome Jessica Coletto as our new EL Coordinator! With 15 years at Big Hollow School District and advanced degrees in Curriculum & Instruction and Educational Leadership, Jessica is eager to support our students. A Crystal Lake South alumna, she enjoys Orangetheory Fitness and boating. Fun fact: she attended a White House wedding in first grade! Her motto is "Don't stop until you're proud." Welcome to the Bulldog family, Jessica!



Jessica Coletto



Jessica Dart & department members

Congratulations to Jessica Dart on her new role as the Health & Wellness Teacher Leader! After 20 years as a PE teacher at Grant, Jessica will now work closely with department leaders and administrators to bring new ideas and resources to her department. She is eager to collaborate with new colleagues and take on new challenges. Jessica's goal is to keep an open mind and enhance the Health & Wellness Department. Best of luck, Jessica!

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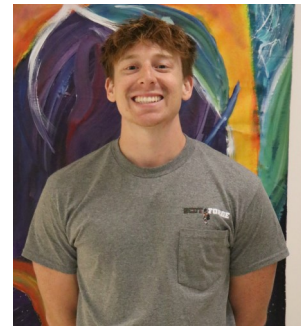
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Connor Donahue

We're thrilled to welcome Connor Donahoe, a 2016 Grant grad, as our new Paraprofessional. Connor, who earned his degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Lindenwood University in 2023, previously worked as a Guest Teacher. He's excited to return to Grant, bringing his passion for supporting students and creating positive environments. Connor enjoys disc golfing, spending time near water, and has a cat named Macaroni. His educational philosophy is inspired by Martin Luther King Jr.: "Take the first step." We're excited to have Connor back and look forward to his contributions!

Welcome JP Gizowski to his first full year as a Full-Time Substitute at Grant! A proud GCHS alum (Class of 2018), JP holds an Associate's Degree from the College of Lake County and a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He is also the Head Coach for both the Boys and Girls Volleyball teams at Grant. JP enjoys outdoor activities and is thrilled to be back at GCHS, where he has fond memories as a student. His goal this year is to make a positive impact. Welcome back, JP!



JP Gizowski



Joe Gorden

We are excited to welcome Joe Gorden to our Math Department! Joe is a Grant Community High School alum (Class of 2019) and recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with a B.S. in Education in Mathematics. He will be teaching Geometry and Algebra 2 and will also serve as an Assistant Baseball Coach. Joe's favorite high school memory is building lasting relationships with his teammates, and he aims to do the same with his students and players. A fun fact about Joe is that he was a National Champion in snowmobile racing in 3rd grade! Welcome back to Grant, Joe!

We're excited to introduce Merlin Hahn as a new Job Coach for our Transition Program! Merlin brings valuable experience from his work as a Paraprofessional Educator at Grant. He is eager to support students in exploring career opportunities and building essential life skills. Outside of work, Merlin enjoys spending time with family and playing basketball. Welcome to your new role, Merlin!



Merlin Hahn



Noah Hawke

We're pleased to announce Noah Hawke's transition from Security to a Paraprofessional in our Special Education Department! Noah has been with Grant for nearly two years and will now assist in the LOP program. He is excited to help our students succeed and continue his education. Noah looks forward to getting to know the students and teachers he will be working with. Best of luck, Noah, in your new role!

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Andrea Kosmicki

We're thrilled to announce that Andrea Kosmicki is stepping into the role of Assistant Director of Special Education. With 17 years in education and four years at Grant, Andrea brings valuable experience from her previous role as 504 Plan Coordinator. She holds a strong background in managing 504 Plans and IEP reviews, and will now focus on overseeing these plans, coordinating transition meetings, and supporting staff evaluations. Andrea is dedicated to enhancing student integration and professional development. Congratulations, Andrea, on this well-deserved promotion!

Welcome Jaclyn Schneider to our English Department! Jaclyn has a B.S. in Secondary English Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Doane University. She has taught English in Nebraska and at Edgewood Middle School in Highland Park. Jaclyn will be teaching English 9 and Honors English 9. A fun fact: Jaclyn has been in the audience of The Ellen Show three times! She's excited to get to know everyone and make a positive impact. Welcome to Grant, Jaclyn!



Jaclyn Schneider



Teresa Victores

Please join us in welcoming Teresa Victores as our new EL teacher! Teresa has a Master's Degree in Education from National Louis University and previously taught Spanish and EL at Oak Lawn Community High School. Originally from Argentina, she grew up attending Instituto Ana Maria Janer in Buenos Aires. Teresa enjoys hiking, gardening, and yoga. Her goal this year is to collaborate with the team to help our EL students succeed. Fun fact: Teresa's dream job, if not teaching, would have been a DJ or a marketing project manager! We are excited to have Teresa at Grant!

Welcome Aubrey Wray to our Art Department! Aubrey recently graduated from Northern Illinois University with a B.S. in Art and Design Education and will be teaching Art part-time. She is passionate about helping students grow as artists and fostering a creative environment. Aubrey enjoys photography, drawing, painting, and playing the trumpet. Fun fact: If not teaching, Aubrey's dream job would have been a music photographer. She looks forward to building strong relationships with her students. We're excited to have Aubrey with us!



Aubrey Wray

HEY BULLDOGS!

WE NEED PROOF OF YOUR MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE & SCHOOL PHYSICALS

MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE IS KNOWN AS MCV, MCV4, MENACTRA, OR MENVEDO

FRESHMEN

↳ If you have not turned in your school physical yet, please do so ASAP. Any student not in compliance with the physical and/or immunization requirements will be excluded from school beginning October 15 until the correct information is submitted to the Health Office.

SENIORS

↳ Students must receive two doses of the Meningococcal vaccine. The second dose must occur on or after the 16th birthday. Only one dose is required if the first dose was received at age 16 or older.



Questions? Concerns?
Contact the Health Office at (847) 973-3452/3453.
Email proof to HealthOffice@grantbulldogs.org
or fax to (847) 587-1088.

7 Back-to-School Tips for Parent & Teens

Heading back to school can be an anticipated time for teens. From shopping for that first-day outfit to organizing those new school supplies, to catching up with friends, there is a lot to be excited about. But for some teens, starting a new school year can cause stress and anxiety. The unknowns—new classes, new teachers, or even transitioning to a new school—can be intimidating and frightening. As a parent, you can help calm their anxiety. We've prepared a toolkit of back-to-school tips that can help the whole family adjust to the new school year with less stress and more excitement.

Here are seven evidence-based back-to-school tips for 2024 that will support both teens and parents.

1. Create a routine to reduce stress during the school year.

Establishing structure and routine is an essential part of back-to-school preparation. After summer vacation, it can be difficult to adjust to a schedule, particularly for teens who have been up late at night and [staying in bed all day](#). To ease your teen in to the schedule change, start establishing structure before the first day of school. Begin shifting to earlier bed times and wakeup times to get the circadian rhythm back on track. The week before school, consider planning some early morning [family activities](#). If your meal schedule has been topsy-turvy, get back to a more regular routine, with earlier breakfasts. Your teen may be slow to adjust, but they will thank you when that “first day” alarm goes off.

2. Help your teen develop healthy coping strategies.

Without healthy coping mechanisms, teens can let stress and anxiety get the best of them. And when anxiety takes over, teens can make poor choices, such as skipping school, acting out, or substance use. An EdWeek Research Center [survey](#) of more than 1000 high school students found that anxiety fell just below physical illness and bad weather as the top reason high school students missed school. Hence, it's important to let your teen know that stress and worry are a part of life, but avoidance and poor behavior are not solutions. Supplying your teen with [healthy coping strategies](#) will not only give them tools to overcome the anxiety of a new school year, but strategies they can apply to overcome future obstacles.

Healthy coping strategies to manage teen stress and anxiety:

- Find the positive in any situation
- Take a 10-minute walk outside
- Call a friend
- Journal
- Put on your favorite music playlist
- Exercise

3. Focus on the positive.

Looking at the positives of a situation can help teens feel better about any situation. While it's important to avoid [toxic positivity](#), paying attention to the good things in life helps build resilience, according to [research](#). In [one study](#), people who wrote lists of things they were grateful for had higher levels of well-being. Ask your teen to share three things that went well each day during the first week of school. They may also want to talk about the not-so-good things, and that's okay. Validate what didn't go well, and encourage them to also recognize the positives.

4. Practice breathing exercises to reduce anxiety.

Using the breath is a back-to-school tip for teens that they can activate at any moment, and experience immediate positive effects. Research shows that breath awareness is one of the most effective and accessible tools for self-regulation and calming the nervous system. Breathing slowly, while we focus on each inhale and exhale, activates the

Continues on page 14...

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parasympathetic nervous system (the “rest and digest” or “calm and connect” system). Therefore, the sympathetic nervous system (the “fight, flight or freeze” system) takes a step back. Hence, the breath can be a powerful vehicle for carrying us through challenging emotions and situations. For teens, that might be a math test, sports practice, a music recital, a first date, or a confrontation with peers.

A Breathing Practice to Reduce School Stress

Doing this practice once a day, or whenever they feel anxious, can be a helpful back-to-school tip for kids of any age. For teens who have social anxiety that is triggered at school, it may be helpful to use conscious breathing several times throughout the day.

1. Sit comfortably in a chair, with your feet on the floor and hands in your lap.
2. Inhale slowly through the nose for a count of four, allowing the air to fill your belly.
3. Hold the breath in for a count of four.
4. Exhale slowly through the mouth for a count of four.
5. As you breathe, visualize a healing blue or white light washing over your body. Finally, hold the breath for a count of four.
6. Repeat the sequence for four minutes.
7. Ideally, repeat the exercise for four minutes, four times a day.
8. Consequently, practicing Square Breathing several times daily will help teens become calmer and more relaxed.

5. Change the way you think about stress.

Families are busy, and the school year will likely bring a new set of stressors. The question is: Can we look at stress in a new, more positive way? Stress can serve as inspiration and fuel to help us get things done. [A Harvard study](#) found that people who viewed stress as a motivation for better performance did better on tests and managed their stress better than those who tried to ignore their stress. However, it’s essential to take “stress breaks” — times when you consciously relax and release tension throughout the day. One of the best back-to-school tips for parents is do these practices alongside their teens. The whole family can take a stress break together, and each individual family member can come up with their own preferred ways to de-stress.

6. Open communication with your teen is key.

During the busy school year, real communication can fall by the wayside. It’s hard enough to keep each other updated on the logistics, not to mention having meaningful conversations. An ongoing, meaningful connection between kids and parents is one of the most powerful factors in supporting teen mental and physical health. When talking with your teen, it’s helpful to pay attention to their nonverbal communication, as well as what they say. Sometimes they can’t express in words all of the emotions that lie beneath. Pay close attention not only to the content of a conversation, but also to your teen’s body language and tone. Help them feel heard, understood, and that their feelings are validated.

Adapted from: <https://www.newportacademy.com/resources/empowering-teens/back-school-strategies/>



Order the Official Class Ring & Custom Letter Jacket

Grant High School In-School Order Event

Family Order Night
Wednesday, September 4th
5pm to 7pm
In the Main Lobby



Bring your Letters and Numerals to Order Night!
Shop and Design online at: HerffJonesLL.com



HONOR ROLL



SECOND SEMESTER 2023-24

Grade 9

Zofiya Rae Abadilla
Alexander Acosta
Alexander Albiter
Brianna Andrade
Kimberly Andrade-Ceja
Grace Ano
Karla Antunez
McKenna Arnold
Peyton Atkocaitis
Viridiana Barcnas
Cameron Barr
Jeffrey Bayer
Jordynn Bernicchi
Kayli Brook
Ashlyn Bryant
Camila Cano
Dominick Carlisi
Kaitlyn Carpenter
Jeylen Catalan
Cameron Chavez
Gerardo Chavez, Jr.
Bartek Chrupek
Sophie Connealy
Emma Corbett
Ena Cranmer
Alexandra Cruz
Kaylee Cruz
Kaylee Cuellar
Katherine Danca

Abigail Daniele
Nolan Davis
Caroline DeYoung
Sophie Dollinger
Matthew Escatel
Connor Evans
Olivia Farley
Zen Felipe
Jayden Figueroa
Ryan Fitzgerald
Amelia Foy
Thomas Franklin
Garrett Fries
Alexis Fulghum
Anthony Garcia
Kobe Garcia
Kaiti Gardner
Michael Gebhardt
Myko Gonzalez Hernandez
Nicholas Goyes
Michaela Hageli
Avery Hamilton
Abbigale Hamner
Brooke Harvey
Alexa Haut
Steve Herrera
Jillian Hobson
Evan Hogan-Dighero
Aubrey Hopkins

Ericka Hopkins
Emily Horbus
Kaniah Howard
Anamaria Jasinski
Leon Jiron
Elijah Johnson
Evan Johnson
Neelah Johnson
Lukas Jonota
Aaliyah Kaganovsky
Felicja Kawecki
Kaitlyn Kelly
Nathan Kempf
Alton Kimuli
Isabella Kloss
Kian Korach
Madison Kozak
Elsie Kramer
Emily Kunzer
Madilynn Ladewig
Michael Lamz
Amanda Lay
Cassidy Ledger
Sianna Lorenzo
Ryleigh Marshall-Kwasny
Benjamin Martin
Abigail Martinez
Keni Massey
Reese Mateja

Carter McCleery
Lily McCollom
James Meeks
Jeffrey Miller
Justin Liam Morales
Chase Muir
Daisy Mujica Perez
Kyle Neuber
Riley OGrady
Kathleen Olsen
Karis Packard
Liam Paquette
Zendra Pfau
Aliyah Phachan
Leta Plunkett
Izabela Podgorski
Benjamin Pongetti
Elisa Portilla Dehn
Aiden Ramirez
Andy Rendón-Urbina
Ava Renn
Charlie Renn
Myla Reyes
Derrick Rios
Emily Roach
Emily Ruiz
Caylah Sanchez
Kara Scanlon
Piotr Schab

Elaina Schiller
Everett Schneider
Kev Schweitzer
Evan Sigler
Hayden Silverberg
Maria Soto Valdes
Ava Spectre
Alysse Sutschek
Charles Swiderski
Sophia Taylor
Cole Tellez
William Teplan
Leah Terryberry
Ava Timm
Ian Trinidad
Ashlynn Unruh
Christopher Urbina
Evelyn Vasey
Vincent Viramontes
Liana Viscarra
Penelope Von Bergen
Ethan Weiher
Sarah Whitson
Brody Worklan
Livia Yaras
Hope Young
Brianna Zeiger

Grade 10

Estrella Allen
Conner Altergott
Sarah Alvarez
Sophia Anzelmo
Samantha Archuleta
David Ascencio
Alexa Barahona
Ashlyn Bartlett
Kaitlyn Bartlett
Elizabeth Becerra
Gavin Belletynee
Gabiella Bendinelli
Gabriel Betancourt
Ashley Jacel Calaunan
Dulce Cervantes
Mya Clark
Zachary Collins
Samantha Cummins
Kahlen Davis
Miami De La Rosa
Gianna Deacon
Desiree Dickson
Caley Dionne
John Dollinger
Isabelle Ellington
Mariam Eshaba
Natalia Fafrowicz
Gavin Farley

Krysteanna Feliciano
Adaly Flores
Jayden Gil
Yatniel Gomez- Maldonado
Dianey Granados
Cole Guild
Madison Guild
Ava Guzman
Maxwell Haas
Grayce Haschak
Ethan Henney
Linna Hidrogo
Caden Hitzler
Matthew Honeywell
Brooke Horn
Caleigh Houdek
Jaslene Huerta
Tristan Huizar
Julianna Janicki
Destiny Jenkins
Isabella Jewell
Ryan Kadlec
Cael Kelley
Cameron King
Victoria Kirk
Polina Kolosova
Joanna Kowal
Ana Larson

Lance Ioannes Lavajo
Conner Leclair
Sophie Lechuk
Micky Li
Patrick Liston
Lydia Love
Lilianna Ludford King
Emma Malak
Kyle McDonough
Maddox Meade
Jayden Medina
Madison Mesmer
Gavin Meyer
Logan Miller
Ailani Mora
Cole Munaretto
Gainele Muntu
Michael Munwam
Raelynn Murillo
Raylani Nano
Erin Neiweem
Emeri Oliver
Vani Patel
Cole Pemberton
Vanessa Pendell
Kaidan Quarnstrom
Lawrence Quirk
Eros Dave Rabor

Eric Ramirez Miranda
Isabella Raube
Jeffrey Reda
Joseph Reiner
Luis Ribot Cruz
Mallory Rich
Emily Riley
Tyler Roepke
Ava Roth
Nicole Sak
Angela Nicole Salamat
Haley Schadle
Hayden Schmidt
Sarah Schmidt
Madeline Schneider
Shane Schuelke
Baylie Schultz
Makary Sekulich
Koltan Selders
Julian Serna
Camila Serrano
Julianne Shanahan
Lairek Shulman
Spencer Sica
Alyssa Siong
Carli Sipe
Aiden Skindingsrude
Logan Sledzik

Sabelle Slightam
Addison Smith
Annabelle Smith
Jameson Soco
Ravi Soni
Sohan Soni
Abigail Sovsky
Logan Swanson
Landon Terryberry
Logan Terryberry
Caitlyn Themanson
Reece Timm
Madison Tomassetti
Elyanna Torres
Leah Wagner
Alivia Wisniowicz
Chloey Wolff
Ryelle Marie Yasona
Jacob Zaleski
Cayden Zeller

Grade 11

Giselle Mae Abellana
Kerrie Adams
Xiomara Agripino
Evan Ahlgren
Emma Anzelmo
Jiratchaya Arunkittiporn
Kyleah Baker
Stacey Banegas
Gael Barcenas
Alyxys Barillas
Reagan Barr
Bradley Belletynee
Heith Berryman
Ashley Biundo
Allison Bolisay
Makenzie Borys
Dylan Burke
Shayan Butt
Abel Cage
Liliana Calenda
Lily Capulong
Francesca Causgrove
Kevin Christesen
Dakota Cleaver
Samantha Collins
Kendell Cook
Caimin Corbett
Riley Daniele
Melanie Davila
Nikolas Dayment
Ava Delgadillo
Olivia Dippong

Allison Dulany
Jareli Duque
Ryne Dzierzynski
Madelyne Escobedo
Aliyah Evans
Payton Evans
Christian Faria
Tyler Fleming
Kelsey Franz
Tate Frazier
Taylor Glover
Cassidy Graham
Braylon Gray
William Grooms
Hannah Gwate
Zachery Hahnlein
Abby Hamm
Kellyn Harmer
Abigail Hauschild
Linnea Hauser
Malia Henriot
Gabriel Hernandez
Samantha Hernandez
Maria Herrera
Madeline Hurley
Gavin Hutchinson
Julia Jarol
Sebastian Jeznach
Abigail Johnson
Griffin Johnson
Jadyn Johnson
Anastasia Johnston

Jibril Juneau
Jacob Kaufman
Camryn Kempf
JuZha Kiatoukaysy
Hailey Kissingser
Meghan Klipstein
Logan Knuth
Nicholas Kouimelis
Piper Krueger
Maria Kucher
Alexandra Lamb
Katelyn Lantz-Werner
Jirah Gabrielle Lanzar
Cameron Lazansky
Matthew LeClear
Oliver Lee
Arizona Lessner
Hannah Levine
Xavior Ray Liles
Brianna Lopez
Yahir Lopez
Brianna Lund
Ella Malak
Ravel Mann
Amber Martin
Natalia Martin
Angela Grace Martinez
Ryann Mateja
Tanner Matthews
Casey McCleery
Kathleen McKee
Payton McRae

Uzziel Medina
Arielle Mitchell
Myhia Mitchell
Andy Montoya
Ariel Morales Pacheco
Larson Morrow
Taiseer Mumin
Carlos Negron Cruz
Colin Noordyke
Aduragbemi Obisesan
Aubrey OMara
Keira Parmley
Kevin Patel
Noah Patrick
Noelle Patrick
Nicole Pawlus
Rio Prayogga
Anahi Prieto
Sydney Pulaski
Andrew Rabe
Antonio Rangel
Sallan Rangel
Anakari Remback
Kamryn Richter
Honor Ruggaber
Jazlin Salas
Sydney Sampson
Oswaldo Sanchez
Maximus Schlottman
Payton Schopper
Karlo Serrano
Hunter Seymour

Leandro Silva-Quesada
Simranpreet Singh
Olivia Smith
Faith Sobyra
Evan Soco
Nathan Sosnowski
Cole Sparkman
MacKenzie Statfield
Kyle Stigler
Grace Szczesny
Andrea Szopinski
Anabelle Taylor
Jasmine Tellez
Jordy Torres
Angelina Vavalle
Mauricio Vega
Alfredo Vela
Lauren Verde
Joanna Von Hoene
Lukas (Kassidy) Wahl
Taylor Walker
Katherine Waugh
Evan Weisheit
Kaya Williams
Autumn Wisniowicz
Karah Wiswald
Brandon Wolkowitz
Jake Woods
Gavin Worklan
Zachary Wyton
Grace Young
Briseis Zequeida

Grade 12

Oluwanifemi Ademola
Oluwatumini
Ademola
Nana Adubofour
Jennifer Aguilar
Jocelyn Albitzer
Rylan Art
Gabriella Avallone
Karol Aviles Rivera
A'viance Balog
Ahren Barnickel
Joseph Beach
Kimberly Becerra
Mia Beltran
Jacqueline Bendfeldt
Kolten Bergl
Riley Blair
Delaney Blancett
Giovanni Bottalico
Abigail Bowker
Emily Bowker
Breanna Brezinski
Sean Buchenberger
Nicolas Bush
Miah Bustamante
Jimena Camargo-Medina
Braeden Carlson
Diego Cernuska
Braden Cornell
Jaelen Cournoyer
Samantha Cruz
Kylie Dabrowski
Julia DallaValle
Kayleigh Davis
Ava (Bloom) Dawson
Savannah Dickson

Ashlin Driscoll
Madison Dunski
Chloe Dupree
William Eckman
Catherine Fabian
Dominik Florczyk
Sydney Fruehling
Reese Fulham
Elaina Gaedtke
Nikolai Gartner
Alyssa Marie Gelig
Zachary Glore
Ryan Golden
Andrea Gomez
Sebastian Gonzalez
Tyler Grendel
Ella Groh
John Patrick Grosskopf
Angelina Guziak
Carmelita Guzman
Reese Guzman
Elizabeth Gvozdev
Emma Hansen
David Hart
Claire Henney
Pablo Hernandez
Ryan Herndon
Kyle Herrera
Abigail Hobbs
Melanee Hobson
Nevada Holm
Orlando Huerta
Noelia Huizar
McKaylah Inman
Jael Ivory
George Jackson
Zuzanna Janicki

Ayane Jasinski
Francesca Jasinski
Josiah Jefferson
Sophia Jimdar
Laura Jimenez
Skyler Johnson
Finn Joiner
Leo Kelley
Sommer Khi
Ella Kilmer
Kennedy Kilmer
Neil Kirschner
Magdalen Kolar
Fred Kunzer
Alexy Samantha Labtis
Chloe Nicole Labuca
Mason Lancaster
Zachary Langhoff
Milla Laskosky
Kendall Levy
River Ligeza
Jenny Lin
Isabella Little
Joshua Lobont
Cristal Lopez
Bailey Luther
Griffin Martin
Jack Martin
Erika Martinez
Emma Matoka
Kyla McCarte
Benjamin McKenzie
Pryde Mendoza
Connor Mirocha
Elaine Molsen
Luis Mota
Bella Muir

Savannah Mumford
Luigi Natalino
John Nehmzow
Elise Neiweem
Lara Neiweem
Diana Ngo
Frank Niecikowski
Gabriela Nieto
Alvin Ntege
Clara OBrien
Shane ODonnell
Maria-Luna Olivares
Julian Ortiz
Rubi Ortiz
Sydney Palladino
James Pecora
Bryce Pemberton
Nathan Pendell
Ciara Perez
Lydia (Twig) Perez
Layna Peters
Ava Petrik
Julia Podgorski
Kylie Pohlman
Kylie Pongetti
Kylee Pugesek
Karen Ramirez
Morgan Ritchey
Nyriah Robitson
Kyle Romero
Aubrey Ronsman
Kristin Rose
Alexandra Ross
Katelyn Rossini
Madison Routledge
Melanie Ruiz
Kyle Saldivar

Arlette Sanchez
Alyssa Sandquist
Nicolas Schiavo
Abbey Schiller
William Schubert
Mikayla Sekulich
Chinguun Sergelentsetseg
Charles Shaw
Ayden Sheppard
Austin Smith
Manav Soni
Angelina Sosa
Nicholas Szopinski
Joseph Thier
Kylie Tilleman
Julia Torres-Ocampo
Josephine Torrey
Dylan Tripp
Caleb Tyree
Taylor Ullrich
Raidon Uy
Molly Vezensky
Martin Villalobos
Khushi Viramgami
Amelia Vogt
Winter Wasilewski
Madeline Watts
Regan Wegner
Amber Wentz
Thomas Whitson
Cayla Williams
Kairi Williams
Vanessa Wodrich
Alexander Woods
Nina Yaras
Armaan Yazdani
Jameson Zeller



GCHS Hardhat Update



This summer, we made a number of exciting updates across our campus to enhance the learning and athletic environments for our students and

staff. These improvements reflect our commitment to providing modern, functional spaces that meet the needs of our school community.

One of the highlights of this summer's renovations was the modernization of 13 classrooms. These spaces have been outfitted with new furniture, technology, and design elements to support collaborative and flexible learning. These updates are part of our ongoing effort to create dynamic classrooms that foster 21st-century skills and engagement.



21st Century Classroom Renovations

We've also focused on improving specialized classrooms and facilities. The Foods Room has been equipped with new stoves, enhancing the culinary experience for our students. In the woodshop and small engines room, the installation of a new dust collector has significantly improved air quality and safety. The cafeteria kitchen has also been upgraded with a new dishwasher to ensure efficient and high-standard operations.



Interior of Field House

Our athletic facilities have also seen significant enhancements. The track has been resurfaced and restriped, providing a fresh, safe surface for our runners. The Field House gym and dance room floors have been refinished and repainted, bringing new life and energy to these well-used spaces. Over in the West Gym, new lighting and a fresh coat of paint have brightened the area, creating a more welcoming environment for both students and athletes. Outside, we've added a new shed for the softball team to provide additional storage



New Softball Shed

space for equipment, and the BAC soccer and lacrosse field has been redone, offering a refreshed playing surface that is ready for the upcoming seasons.

In addition to these facility updates, we have transformed our main hallway display case into a modern showcase that highlights our students' achievements and school spirit. The old display case has been removed, and the space has been upgraded with new drywall, fresh paint, and updated lighting. This revamped area now features an impressive Student of the Month and Student Representative to the Board of Education display. We've also installed a new screen that displays photos of Grant-focused content, creating a dynamic and engaging visual experience for everyone who passes by.



Updated Hallway Display Case

Finally, we're excited about the ongoing addition to the Weight Room, which is expected to be completed by January 2025. This project reflects our dedication to expanding fitness facilities and promoting a healthy lifestyle for our students and staff.

These improvements are all part of our continuous effort to enhance the learning and extracurricular experience on campus. We look forward to seeing our students and staff enjoy these updated spaces!

Process for Reporting of Sexual Assault

On-Campus Reports

If a student reports an instance of a sexual assault that occurred on campus, parents are immediately notified, as well as the police/authorities and our Students Services Team (SST). While our SST members legally cannot discuss specific details about the accusation, they work to support the student involved and address the trauma associated with the accusation. Police take on the role of notifying the advocacy center for the victim to set up an interview to protect the integrity of the investigation. In Illinois, when there is an allegation of child sexual abuse or severe physical abuse, children are referred to a local Child Advocacy Center (CAC). There, an interview is conducted in a child-friendly environment by a trained professional who knows the right questions to ask in a way that does not re-traumatize the child. If the alleged sexual assault occurred on campus or at a school-sponsored event, the District would consult and coordinate with local law enforcement. The district's own internal investigation can not interfere with an ongoing criminal investigation. If the authorities can prove misconduct took place on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event, consequences are issued at a school level and in accordance with District 124 policies and procedures. GCHS always has and will continue to adhere to all court orders and any legal rulings affecting the students involved.

Off-Campus Reports

When students report instances of sexual assault occurring off campus, the police/authorities are notified immediately, and an interview is set up with the advocacy center. In Illinois, when there is an allegation of child sexual abuse or severe physical abuse, children are referred to a local Child Advocacy Center (CAC). There, an interview is conducted in a child-friendly environment by a trained professional who knows the right questions to ask in a way that does not re-traumatize the child. When reports of sexual violence are made, our SST members are available to support students, connect students with community resources, and provide supports and options for students to consider while the criminal investigation is ongoing, including a modified school day, modified schedule, etc. All students do have equal access to public education, and all individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty. The District will strictly adhere to court orders and any legal rulings affecting the students involved.

Additional Resources for Students

To help bridge the gap of trust and support for our students, we have a standing partnership with the Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center (ZCenter). ZCenter seeks to provide quality, comprehensive, client-centered services to survivors of sexual assault and abuse. Students needing additional support outside of SST, can reach out to their Red Team members for more information or visit zcenter.org to connect with a Zacharias member. In addition, we are always willing to change schedules, provide tutoring, set up safe routes, allow students to leave class early, etc., and to provide other support to the student while cases are pending.

Law Enforcement Non-Emergency Lines:

Fox Lake Police Department: 847-587-3100
Lake Villa Police Department: 847-356-6106
Lakemoor Police Department: 815-385-4111
Round Lake Police Department: 847-546-8112
Round Lake Heights
Police Department: 847-546-9704

Round Lake Beach Police Department: 847-270-9111
Spring Grove Police Department: 815-338-2145
Lake County Sheriff's Office, serves unincorporated areas:
Business Hours: 847-377-4000
Non-Business Hours: 847-377-4188

¹ While the investigative process is consistent in every situation, consequences may differ depending on the outcome of each individual investigation.

Grant Community High School District 124 is committed to providing an educational environment free of verbal, physical, or other conduct or communications constituting harassment based on sex as defined and otherwise prohibited by state and federal law. As stated in School Board Policy 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited) and School Board Policy 2:265 (Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure), students are encouraged to report claims or incidences of bullying, intimidation, harassment, sexual harassment, or any other prohibited conduct to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Principal, Assistant Principals, Deans, a Complaint Manager, or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. GCHS also complies with Erin's Law (Illinois Public Act 097-1147) by providing sexual abuse prevention education for all students enrolled in Health classes.

Expanding Extracurricular Opportunities

We are excited to announce the addition of three new extracurricular activities to our lineup this year: the Baking Club, Creative Fibers Club, and Girls Flag Football. These clubs provide unique opportunities for students to explore new interests, develop skills, and connect with peers who share similar passions.

Baking Club: A Sweet Opportunity to Expand Culinary Passions

The Baking Club offers students a chance to dive deeper into the world of pastry baking and expand on their culinary passions. Students will have the opportunity to use familiar baking skills to create delicious pastries while enhancing their knowledge and techniques. This club aims to create an enriching environment where students can not only practice their baking skills but also share their love for baking with others.

Creative Fibers Club: Crafting with Community

The Creative Fibers Club provides a unique opportunity for students to explore the world of fiber arts. This club focuses on crafts such as knitting, crocheting, weaving, and spinning, allowing students to use fibers, typically yarn, to create both artistic and practical projects. Whether students are interested in learning a new skill or expanding on an existing hobby, the Creative Fibers Club offers an inclusive and welcoming environment for all. It's a perfect space for students to unwind, be creative, and share their projects and progress with like-minded peers.

Girls Flag Football: Building Skills and Friendships

Girls Flag Football is a fast-growing sport both in Illinois and across the country, and we are thrilled to introduce it to our extracurricular lineup. With many students eager to get involved, this club offers a fantastic opportunity to develop skills in teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship while forming new friendships. Thanks to a generous \$2,500 donation from Bears Outreach, we were able to purchase essential items like footballs, flags, field markers, and uniforms, which have been instrumental in establishing our pilot Girls Flag Football program. With several conference schools already forming teams, there is great excitement about the potential for competition and camaraderie, and we look forward to seeing our team take the field and compete.

We are excited to see our students engage in these new activities, develop their passions, and create lasting memories. Whether they're baking delicious pastries, crafting with fibers, or scoring touchdowns on the field, these clubs offer something for everyone. We encourage all students to explore these opportunities and find a club that excites them!

Getting Down to Business

Curriculum Highlight—Technology Support Internship & Mobile App Design

Are you interested in technology and looking for hands-on experience that will prepare you for a future career? Our Technology Support Internship (TSI) and Mobile App Design classes are perfect opportunities to dive into the world of IT and app development while still in high school!

Technology Support Internship (TSI)

The Tech Support Internship is a fantastic way to gain real-world experience in the field of information technology. In this class, you'll serve as the first line of technical support, helping to resolve device problems and assisting both students and staff with technology-related issues. You'll learn how to troubleshoot hardware, understand basic network concepts, support new technologies, and repair devices, all within a practical, hands-on classroom setting. But that's not all! When you're not providing tech support, you'll have the chance to explore a self-directed learning pathway of your choice.

These pathways are designed to help you prepare for career readiness and earn certifications that are



TSI students work together to repair a Chromebook.

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highly valued in the tech industry. Whether you're interested in Web Design, Programming, CompTIA A+ and Network+ certifications, Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS), or Google Apps Certification, TSI gives you the flexibility to focus on what matters most to you. Plus, students can repeat this class, allowing for even more learning and growth opportunities.

Mobile App Design

Do you have an idea for the next big app? Our Mobile App Design class will help you bring that idea to life! Over the course of a semester, you'll learn the fundamentals of professional software design using the Swift programming language—one of the leading languages for developing iOS apps. Guided through the creation of various apps, you'll build your skills progressively, tackling projects of increasing complexity. By the end of the class, you'll have the opportunity to design and develop your own custom app, applying everything you've learned to create something uniquely yours. Not only is this a great way to showcase your creativity and technical skills, but it also prepares you for one of the fastest-growing and highest-paid careers in the job market today—software development.



Students meet with mobile app developer.

Why Enroll?

Both of these classes provide invaluable hands-on experience, practical knowledge, and industry-recognized certifications that will make you stand out in college applications and future job searches. Whether you're aiming to pursue a career in IT, software development, or simply want to enhance your tech skills, TSI and Mobile App Design offer something for everyone. Talk to your counselor today about how you can fit TSI or Mobile App Design into your schedule and take the first step toward a future in technology!

Academic Lab Resources

SUBJECT AREA	LOCATIONS	HOURS OF OPERATION
Art	108	TEAM
EL	279	TEAM
English	241	Period 1, TEAM, Periods 3-11
French	292	TEAM
Health & Wellness	Gymnasium	TEAM
Math	157 163 (TEAM only)	Period 1, TEAM, Periods 3-11 Mondays & Wednesdays 3:15-4:05 PM Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:00-7:35 AM
Music	143	TEAM
Science	187	TEAM
Social Studies	241	TEAM
Spanish	290	TEAM
Testing Center	Library	Period 1, TEAM, Periods 3-11

College & Career Center

Explore. Discover. Achieve.

The College & Career Center (CCC) is located in the library and is open from 7:40 AM - 3:10 PM, Monday through Friday. Throughout the year, the CCC hosts various college visits, financial aid workshops, career workshops, and individual appointments to better assist students with their post-high school planning. Students can drop in or make an appointment with Mrs. Masura using her [Calendly](#). If you would like to talk to Mrs. Masura, you can reach her at bmasura@grantbulldogs.org or (847) 973-3439.

Prepping for College

- College Information Night—September 4, 6:30-8:30 PM
 - Are you ready to take the next step in your educational journey? Join us for our College Information Night in the Auditorium, where you can learn everything you need to know about preparing for college and securing financial aid. Mrs. Masura and a representative from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) will be hosting a comprehensive presentation on financial aid. This is a fantastic opportunity to get all your questions answered, learn about the financial aid process, and discover valuable tips on how to set yourself up for success in college. Whether you're a senior gearing up for graduation or a junior starting to think about college applications, this event is perfect for you and your family. Don't miss out on this chance to gather essential information and take the first steps towards your future.
- College Application Workshops
 - Are you ready to start your college application process? Our CCC is here to help with a series of College Application Workshops hosted by Mrs. Masura. These workshops are designed to guide you through every step of your college application journey. From writing compelling essays for the Common Application to understanding how to request and use letters of recommendation, Mrs. Masura will provide expert advice and support. All workshops will take place in the CCC, offering a focused environment to work on your applications, get feedback, and ask any questions you might have. To ensure a spot in the workshop and receive a pass, students must sign up beforehand: [College Applications Drop-Ins Sign-Up](#). Don't miss this valuable opportunity to get ahead on your college applications and make sure you're putting your best foot forward!
 - Thursday, September 5—Periods 7-11
 - Wednesday, September 18—All Lunch Periods
 - Tuesday, October 1—Periods 1-5/6
 - Wednesday, October 23—All Lunch Periods
- Financial Aid Assistance
 - Financial Aid Presentation—September 4, 6:30 PM
 - FSA ID Workshop—October 29
 - Students, don't miss our FSA ID Workshops, where you can get help setting up your FSA ID to start the FAFSA process. Sign up today to reserve your spot and ensure you're ready to apply for financial aid: [FSA ID Workshop Sign-Up](#)
 - FAFSA Workshop—December 10, 5:00-7:00 PM
 - Join us for our FAFSA workshop to help families get started on the financial aid process and answer any questions. Please bring a computer, Social Security number, 2023 federal tax return, FSA ID, driver's license, a list of colleges the student is applying to, and an up-to-date bank statement.



Continues on page 23...

Continued from page 22...

- FAFSA Office Hours—December 11, 10:00 AM—1:30 PM
 - Mrs. Masura is available for office hours in the CCC during the school day to assist students with the FAFSA and answer any questions they may have. Students are encouraged to sign up in advance to secure their spot and make the most of this valuable resource. Don't miss out on the opportunity for one-on-one guidance: [FAFSA Office Hours Sign-Up](#)

NCAA

- NCAA Eligibility Workshop—September 5, 7:00-8:30 PM
 - Attention all Lake County student-athletes and their families! Libertyville High School is hosting an informative NCAA Eligibility Workshop that you won't want to miss. This event is open to all student-athletes in Lake County and their families, offering valuable insights into the college athletics recruitment process. Kristen Dowell, the Assistant Director of Admissions—Chicagoland at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is the guest speaker for the evening and will provide an in-depth overview of NCAA requirements for aspiring college athletes. The workshop will cover essential topics such as academic eligibility, recruitment guidelines, and tips for navigating the recruitment process effectively. Whether you are just beginning your athletic journey or are already deep into the recruiting process, this workshop is a great opportunity to gain crucial knowledge and ask questions directly to an expert in the field. Don't miss out on this chance to prepare for your future as a college athlete.



College of Lake County (CLC) & Tech Campus Opportunities

- Tech Campus Field Trips
 - Attention sophomores and juniors! Mrs. Masura is organizing field trips to the Lake County Tech Campus for students interested in exploring the various programs they offer. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the hands-on technical education available to you next year. If you are considering attending the Tech Campus, make sure to speak with Mrs. Masura or your school counselor to express your interest and get more details. You can also check out the [Tech Campus Program Highlights video](#) to explore their programs and see what might be the right fit for you. Don't miss this chance to discover exciting educational opportunities and prepare for your future career!
- CLC College Fair—October 17, 6:00-8:00 PM
 - The College of Lake County (CLC) is hosting an exciting college fair, offering students a fantastic opportunity to meet college representatives, learn about various programs of study, ask questions, and attend a financial aid workshop. This event is perfect for anyone looking to gather information and support during their college search process. Lake County high school students and their parents or guardians are invited to chat with representatives from over 150 colleges and universities. This is a great chance to explore different options and get personalized advice directly from college representatives. Be sure to register in advance to attend this valuable event and take a significant step toward your future:



[CLC Regional College Fair](#)

Military Visits

- Representatives from various branches of the military will be on campus throughout the year to discuss opportunities for students interested in pursuing a career in the military. They will provide valuable information on enlistment, scholarships, and other military programs.
 - Air Force—TBD
 - Army—1st Tuesday of the month
 - Navy—1st Thursday of the month
 - Illinois Army National Guard—1st Monday of the month
 - Marines—3rd Tuesday of the month
 - Air National Guard—TBD

Continues on page 24...

What GCHS Seniors Need to Know

- College & Career Planning
 - Mrs. Masura in the CCC can help with post high-school planning, trades, apprenticeships, resume building, job shadowing, career interest surveys, and much, much more. Email bmasura@grantbulldogs.org to get your planning process started today!
- FAFSA
 - Applications will be accepted starting in December.
- Military Options
 - The U.S. military has five branches of service: the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps. For more information on each of Grant's military representatives, check out our [Military Information Sheet](#).
- College Fairs
 - NACAC National College Fair—October 5, 11:00 AM—3:00 PM
 - Illinois College Fairs
 - The IACAC College Fair Committee is pleased to announce that the 2024-2025 [College Fair Calendar](#) is now live! The calendar also includes IACAC Recognized, Transfer, City of Chicago, and local NACAC fairs.
- Planning on Attending CLC?
 - Meet with our College and Career Navigator, Mrs. Landmann, in the CCC on most Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. If you already have a CLC account and ID number, you can schedule an appointment through [Navigate360](#). If you haven't applied yet, please make an appointment to discuss your next steps: [Ms. Landmann's Calendly](#).
 - [CLC Application](#)
- ISAC
 - ISAC is your trusted source for college planning information in Illinois. For any questions about financial aid, college, or to sign up for reminders, text our experts at (847) 243-6470. Grant's representative, [Emily Coveny](#), is here to assist you.
- SchoolLinks, Common App, & Scholarships
 - SchoolLinks is a complete set of tools for college and career readiness to enable K-12 school districts to improve student performance and empower educators.
 - [SchoolLinks Student Experience Video](#)
 - [Searching for colleges and managing applications](#)
 - [How to complete your letter of recommendation brag sheet](#)
 - [SchoolLinks guide to Common App](#)
 - If you qualify for a fee waiver, please complete the "student" section of the [fee waiver form](#) and email your school counselor.
 - [Finding Scholarships Through SchoolLinks](#)



SchoolLinks

common app



Visit the [College & Career Center](#) section of our website for more information & updates!

Penwasciz

At Advocate Condell Medical Center

Application opens on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, for the 2024-2025 School Year!

The Penwasciz program has been an **active student volunteer program at Condell Medical Center for over 60 years**. The name is derived from three things a nurse always carries: a pen, watch and scissors.

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 health care professional.

If accepted, 32 students are placed into clinical groups that participate in weekly two-hour rotations shadowing health care personnel in nursing and support services areas within the hospital. Through direct patient interactions and observations, Penwasciz can enhance the student's hospital experience and help reinforce their desire to pursue a career in the medical field.

Program structure

Eligible Applicants: Juniors and Seniors in High School who are at least 16 years old

Timeframe: Weekly from October 2024 to April 2025

Clinical rotations: Mondays 5-7 p.m. or 7-9 p.m.

Clinical areas: Students are placed on medical/surgical units and shadow health care providers in specialty areas such as obstetrics, respiratory, radiology, emergency department, cardiology and pharmacy, where they are allowed to observe procedures (with patient permission).

Orientation: Each student attends one five-hour orientation session plus an additional four-hour session for CPR training for students who are not currently certified in CPR for health care providers.

Monthly educationals: Guest speakers discuss health care and wellness topics or roles within health care.

Graduation: We host a ceremony at the end of the program.

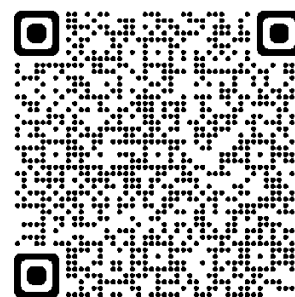
Flu vaccination will be required. We will provide Flu vaccines at our site.

Attendance requirement: Only two absences allowed.



Application will only be open September 3, 2024, from 3:30pm to 9:30pm on the website in the QR Code.

Contact cond-Penwasciz@ah.org with any questions



Advocate Health Care | Aurora Health Care

Now part of **ADVOCATEHEALTH**



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 11 – [Real Talk - A Conversation About Drugs & Alcohol](#)

October 9 – Technology Safety/Digital Citizenship

November 6 – AP & Dual Credit Night

December 4 – Mental Health Awareness

January – What parents need to know... (video release only)

February 26 – Career & Technical Education

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 4, 2024**. **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.

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 8:40 AM. If you ever miss a [TEAM Live](#) or are looking for more information, check out our [Announcements](#).

Bulldog Happenings

FCCLA Nationals



We are thrilled to share that Zuzanna Janicki proudly represented GCHS at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Seattle, WA this July. Competing in the Fashion Construction STAR Event, she achieved a remarkable Gold medal and a Top Ten placement in recognition of her outstanding performance! Her

accomplishment at the national level is a testament to her hard work, unwavering passion, and creativity in fashion construction. Congratulations and well done, Zuzanna!

Environmental Club



Our Environmental Club has been making significant strides in improving our local community! Thanks to their efforts, we've successfully added a SWALCO bin to our campus as part of the Clothing & Textile Collection program. In 2023 alone, our bin collected an impressive 4,685 pounds of

clothing, averaging 390 pounds per month. This initiative not only helps reduce waste but also supports sustainable practices by keeping textiles out of landfills. We are deeply appreciative of the Environmental Club's dedication and encourage all community members to make use of the SWALCO bin on campus. By donating your old clothes, you contribute to a greener future and help us continue to make a positive impact on our environment. Thank you for supporting this valuable program!



1/2 Century Bike Ride

Mrs. Collins challenged her Spring 2024 PE classes to complete a half-century ride (50 miles) on the spin bikes within five classes. While this may have seemed like a daunting task, her students showed incredible determination and perseverance. The top two riders from each class period were named Class Champions, and the period with the highest cumulative miles was crowned the Overall Champion.

3rd Hour Freshmen Winners: Isaac Foote and Zander Herring pedaled an impressive 63.1 miles, contributing to a total of 322.1 miles for the class.



4th Hour Freshmen Winners: Isabelle Miranda and Jacob Johnson rode a total of 40.0 miles, with the class collectively reaching 304.4 miles.



5th Hour IEP Winners: Chris Davis and Ricky Alvarez-Espinoza completed 50.0 miles, leading their class to a total of 150.5 miles.



10th Hour IEP Winners: Brian Melton and Nevaeh Shireman rode 33.7 miles, bringing their class total to 159.3 miles and winning the donut party.



11th Hour Freshmen Winners: Elijah Williams and Erioluwa Obisesan pedaled 44.8 miles each, pushing their class total to 347.7 miles. As the Overall Champions, the 11th Hour class earned a donut party to celebrate their hard work!



Congratulations to all the students for their dedication and effort in this challenging activity!

**10th & 11th winning class pictures to the left.*

Bulldog Happenings

Peyton Atkocaitis to Represent U.S. at ICU Pan American Championships



Peyton Atkocaitis, Grant Cheer

We are thrilled to announce that one of our very own cheerleaders, Peyton Atkocaitis, has been selected to represent the U.S. National Youth All Girl Team at the ICU Pan American Championships in Canada this September. This prestigious event will take place from September 26th to 30th, with semi-finals on the 28th and finals on the 29th.

Peyton's cheer journey began when she was just 8 years old, and she has always dreamed of trying out for the U.S. National team. "It's always been a big goal of mine," Peyton shared. "It seemed like such an amazing experience and opportunity that not many get to have. So, once I found out they had open spots and they were in Illinois, I took the opportunity."

Her experience with the Grant Community High School cheer program has played a significant role in preparing her for this incredible opportunity. "The Grant program helped me prepare for the National team by building my leadership skills and providing support from my teammates and coaches," Peyton said. "Being a part of this program has really built my character and confidence and has helped me be where I am today."

As Peyton gears up for the championships in Canada, her training schedule is intense. With teammates flying in from all over the United States, they practice every weekend, dedicating Saturdays and Sundays to five-hour-long sessions. "For the next couple of weeks, it will look like long weekends and lots of hard work as my team prepares for Canada," Peyton explained. Her favorite stunt in their routine is the "hand to hands double down," showcasing her enthusiasm and commitment to the sport.

After competing in September, Peyton will age out of the current national team. However, her journey doesn't end there. "There are multiple different age groups in the program, so depending on where my age group locates after Canada, I'll decide what to do next," she said. "But my ultimate goal would be to make the junior all-girl team next."

We are incredibly proud of Peyton's accomplishments and dedication to cheerleading. Her hard work and passion for the sport have brought her this far, and we can't wait to see her shine on the international stage. Best of luck, Peyton, at the ICU Pan American Championships—we know you'll make Grant Community High School proud!



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 are in the middle of our 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 are offering an ice cream party to the grade level with the lowest amount of tardies, as well as Bulldog Cup Points. Along with the grade level prize, all students with zero tardies will be entered into a raffle to win Homecoming tickets. This challenge is running through September 4 so keep an eye out for an announcement soon regarding our winners!

Throughout the year, we will highlight students and staff who are Keeping It RED through our X account, [@KeepingItRED](#). Make sure to follow us for updates!



BULLDOG BUCK WINNERS



RED Zone

BULLDOG REWARDS

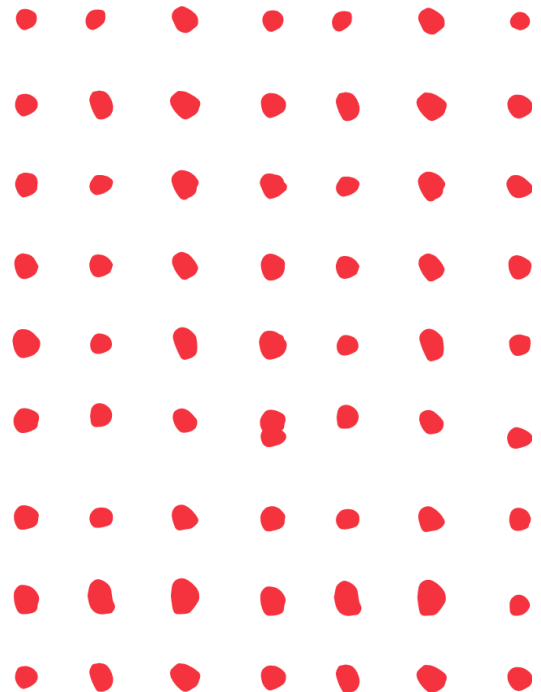
How do I switch out my study hall for access to the RED Zone?

- 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.



C

Sept. 4
Sept. 11

September
School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Progress Report

A

Sept. 16
Sept. 18

School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Parent University: A Real Talk About Drugs & Alcohol
Dancing with the Dogs

L

Sept. 19

School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Homecoming Block Party & Powderpuff Game
Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Sept. 20

Board of Education Meeting
Homecoming Football Game

Sept. 21

Homecoming Parade & Dance

E

Sept. 24

Freshman & Sophomore Picture Day

Sept. 25

School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start

Sept. 26

Junior & Senior Picture Day

October

N

Oct. 2
Oct. 9

School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Blood Drive Sign-Up

Parent University: Tech Safety & Digital Citizenship

D

Oct. 11

Institute Day, No Student Attendance

Oct. 14

Columbus Day, Legal School Holiday

Oct. 15

Progress Report

Oct. 16

School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start

Oct. 18

Blood Drive

A

Oct. 23

School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start

Oct. 24

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences, 5:00-8:00 PM

Oct. 25

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences, 8:00-11:00 AM

No Student Attendance

R

Oct. 29

Yearbook Picture Retakes

Oct. 30

School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start



Grant Community High School District 124



CALENDAR

2024

2025

Aug. 7 Freshmen Orientation
 Aug. 8, 9 Institute Days, No Student Attendance
 Aug. 12 1st Day of Student Attendance
 Aug. 14, 21, 28 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Aug. 27 Back to School Night

 Sept. 2 Labor Day, Legal School Holiday
 Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Sept. 11 Progress Report
 Sept. 20 Homecoming

 Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 School Improvement Meetings, 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Oct. 11 Institute Day, No Student Attendance
 Oct. 14 Columbus Day, Legal School Holiday
 Oct. 15 Progress Report
 Oct. 22 NMSQT Testing
 Oct. 24 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:00 to 8:00 pm
 Oct. 25 Parent/Teacher Conf., 8:00am-Noon, No Student Attend.

 Nov. 5 Election Day, No School
 Nov. 6, 13, 20 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Nov. 18 Progress Report
 Nov. 27, 28, 29 Thanksgiving Recess, No School

 Dec. 4, 11 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Dec. 18, 19, 20 Semester Exams
 Dec. 23 - Jan 3 Winter Break

Jan. 6 School Resumes, 2nd Semester Begins
 Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Jan. 20 Martin Luther King's Birthday, Legal School Holiday

 Feb. 5 Progress Report
 Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Feb. 14 Institute Day, No Student Attendance
 Feb. 17 Presidents' Day Observed, No School

 Mar. 5, 12, 19 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Mar 11 Progress Report
 Mar. 24-28 Spring Break

 Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Apr. 8 ACT Testing
 Apr. 17 Progress Report
 Apr. 18 No School

 May 7 & 14 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 May 2 Prom, 1:35pm Early Release
 May 13, 14 Senior Final Exams
 May 16 Graduation Practice, 1:35pm Early Release
 May 18 Graduation
 May 20, 21, 22 Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior Final Exams
 May 23, 27, 28, 29, 30 - Emergency Days, if necessary
 May 26 Memorial Day

◇ Freshmen Orientation

★ First Day of School

○ Parent/Teacher Conf.

✗ No Student Attendance

△ Flex Time Start-9:25am

□ End of Semester

☀ Graduation

August '24							September '24							October '24							November '24							December '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
				1	2	3	1	✗	3	△	5	6	7			1	△	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	△	5	6	7
4	5	6	◇	✗	✗	10	8	9	10	△	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	✗	12	3	4	✗	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	△	12	13	14
11	★	13	△	15	16	17	15	16	17	△	19	20	21	13	✗	15	△	17	18	19	10	11	12	△	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	□	21
18	19	20	△	22	23	24	22	23	24	△	26	27	28	20	21	22	△	24	26	28	17	18	19	△	21	22	23	22	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	28
25	26	27	△	29	30	31	29	30					27	28	29	△	31			24	25	26	✗	✗	✗	30	29	✗	✗					
January '25							February '25							March '25							April '25							May '25						
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
			✗	✗	✗	4				△	6	7	8				5	6	7	8			1	△	3	4	5					1	2	3
5	6	7	△	9	10	11	2	3	4	△	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	△	8	9	10
12	13	14	△	16	17	18	9	10	11	△	13	✗	15	9	10	11	△	13	14	15	13	14	15	△	17	✗	19	11	12	13	△	15	16	17
19	✗	21	△	23	24	25	16	✗	18	△	20	21	22	16	17	18	△	20	21	22	20	21	22	△	24	25	26	18	✗	20	△	22	23	24
26	27	28	△	30	31		23	24	25	△	27	28		23	✗	25	△	27	28	29	27	28	29	△				25	✗	27	28	29	30	31

*The State of Illinois has shifted to the ACT for the 2024/25 school year. The calendar has been amended to reflect the Spring testing date of April 8, 2025.

**Calendar is subject to revision
Updated: 8/28/2024**