



Grant Community High School

District Newsletter

May 2025

Student of the Month

Colin Noordyke



The Grant Community High School May Student of the Month is senior Colin Noordyke, son of Tony and Jen Gartner of Volo.

Colin's academic achievements include induction into the National Honor Society during his sophomore year and qualifying for Honor Roll each semester. He has taken eight AP courses and holds a notable 5.151 GPA.

His extracurricular activities include baseball, NHS, Academic Team, the Bulldog Leadership Committee, and Math Team, where he earned 5th place in Regionals and qualified for the State competition three times.

Colin volunteered as a peer math tutor in the Math Lab and with the Special Recreation Association of Central Lake County (SRACLC), which is a program that helps people with special needs. He has devoted a lot of time to them and met some really great people.

In addition to all of his activities, Colin enjoys fishing, boating, video games, and spending time with his friends.

His plans for the future include attending the University of Illinois to pursue an engineering degree. He plans on joining a plethora of clubs and playing intermural sports.



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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



Commencement Ceremony

Class of 2025

The graduation ceremony for the Class of 2025 will take place on Sunday, May 18, in the Grant Community High School Field House beginning at 2:00 p.m. With graduation rapidly approaching, we would like to provide you with important dates and information surrounding this momentous occasion.

May 12, 2025: Last Day Seniors Follow Bell Schedule

This is the last day that all seniors are required to be on campus following a regular bell schedule.

May 13 and May 14, 2025: Senior Final Exams

Senior Final Exams are held in the Senior Commons. Exams are administered in a drop-in testing center-style format. Seniors report to campus only when they are taking a final exam. Seniors do not follow the regular bell schedule that freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are following on these days. Information including a specific schedule will be posted on the school website as exams approach.

May 14, 2025: Deadline to Meet Graduation Requirements

All graduation requirements must be met by Wednesday, May 14 at 3:10 pm for your student to participate in the ceremony. Check Skyward and contact individual teachers or Student Services with questions about your student's academic status.

May 16, 2025: Graduation Rehearsal

Graduation rehearsal will be held on Friday, May 16, at 2:00 p.m. in the East Gym. All students participating in the graduation ceremony must be present at rehearsal.

May 18, 2025: Graduation

Commencement Ceremonies for the Graduating Class of 2025 will take place on Sunday, May 18, in the Grant Community High School Field House beginning at 2:00 p.m. Graduates should report to the East Gym at 1:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION PRIOR TO GRADUATION DAY

Due to limited seating in the Field House, each graduate is permitted six (6) graduation ceremony tickets. Tickets are required for entry to the ceremony. TICKETS WILL NOT BE REISSUED IN THE EVENT OF LOSS.

We ask that families make every effort to meet all financial obligations before graduates receive diplomas. Fees may be paid with cash or check in the main office during normal business hours, or with a credit card online via the school website www.grantbulldogs.org. You can check your fees on Skyward Family Access or contact the main office at 847-587-2561.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE DAY OF GRADUATION

- Graduates participating in the ceremony must arrive with their cap, tassel, and gown and meet in the East Gym promptly at 1:00 p.m.
- Graduation is a formal ceremony. To participate, appropriate attire is required. Appropriate attire includes dresses, collared shirts with or without a tie, long pants or dress slacks (no jeans or shorts), dress shoes, and school-provided regalia.
- Students are not allowed to wear a decorated cap at graduation.
- General parking will be available on a first-come, first-served basis on the north and south school parking lots.
- Field House parking lot is reserved for handicap parking. Handicap seating will be available for the ceremony.
- Live streaming of the graduation ceremony will be available on Grant's homepage via YouTube Live. Please check www.grantbulldogs.org the week of May 12 for details.

If you have any questions regarding the activities and events for our graduates during the last week of school, please feel free to call Ms. Martin at 847-973-3417. On behalf of our faculty and staff, please accept our congratulations for helping your student reach this milestone in their life.

From the Desk of Dr. Sefcik

Dear Grant Community,

As the school year draws to a close, it is with a full heart and an immense amount of gratitude that I share this message—my final one as your superintendent.

It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve Grant Community High School District 124 for the past 29 years, including the last 12 as the superintendent. As I reflect upon my time here, it is hard to put into words just how much this school community means to me.

I have been privileged to work alongside dedicated educators, inspired by the curiosity and determination of our students, with whom we have created countless new opportunities for students. I have learned so much from the talented and passionate students of Grant, whose efforts to expand student voice will positively impact generations to come. You've inspired me every single day, and I cannot wait to see the incredible things you'll continue to achieve. Thank you to our families, who place their trust in us each and every day to educate and protect their children. That trust, partnership, and shared commitment to our school have made it possible to build something special here, and I'm proud of everything we've accomplished together.

I want to give public thanks to members of the School Leadership Team and Board of Education, past and present, who have all been true professionals and care deeply about our school community. It has been a true partnership, always focused on a commitment to not only student success, but the happiness of students with the educational experience here at Grant. I am proud of the shared legacy of enhanced educational and extracurricular opportunities, increased student voice, capital improvement projects that reflect this District's pride in its students and the importance of their educational experience, and so much more.

Finally, a special level of gratitude extends to the leadership and members of the Fox Lake Police Department, Fox Lake Fire Protection District, and Village of Fox Lake, who have been dedicated partners every step of the way to keep campus safe, be an educational resource, celebrate our successes, and provide career exploration activities for our students.

Though I'll be stepping away from this role, I hope to stay connected and involved in our school community in some small way. Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog!

Wishing you all a wonderful end to the school year and continued success in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Christy Sefcik, Ed.D.
Superintendent



BULLDOGS AT STATE



McKenna Arnold Qualifies for Nationals

FCCLA Brings Home Gold

After a competitive weekend at FCCLA State, McKenna Arnold wowed the judges, earned a Gold Medal for Career Investigation, and secured her spot at the National competition in Orlando, FL this Summer. Congratulations and good luck, McKenna!

IHSA State Organizational Music Contest

On April 12, three of our choirs (Concert Choir, Advanced Treble Choir, and Chamber Singers) competed in the IHSA State Organizational Music Contest at Harvard High School. Each group impressed the judges with their performance, and we are proud to report that all three choirs earned a Division I rating! Congratulations, Bulldogs!



Grant Choir Members



GCHS SkillsUSA Competitors

Bulldogs Represent GCHS at SkillsUSA

We had five Tech Campus students represent Grant at SkillsUSA in April! SkillsUSA competitions and championships are competitive events showcasing the best career and technical education students in the nation. Our competitors included Kendell Cook for EMS, Desiree Dickson and Brianna Lund for Early Education & Teaching, Etta Diedrick for Cosmetology, and Cade Kozeniewski for Construction Skills & Management. They all did a great job, making our school community and their Tech Campus programs proud!

Math Team Wraps Up Season at State

Our Mathletes competed at Illinois State University for their ICTM State Competition this April. Individual competitors included Taiseer Mumin, Shayan Butt, Evan Weisheit, Colin Noordyke, Jirah Lanzar, Nicole Sak, Bella Raube, and John McCollom. Mumin, Raube, McCollom, and Butt, joined Cayden Zeller, Karis Packard, and Teagan Lord to compete on our Calculator Team. It was a great experience for the entire team, and we are excited to report that Mumin finished in 36th place for Pre-Calculus!



Grant Mathletes

BULLDOGS AT STATE



Journalism State Competitors

GCHS Journalists Compete at State Level

Journalism sent four Bulldogs to Bloomington for the IHSA State competition! Rosey Castaneda earned 3rd place at Sectionals in Photo Storytelling this year, capturing powerful moments of life at Grant through her lens. Making history for GCHS, Olivia Smith, Elianna Hanson, and Cameron Lazansky became the school's first team to compete in the TV News category, and they crushed it, also earning 3rd place at Sectionals! While the competition was fierce at State, the team gained valuable experience and proudly represented Grant on the big stage.

Social Studies Golden Globe Winner

Emma Corbett is May's recipient of the Golden Globe Award!

Emma has been named the recipient of the Golden Globe Award for May, nominated by her teacher, Ms. Becmer, who praised her as a student who consistently brings excellence, creativity, and purpose to the classroom.

"From day one, Emma has been a powerhouse in class," Ms. Becmer shared. "She brings her full effort to everything she does—there's never been a moment where she's phoned it in." Whether participating in discussions, completing projects, or taking assessments, Emma consistently produces high-quality work that reflects both her understanding of the material and her unique voice.

"What sets Emma apart is the way she combines knowledge with originality," said Ms. Becmer. "Her ability to express ideas in thoughtful, engaging, and often entertaining ways makes her work stand out and adds so much to our classroom environment."

Emma's passion for history, her deep understanding of how the past shapes the present, and her commitment to staying informed all speak to her strong character. "She 'gets' it," Ms. Becmer noted, emphasizing how Emma doesn't just learn history—she applies it with purpose and meaning.

Beyond her academic strengths, Emma is also a natural leader who truly cares about the world around her. "I've often said she might be president one day, and if she is, I'll be proud to say I had the chance to teach her—and even more excited to vote for her!"

The Social Studies Department is proud to award Emma with this honor. Keep up the excellent work!



Emma Corbett receives the Golden Globe Award.

Excellence in Education Award Winner

Stacey Mays is an outstanding candidate for the Excellence in Education Award. From the moment Stacey joined our team, it was clear she was something special. A natural leader with an unwavering dedication to her students, Stacey has consistently demonstrated what it means to be an outstanding educator. Her ability to build meaningful, trusting relationships with students stands out across the building. Whether it's through encouragement, support, or simply making students feel seen and heard, Stacey creates a space where students know they belong.

Her positive influence extends beyond the classroom walls. Students gravitate to her office, not just for the endless snack drawers, but because they know they'll find someone who listens, cares, and lifts them up.

In her Physical Education classes and TEAM, Stacey maintains a structured yet flexible environment where students feel empowered to take risks, participate, and grow. Her classroom management is a masterclass in balancing respect, engagement, and energy. She sets high expectations while making students feel supported every step of the way.

Stacey also exemplifies a commitment to professional growth and collaboration. She's taken the lead in a new PLT, bringing innovative ideas to instruction and curriculum. Her willingness to reflect, revise, and share resources ensures that her colleagues benefit from her expertise as well. She's played a pivotal role in piloting new rubrics for our Intro to Team Sports classes, and she never hesitates to support others, whether guiding a new staff member or championing a team effort to elevate her department.

Stacey's creativity and enthusiasm are unmatched. From exploring new technology like heart rate monitors and TeamBuilder to introducing fresh, engaging fitness activities, she's always thinking forward and striving to improve, not just for herself, but for everyone around her.

Stacey is a true role model. She is someone whose impact is felt not only in the gym but in the hearts and minds of students and colleagues alike. It is for these reasons, and many more, that Stacey Mays is a deserving recipient of the Excellence in Education Award.



Ms. Mays, her class, Mr. Schoell, & Dr. Schmidt



Grant Artists Amaze at NLCC Art Show



NLCC Art Show

The annual Northern Lake County Conference (NLCC) Art Show is a celebration of creativity and expression, bringing together student artists from across the conference to showcase their work in a wide variety of mediums, including painting, watercolor, digital art, pottery, sculpture, music, and more. Each participating school submits standout pieces that reflect the talent and dedication of their student artists, and this year, Grant's submissions truly stole the spotlight. From bold color choices to intricate detail and imaginative concepts, our students demonstrated exceptional skill and passion in their work. We're incredibly proud of our artists and the way they represented Grant at this year's show. Their creativity continues to inspire, and their contributions are a powerful reminder of the importance of the arts in our schools.



Art created by Grant students.

AP Exams

The 2025 AP Exams will be administered at GCHS May 5 -16. The exam schedule is attached and linked below. On the exam day, students need to bring their school-issued Chromebook, fully charged, and a charging cord. One to two weeks prior to their exam date, students taking a digital exam should open the Bluebook app and take the practice test to ensure the app is functioning properly.

Morning AP Test Students

Students will report immediately to their testing rooms at the beginning of the school day for their scheduled exams. **Please arrive no later than 7:40 AM.** Morning testing begins at 8:00 AM. Morning AP tests are typically completed by 11:30 AM. Students who miss lunch while testing will be provided a pass to the cafeteria when testing is finished. After testing, students will return to their regular schedules. *Please note that Wednesday tests DO NOT follow the GCHS flex start schedule. Wednesday morning exams will begin at 7:40 AM, and students are responsible for their own transportation.*

Afternoon AP Test Students

Students will attend a regular schedule for the morning. **Students should plan on arriving no later than 11:40 AM** to their assigned testing locations. All classroom teachers will be notified that AP Exam students need to leave 6th period early. The exam will begin at 12:00 PM. Testing will end between 3:10 – 3:45 PM depending on the exam. Students should expect to take the 4:05 PM late bus or arrange for a ride home since testing time might vary. The library will be open for students who need to wait for the late bus.

Two Tests on the Same Day

Students will be provided with a pass to eat lunch in the cafeteria between the two testing times, if time allows. If not, they should bring an easy-to-consume snack to eat between the tests.

Students with College Board-approved accommodations will receive individualized letters with testing locations. Any additional information will be communicated through email, your AP teacher, and morning announcements. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Noisey at snosey@grantbulldogs.org, or call Mrs. Jones at (847) 973-3800.

AP Exams	Date	Entry Time	Est. End Time	Locations
Biology	5/5/25	7:40 AM	11:10 AM	2 nd Floor Conference Room A/B
Microeconomics	5/5/25	11:40 AM	2:20 PM	2 nd Floor Conference Room A/B
Chemistry	5/6/25	7:40 AM	11:25 AM	2 nd Floor Conference Room A/B
United State Government & Politics	5/6/25	11:40 AM	3:10 PM	2 nd Floor Conference Room A/B
English Literature & Composition	5/7/25	7:40 AM	11:10 AM	Lecture Hall
Computer Science A	5/7/25	11:40 AM	3:10 PM	2 nd Floor Conference Room A/B
Statistics	5/8/25	7:40 AM	11:10 AM	Lecture Hall
World History: Modern	5/8/25	11:40 AM	3:25 PM	2 nd Floor Conference Room A/B
United States History	5/9/25	7:40 AM	11:25 AM	Lecture Hall
Chinese Language & Culture	5/9/25	11:40 AM	2:20 PM	1 Conference Room—Mountain (Student Services)
Macroeconomics	5/9/25	11:40 AM	2:20 PM	2 nd Floor Conference Room A/B
Calculus AB/BC	5/12/25	7:40 AM	11:25 AM	Calc AB—2 nd Floor Conference Room A/B Calc BC—Lecture Hall
Environmental Science	5/13/25	11:40 AM	2:50 PM	2 nd Floor Conference Room A/B
English Language & Composition	5/14/25	7:40 AM	11:25 AM	Last Names A-F—2 nd Floor Conference Room A/B, Last Names G-M—Room 282 Last Names N-Sk—Room 281, Last Names Sl-Z—Room 280
Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism	5/14/25	11:40 AM	3:10 PM	2 nd Floor Conference Room A/B
Spanish Language & Culture	5/15/25	7:40 AM	11:30 AM	Lecture Hall
Computer Science Principles	5/15/25	11:40 AM	3:10 PM	2 nd Floor Conference Room A/B
Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism	5/15/25	11:40 AM	3:10 PM	Lecture Hall
Physics 1: Algebra-Based	5/16/25	7:40 AM	11:10 AM	Lecture Hall
Psychology	5/16/25	11:40 AM	2:50 PM	Lecture Hall

Grant Theatre's *The Wizard of Oz* Wows Audiences with Three Sold-Out Shows



The Wizard of Oz Cast & Crew

There truly was no place like Grant as our Theatre family brought the magical Land of Oz to life in their spring musical production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Performed over the weekend of April 11, the show captivated audiences and sold out all three performances, a remarkable testament to the hard work, talent, and dedication of everyone involved.

This year's production soared to new heights (literally) with the installation of a brand-new flying system. For the first time in Grant Theatre history, actors took to the skies, stunning audiences as characters like Glinda (Senior, Allison Bolisay) and the Wicked Witch of the West (Senior, Maddy Hurley) flew on and off stage. The addition added a breathtaking layer of theatrical magic and elevated the already

dazzling experience.

Audiences were transported alongside Dorothy (Junior, Maddie Mesmer) as she followed the yellow brick road in search of a way back home. With Glinda the Good Witch guiding her and the unforgettable trio of the Scarecrow (Senior, Sammy Hernandez), Tin Man (Senior, Payton Evans), and Cowardly Lion (Junior, Cayden Zeller) by her side, Dorothy's journey was filled with laughter, heart, and toe-tapping musical numbers like "Over the Rainbow" and "We're Off to See the Wizard." They faced down the Wicked Witch of the West and finally came face to face with the Great and Powerful Oz (Sophomore, Xander Jurgaitis), revealing that the qualities they were searching for had been within them all along.



Munchkinlanders



Dorothy & Munchkinlanders

Behind the scenes, the magic was just as impressive. The crew worked since January to build elaborate sets, gather and craft props, and hand-create over 76 vibrant costumes. The pit orchestra delivered every iconic note with precision, while the ensemble danced and sang their way through more than a dozen choreographed routines, filling the stage with color, energy, and joy.

Beyond its theatrical spectacle, *The Wizard of Oz* offered audiences a timeless reminder: that brains, heart, and courage aren't given by wizards; they're discovered within. The

success of this production is not just measured by ticket sales, but by the inspiration it left with every person who took the journey to Oz.

Bravo to the cast, crew, pit, and directors of Grant Theatre on an unforgettable show!



Emerald City



Tin Man, Cowardly Lion, & Scarecrow



Tin Man & Trees



*Wicked Witch of the West & Glinda
(Good Witch of the North)*



GCHS MUSIC DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS



Spring CONCERTS

2025

**LET'S CELEBRATE ALL THAT OUR MUSICIANS
HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR**

Band Concert

MAY 6 | 7:00 PM

**FEATURING JAZZ BAND, CONCERT BAND, SYMPHONIC BAND,
WIND ENSEMBLE, & COMBINED SYMPHONIC BAND & WIND ENSEMBLE**

Choir Concert

MAY 13 | 7:00 PM

**NO ADMISSION CHARGE - DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED
AWAYS CEREMONY TO FOLLOW FINAL PERFORMANCE
BOOSTERS WILL PROVIDE REFRESHMENTS**

BOTH CONCERTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE AUDITORIUM



Bulldogs Recognized for Excellence at Tech Campus



STUDENTS OF THE QUARTER

- K'Amore Gadson - Multimedia Design II
- Farida Humphries - Automotive Service I
- Chase Tcholakov - Automotive Service I
- Cade Kozeniewski - Construction Skills & Management I
- Angela Martinez - Cybersecurity
- Anastasia Johnston - Certified Nurse Assisting
- Dominic Lara - Welding/Fabricating

It's been a season of celebration for Grant students at the Lake County Technology Campus! We're thrilled to share two major accomplishments that highlight the talent, work ethic, and leadership of our Bulldogs.

First, congratulations to the eight Bulldogs named "Students of the Quarter" for the Third Quarter! Each Tech Campus instructor selects one student per program who stands out for their academic achievement, strong attendance, positive work ethic, and active participation in both class and campus activities. Being recognized in this way is a high honor, and we're proud of our students for representing Grant so well through their hard work and professionalism.

In addition, several of our Tech Campus seniors have been inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS). These students earned this distinction by maintaining an A average during the first semester and consistently demonstrating the core values of NTHS: leadership, honesty, responsibility, and pride in skilled craftsmanship. Their commitment to excellence and their futures sets a strong example for peers across the district.

Please join us in congratulating all of these outstanding Bulldogs. Their accomplishments are a reflection of their passion, drive, and dedication, and we can't wait to see what they'll achieve next!



National Technical Honor Society

Roxan Castro – Certified Nursing Assisting	Miguel Dominguez – Game Programming & Virtualization
Beverly Sanchez – Cosmetology I	Keira Parmley – Certified Nurse Assisting
Taylor Walker – Certified Nursing Assisting	Etta Diedrick – Cosmetology II
Melanie Davila – Multimedia Design I	Ashtin Cabrera – Cybersecurity
Manahil Urooj – Medical Assisting	Shayan Butt – Cybersecurity
Angela Jones – Cosmetology II	Giselle Abellana – Certified Nurse Assisting
Angaddeep Shoker – Automotive Service II	Dominick Falcone – Culinary Arts II
Amber Martin – Automotive Collision Repair I	Anchi Prieto – Medical Assisting
Daniel Terry – Welding/Fabrication II	Abigail Hauschild – Construction Skills & Management I
Autumn Wisnolowicz – Certified Nurse Assisting	Angela Martinez – Cybersecurity
Uzziel Medina – Certified Nurse Assisting	Vincent DeRose – Welding/Fabrication II
Anastasia Johnston – Certified Nurse Assisting	Cooper Schiller – Welding/Fabrication I
Heith Berryman – Welding/Fabrication II	Brianna Lund – Early Education & Teaching I
Aiden Miles – Welding/Fabrication I	Madelyne Escobedo – Certified Nurse Assisting
William Macmillan – Welding/Fabrication I	Kendell Cook – Emergency Medical Services I
Nicholas Koumelis – Cybersecurity	Devin Kirschbaum – Culinary Arts II



Student Representative to the Board of Education

We are pleased to announce that junior Isabelle Ellington has been selected to serve as the Student Representative to the Board of Education for the 2025–2026 school year! Izzy will be the fourth student to hold this important role, continuing the tradition of amplifying student voice in Board discussions and strengthening communication between the student body, administration, and Board of Education.

Izzy has been invited to attend the May and June Board meetings to shadow our current representative, Casey McCleery, and prepare for the upcoming year. We are excited to welcome her as an active participant on the Board. She will undoubtedly provide valuable insight from the student perspective and help foster ongoing two-way communication.

First Bulldogs Earn Education Pathway Endorsements

This April, students in the Education Pathway program at Grant Community High School took part in two rigorous, team-based challenges, marking the final requirement to complete their Education Pathway endorsements.

We're proud to announce that seniors Kyleah Baker, Jasmine Garza, and Meghan Klipstein have successfully fulfilled all components of the endorsement, becoming the first students in Grant's history to earn this recognition. To reach this milestone, each student completed two college-level education courses offered at Grant and logged over 60 hours of field experience in educational settings. The collaborative challenges they tackled in April were designed to test their ability to apply what they've learned in real-world, classroom-inspired scenarios.

Additionally, juniors Sarah Lobont and Kelly Scott are well on their way to completing the pathway, pending successful completion of their second dual-credit education course next year.

These students have shown impressive dedication, insight, and professionalism as future educators. We are excited to see how they continue to grow and impact the field of education.

Congratulations to all our Education Pathway students on their incredible achievements!



Mrs. Flaker gets students started with their team-based challenge.

Freshman Honors Breakfast

It's a yearly tradition at Grant to celebrate all our Freshman students who have attained a GPA of 2.8 or above during their first semester, participated in at least one co-curricular activity, and maintained a 95% or better attendance rate, and yesterday, we did just that. With 147 Freshmen and their families attending breakfast, it was a morning full of applause, cheer, and appreciation. Thank you to those who joined us, and congratulations to our honored Bulldogs!



Freshmen and their families celebrate at Freshman Honors Breakfast.



Freshmen and their families celebrate at Freshman Honors Breakfast.



SENIOR SHOUT OUTS

CELEBRATING ALL THAT OUR SENIORS HAVE ACHIEVED

Vivian Anderson

Loyola University - Chicago
Dean's Scholarship

Caimin Corbett

Illinois State University
Fell Scholarship

Ava Delgadillo

Iowa State University
George Washington Carver Scholastic Leadership Scholarship

Ryne Dzierzynski

University of Wisconsin - Parkside
Athletic Scholarship Award

Jake Evans

Paid internship at Aldridge Electric

Payton Evans

Daughters of the American Revolution Scholarship Essay
Contest, Runner Up
Ball State University
Presidential Scholarship

Lea Hawkins

Illinois State University
Academic Excellence Scholarship

Gabriel Hernandez

Bradley University
Board of Trustees Scholarship &
Legacy & Sibling Scholarship

Jersei Iglioni

Miss Fox Lake Scholarships

Jirah Lanzar

University of Illinois - Chicago
Chancellor-Fellow Scholarship & Society of Women
Engineers - Knowles Scholarship

Xavior'Ray Liles

Indiana Tech University
Elite Academic Scholarship

Brianna Lund

Chain-O-Lakes Chamber of Commerce
St. Timothy Award - Rockford Archdiocese

William MacMillan

National Technical Honor Society

Amber Martin

Midwest Elite 3 Event Water Skier
Represented Team USA Illinois Apline Ski Team
Michigan Tech
Leading Scholar Award

Tanner Matthews

Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE)
Fred Look Scholarship, Destination MSOE Scholarship, MSOE
Grant, Housing Grant, & VISIT Grant
Iowa State University
Academic Achievement & Expedition Award
Michigan Tech
Michigan Tech Excellence Award & National Platinum Scholars
Rose-Hulman Institute
Rose-Hulman Merit Scholarship
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
Chancellor's Merit Scholarship
Northern Illinois University (NIU)
NIU Merit Scholarship, AIM High Campus Housing Grant, AIM
High Huskie Pledge

Casey McCleery

Lake Forest College
Presidential Scholarship, Durand Art Scholarship, & Visit Grant

Payton McRae

Carthage College
Carthage Honors Scholarship & Carthage Presidential
Endowment Scholarship



SENIOR SHOUT OUTS

CELEBRATING ALL THAT OUR SENIORS HAVE ACHIEVED

Uzziel Medina

A.B. Dick Jr. Scholarship from the Northwestern Medicine Women's Board
Carthage College
Merit-based Scholarship

Carlos Y Negrón-Cruz

Iowa State University
Academic Achievement Award, Expedition Award, & Engineering Merit Scholarship

Naomi Nolan

Carroll University
Presidential Scholarship, Carroll Donor Grant, & Carroll U Donor Grant

Karlo Serrano

Northern Illinois University
Merit-based Scholarship

Olivia Smith

Iowa State University
Academic Achievement Award & Expedition Award

Faith Sobrya

Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD)
MIAD Board of Trustee Scholarship, Portfolio Class Scholarship, & MIAD Grant

Anabelle Taylor

Illinois State University
Merit-based Scholarship
Illinois Wesleyan Scholarship (IWU)
Merit-based Scholarship, Alumni Scholarship, IWU Alumni Grant, Titan Grant, State of IL MAP Grant, & Housing Scholarship
Northern Illinois University
Merit-based Scholarship

Anthony Vanhanselaere

United State Army - Military Police

Alfredo Vela, Jr.

University of Wisconsin - Madison
Badger Banner Scholarship

Evan Weisheit

Illinois State University
Jesse Fell Scholarship

Kaya Williams

Lindsey Wilson College
Trustee Scholarship & Archery Athletic Scholarship

Kaylin Worley

College of Lake County
Softball Scholarship

Congratulations,



Class of 2025!

SPRING PEP ASSEMBLY



Sophomore Class



Prom Court



TEAM representatives compete in final round of Rock Paper Scissors Tournament.

Freshmen win the Bulldog Cup!



Sofia Esparza performs winning Grant's Got Talent song.



Juniors attempt to win Surfing Bulldogs challenge.



Color Guard performs routine.



Evan Soco conducts the band through our fight song.

College & Career Center News

With so much happening in the world of higher education and in our workforce, make sure to check out the [College & Career Center Newsletter webpage](#) every month for assistance with navigating the opportunities available to you. If you are looking for guidance regarding your post-high school plans, contact Mrs. Masura and set up an appointment today.



Scholarship Sites I'd Swipe Right On

The Grant-est Hits

- 1 SchoolLinks - found in GCHS bookmarks
- 2 Fastweb.com
- 3 www.raise.me
- 4 Collegeboard.org
- 5 ISAC.org

Why Scholarships?

- Minimize debt
- Access better college opportunities
- Provide financial support
- Do not require repayment
- Allow you to focus on your education

Time = Money

Mrs. Masura
bmasura@grantbulldogs.org

Seven Tips to Keep Teens From “Checking Out” at the End of the School Year

It's common for students to lose interest in their work during the last weeks of school. Use these tips to make sure your students don't check out as the school year comes to a close.

1. Stick to a healthy sleep schedule.

In the last weeks of school, kids often stay up late to study for final exams and to finish projects or messaging their friends. But lack of sleep can cause extra stress and leave teens too tired or cranky to concentrate. To avoid this, try to make sure they don't wait until the last minute and have to rush through their work. Help them prioritize what to do first, so they can get to bed on time.

2. Create a countdown calendar.

Help teens plot out their final assignments on a calendar. Working backwards from due dates and seeing the tasks broken down into doable chunks can give them a confidence boost. It can also make the workload seem less daunting. First list the due dates for all assignments and tests in one color. Then, using a different color, break down the tasks into smaller steps.

3. Set realistic goals.

Once you've plotted out the final assignments and tests, help set specific goals for each. Make sure the goals are attainable. Some kids might read an extra 15 minutes a day to finish a lengthy reading assignment. Or create their own study guide for a test to prep for a particularly difficult exam. Be sure to praise their efforts as they work toward their goals.

4. Build in incentives.

Some teens need help staying motivated as they work toward their goals during the last weeks of school. Build rewards into the study routine and encourage them to take fun breaks. For example, put a special dessert or activity on the calendar as a reward for completing the first step of a writing assignment. Or plan a movie or game night as an incentive for completing a dreaded project. You can even plan something special for the last day of school, like a small celebration at home with their friends.

5. Focus on their strengths.

When kids have had a difficult school year, it may have taken a toll on their self-esteem. They may dwell on their struggles and feel like giving up. They may even decide to blow off their remaining assignments and tests. That's why it's even more important to be your child's cheerleader as the school year comes to a close. Remind tweens and teens of their strengths. Extra encouragement can be a confidence boost and may help them stay on task as summer approaches.

6. Tune in to what they're not saying.

The end-of-year workload can freeze tweens and teens in their tracks. Kids may be quieter and more reserved than usual. They may avoid asking for your support or suggestions. These can be signs that they need your help more than ever. Ask questions about school, deadlines, and friends. Stay in touch with teachers and ask what they're seeing, too.

7. Be a good role model.

The end of the school year can be tiring for parents and caregivers, too. You may be eager for the slower pace of summer days. But when you stay engaged and help kids stay on top of end-of-year tasks, it can motivate kids to do the same.

Adapted from [Rayma Griffin, MA, MEd.](#)

Grant Cheer Alumni Shine on the National Stage

We're thrilled to celebrate the accomplishments of three Grant Cheer alumni who recently competed at the NCA College Nationals—one of the most prestigious cheerleading competitions in the country.

Nate Brockman, cheering with Texas Tech University's Large Coed team, brought home the title of Division 1A Advanced Large Coed National Champion.

Everett Polka, representing Iowa Central, also claimed the top spot as part of the Intermediate Coed Junior College National Champion team.

Breanna Brezinski competed with Illinois State University's Intermediate All Girl team and represented Grant with pride on the national stage.

We're so proud of all our Bulldog cheer alumni and their continued success at the collegiate level. Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog!



Grant Cheer Alumni & Their Collegiate Teams (left to right) - Nate Brockman, Everett Polka, & Bre Brezinski

Interested in joining the **Grant Cheerleading** program? Join the coaches at May open gym to prepare for tryouts. They will be holding open gyms for all incoming 8th graders and current Grant students (Freshmen-Juniors) from 4:15-5:30 PM in the West Gym on May 7. Tryouts are scheduled for May 9 and 10. There will be a pre-tryout parent/athlete meeting on May 6 at 5:00 PM in the Lecture Hall. Tryout paperwork and requirements will be posted on Cheer's social media. Reach out to [Coach Kelley](#) with any open gym or tryout questions.

Flag Football is coming back this fall, and Coach Rous is already gearing up for the season! If you're interested in playing, now is the time to get connected. An informational meeting was held on May 2, but if you missed it, don't worry, Coach Rous is happy to get you caught up. Reach out to him directly at krous@grantbulldogs.org for pre-season details, summer plans, and how to get involved. Whether you're new to the sport or have experience, all are welcome to be part of this exciting and growing program.

Summer Camp Registration is now available online! When registering online, you can select your desired camp, fill in the appropriate information for your student, and click 'add to cart'. You will use your current RevTrak account, or create an account if you are a new user.

Online registration will close for each camp one business day before the start of camp. Paper forms with registration and check/cash will be accepted up to the first day of camp.

[Online Registration](#)
[Summer Camp Brochure 2025](#)

Please email our athletic secretary, Cory Bowles, cbowles@grantbulldogs.org, with any questions.

Bulldog Happenings



Amber Martin & Wilmot Ski Team Teammates

A love for snow skiing started early for **Amber Martin** as she hit the slopes at just two years old, taught by her parents, and quickly fell in love with the sport. In 7th grade, she became interested in alpine racing and officially joined the Wilmot Ski Team the following year.

This winter, her dedication and training paid off when she was selected to represent Illinois at the Western U.S. High School Ski Championships in Wyoming. "The process to make the team was exciting," she explained. A qualifying race at Cascade Mountain narrowed the field to the top 25 skiers from nearly 50 competitors. Making the cut was an honor she won't soon forget. "I was so excited to travel with my friends and have one last

week together doing what we love."

Though the Illinois team tied for last in the final standings, she said, "We had the most fun of any team, and I wouldn't have had it any other way." Visibility on race day proved difficult - "There were points where you couldn't tell the snow from the sky," she said, referencing the notorious fog in Wyoming's Teton Valley. A ski equipment malfunction further challenged her performance, but she remained proud of how the team handled the adversity.

In the off-season, she lifts weights and trains until it's warm enough to transition back to water skiing - another sport she's deeply passionate about as a longtime performer with the Aquanuts. "I always say I need both snow skiing and water skiing because they're so different, but both are such big parts of my life."

She plans to continue ski racing at the club level for Michigan Technological University while studying forestry, and one day hopes to hit the slopes in Europe. "The mountains are gorgeous, the lift tickets are cheaper, and I think it would be an experience I'd never forget."



Students & staff participate in our 2nd annual Writers Expo.

We held our 2nd Annual **Writers Expo** this April, and the auditorium was bursting with creativity! Between published author and journalist, Meg Kissinger, and fantasy writer, Amanda Joy, providing insight into their journeys as writers, staff sharing personal stories, and students contributing to the day with original work, there was so much to learn about the writing process and how writing can impact those far beyond the author.

Thank you to Meg, Amanda, and all our creative Bulldogs for partaking in our Writers Expo! We were so pleased to hear your stories.

Bulldog Happenings



Makary Sekulich

Makary Sekulich capped off an outstanding wheelchair basketball season by helping his team climb from a #11 national ranking to finish #7 in the country at the National Tournament. Along the way, he also earned a prestigious Academic All-American plaque, highlighting his excellence both on and off the court.

The team opened the tournament with a win over Utah, then faced the powerhouse Lakeshore Lakers from Alabama, who went on to claim their third straight national title. Despite a tough loss to Rancho from California on Saturday, they rallied on Sunday morning to secure 7th place with a close victory over the Charlotte Hornets.

Makary now looks forward to a well-deserved break before ramping up training this summer. With big goals ahead, including trying out for the USA Men's Paralympic team in the coming years, he'll be working with Paralympians and preparing for the next season and his college career.

We are proud of all that Makary has accomplished and can't wait to see where his journey takes him next!



Joanna Von Hoene

Congratulations to senior **Joanna Von Hoene**, who earned a perfect score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)! This nationally recognized exam measures a student's strengths and potential for success in military training and careers, and achieving a perfect score is an incredibly rare accomplishment. Joanna's outstanding performance opens up a wide range of opportunities should she choose to pursue a career in the armed forces. Her hard work, determination, and academic excellence are truly commendable.



Students participate in our annual Wellness Fair.



We held our annual **Wellness Fair** last month, with students leading the charge in promoting healthy habits. From showcasing the benefits of flavored water to raising awareness about the dangers of opioids and alcohol, students created engaging, informative stations for their peers. This peer-led event encouraged Bulldogs to take an active role in their well-being and highlighted the importance of making informed, healthy choices.

The **Fido Festival**, hosted by the Canine Connections Club on April 26, returned for its second year and was a paw-some success! Local vendors and organizations provided a wide range of dog-related products and services, while fundraising activities like painted rock sales, handmade dog toys, and face painting kept the fun going. Generous donations poured in once again, with funds supporting incredible causes such as the American Brittany Rescue, Love, Hope, Believe Galgo Group, Save-A-Pet, and Young at Heart Senior Pet Adoptions. The event brought together dog lovers and community members for a day of joy, compassion, and giving back.



Fido Fest

**THE FUTURE IS NOW
MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGER TIPS**

**HOW IT WORKS: (IPHONES AND ANDROID PHONES)
USE YOUR CAMERA TO SCAN THE QR CODE**

THE LINK WILL POP UP ON YOUR SCREEN



CRISIS HOTLINES



**NATIONAL SUICIDE
PREVENTION
CENTER
CALL
1-800-273-8255**



**CRISIS TEXT LINE
TEXT "CONNECT"
TO 741741**



**TEEN LINE
TEXT "TEEN" TO
310-855-4673**



**THE TREVOR
PROJECT
TEXT "TREVOR"
TO
202-304-1200**

**YOUTH FRIENDLY RESOURCES
RELATED TO MENTAL HEALTH**



**YOUNG WOMEN'S
HEALTH**



**YOUNG MEN'S
HEALTH**



**MINDFULNESS
FOR TEENS**



MOOD 24/7



SHINE TEXT



GO ASK ALICE

**BREAKING THE STIGMA AND
HELPING A FRIEND IN NEED BY
OFFERING:**

Elyssa's Mission ACT:

Acknowledge - Care - Tell

Acknowledge: Listen to your friend,
don't ignore threats

Care: Let your friend know
you care.

Tell a trusted adult



**REACHING OUT TO SCHOOL
STAFF CAN BE THE FIRST STEP**

**YOUR POSITIVE SUPPORT GROUP CAN
CONSIST OF:**

**COUNSELOR, SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST,
SOCIAL WORKER, SCHOOL NURSE**

Text A Tip: text "LAKECO" to 844-823-5323

BULLDOGS KEEP IT RED BY TAKING CARE OF MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS



Grant Community High School District 124



2025 CALENDAR 2026

Aug. 6 Freshmen Orientation
 Aug. 11, 12 Institute Days, No Student Attendance
 Aug. 13 1st Day of Student Attendance
 Aug. 20, 27 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Aug. 26 Back to School Night
 Sept. 1 Labor Day, Legal School Holiday
 Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Sept. 12 Progress Report
 Sept. 19 Homecoming
 Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 School Improvement Meetings, 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Oct. 10 Institute Day, No Student Attendance
 Oct. 13 Columbus Day, Legal School Holiday
 Oct. 14 NMSQT Testing
 Oct. 16 Progress Report
 Oct. 23 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:00 to 8:00 pm
 Oct. 24 Parent/Teacher Conf., 8:00am-Noon, No Student Attend.
 Nov. 5, 12, 19 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Nov. 17 Progress Report
 Nov. 26, 27, 28 Thanksgiving Recess, No School
 Dec. 3, 10 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Dec. 17, 18, 19 Semester Exams
 Dec. 22 - Jan 2 Winter Break

Jan. 5 School Resumes, 2nd Semester Begins
 Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Jan. 19 Martin Luther King's Birthday, Legal School Holiday
 Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Feb. 5 Progress Report
 Feb. 13 Institute Day, No Student Attendance
 Feb. 16 Presidents' Day Observed, No School
 Mar. 4, 11, 18 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Mar. 12 Progress Report
 Mar. 23-27 Spring Break
 Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Apr. 3 No School
 Apr. TBD ACT Testing
 Apr. 22 Progress Report
 May 1 Prom, 1:35pm Early Release
 May 6 & 13 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 May 12, 13 Senior Final Exams
 May 20, 21, 22 Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior Final Exams
 May 22 Graduation Practice, 1:35pm Early Release
 May 24 Graduation
 May 25 Memorial Day
 May 26, 27, 28, 29, Jun 1 - Emergency Days, if necessary

◆ Freshmen Orientation ☆ First Day of School ○ Parent/Teacher Conf. ✕ No Student Attendance ▲ Flex Time Start-9:25am □ End of Semester ⚙ Graduation

August '25							September '25							October '25							November '25							December '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					
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17	18	19	▲	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	▲	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	▲	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	▲	19	20	21	22	21	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	27
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31																					30																		

January '26							February '26							March '26							April '26							May '26											
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					
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C A L E N D A R

May

May 2	School Lunch Hero Day Early Release, 1:35 PM Prom, 5:00 PM
May 5	AP Exams begin
May 6	Spring Band Concert
May 7	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Senior Honors Night, 7:00 PM
May 13	Final Exams (Seniors) Spring Choir Concert
May 14	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Final Exams (Seniors)
May 15	Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 PM
May 16	Early Release, 1:35 PM Graduation Practice, 2:00 PM
May 18	Graduation, 2:00 PM
May 20-22	Final Exams (Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors)
May 26	Memorial Day

June

June 2	Semester one of summer school begins, 8:00 AM
June 12	Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 PM
June 18	Last day of semester one of summer school
June 23	Semester two of summer school begins, 8:00 AM

July

July 10	Last day of semester two of summer school
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