

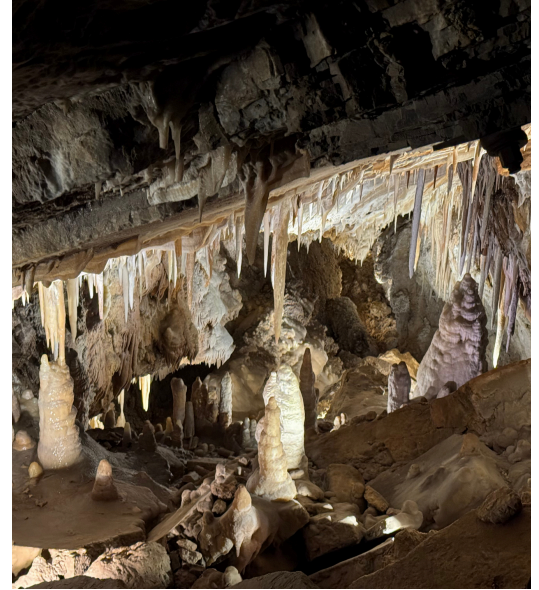
GVMS NEWS



VOLUME 3. ISSUE 2

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025

EXPLORING THE WONDERS OF GLENWOOD CAVERNS



Provided

Eighth graders having a blast learning about stunning formations like stalactites, stalagmites, soda straws, and cave bacon while exploring the Historic Fairy Caves and King's Row at Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park on May 1st.

Celebrating 8th Grade Graduates

Details for the Continuation Ceremony

By Emily Farris

The continuation ceremony for this year's 8th grade graduates will take place at Grand Valley Middle School on May 29th at 10 a.m. The ceremony will last about an hour, followed by a brief reception.

Eighth graders are expected to dress nicely and wear school-appropriate clothing for the occasion. This means dresses should be long enough, and shoulders should be covered.

"You should dress nicely. Boys should wear slacks or collared shirts and avoid wearing shorts. Girls should wear something nice and make sure it's school-appropriate. If your outfit shows too much shoulder, please cover up with a sweatshirt or jacket," principal Kim Davis said.

While students expressed interest in having a dance, there will not be one this year. The absence of chaperones and concerns about ensuring all students can attend were key factors in this decision.

"The ceremony will be held in the morning to ensure all students can participate," Davis said.

A special part of the continuation will be a slideshow created by students, as well as speeches from student speakers, who will be chosen by staff.

Upcoming Events

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STORY IDEAS

Please email your story ideas to
gvmsnews@garfield16.org



GVMS News

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Important Dates

Thursday, May 29th

- Last Day of School
- 8th Grade Continuation @ 10 a.m.
- Awards Ceremony from 2:30 - 4 p.m.

Friday, May 30th

- Garfield County Library Movie Night at the School-Based Family Resource Center (SBFRC) @ 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 7th

- Fishing Derby at Parachute Pond from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday, June 9th - Thursday, June 26th

- Summer School at the transportation center near GVHS from 9-3 p.m. daily with busing and lunches provided.

Monday, July 14th - Monday, September 15th

- Town of Parachute Monday Market benefitting the SBFRC

Saturday, August 2

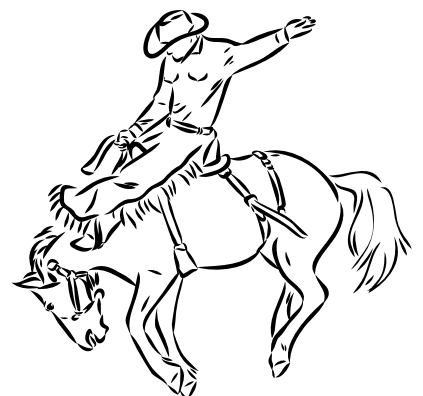
- Garfield County Fair & Rodeo Parade at 9 a.m. on Railroad Avenue in Rifle
- Car Show at 12 p.m. in Rifle

Wednesday, August 6th - Saturday, August 9th

- Garfield County Fair & Rodeo in Rifle

Thursday, August 14th - Sunday, August 17th

- Grand Valley Days



Features

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Addi Patterson/ GVMS News

Math teacher Ms. Tammie sits at her desk, grading assignments.

Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Tammie

By Kaydance Reynolds

At GVMS, we're lucky to have many incredible teachers, including Tammie Lee Crossen, who teaches 7th grade math and Algebra.

Crossen has a fun and unique hobby. She loves collecting rocks!

"I enjoy looking for agates, jasper, petrified wood, or any rock that just looks cool!" Crossen said.

Becoming a teacher wasn't something Crossen originally planned on.

"I never, in my wildest dreams, thought I'd become a teacher. I started out in DeBeque, applying for a bus driver and kitchen help position. But when the superintendent found out I had two degrees, she asked if I'd be interested in becoming a Para. I worked as a Para for about four months, and then when a teacher was [let go], she asked me to fill in until the end of the school year. I agreed, and I absolutely loved it! That's when I decided to get my teaching certificate and get certified to teach both science and math," Crossen said.

Although she loved teaching at DeBeque, Crossen was looking for a change.

"After leaving DeBeque, I knew I wanted a job near home. Parachute was perfect for me. I had driven to Grand Junction for so many years, I was ready for a change! When I saw the math teacher position open at GVMS, I applied and got the job," she said.

Crossen finds being a teacher both rewarding and full of surprises.

"The funniest part of teaching is hearing the things students say. I also love knowing they're learning, and that they actually enjoy having me as their math teacher," Crossen said with a smile.



Provided

School Resource Officer Deputy Miller at GVHS.

Staff Spotlight: SRO Deputy Miller

By Caleb Vashus

School Resource Officer Deputy James Miller has been working in law enforcement for 20 years. Throughout his career, he's worked in many different areas of the field, but his favorite job is working as the School Resource Officer in Parachute.

"I've been a cop for 20 years, and I've done just about everything you can in law enforcement," Deputy Miller said.

Despite his years of experience, he loves working in our small town. He has lived in the valley for most of his life.

MILLER, 22

Preparing for High School: What Incoming Freshmen Should Know

By Briana Lewis

Whether you're an 8th grader about to leave for high school or a 6th grader who hasn't even thought about it yet, everyone will eventually have to make the transition. It can be a little scary, but here are some things to keep in mind as you get ready for high school.

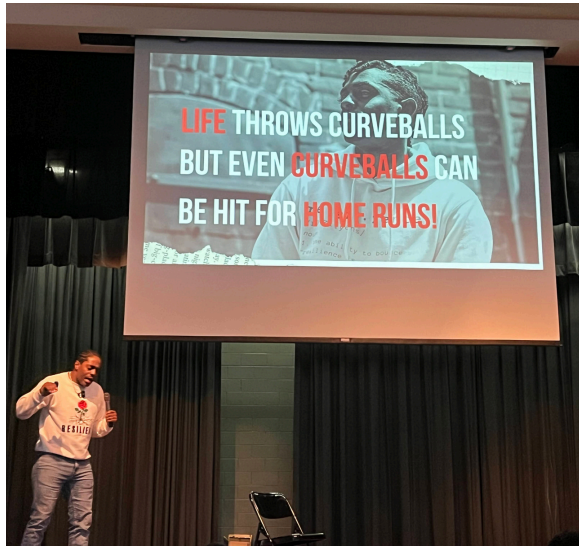
High school is different from middle school in a lot of ways, but that doesn't always mean it's bad.

"One of the biggest differences is the level of independence. In high school, you're expected to manage your time, keep track of assignments, and advocate for yourself more. You also have more choices, like electives and clubs," Kelly McCormick, principal at Grand Valley High School said.

As McCormick said, there's a lot more independence in high school, but with that comes more responsibility and self-advocacy.

"I feel the freedom you gain in high school is close to the freedom you have in middle school. Underclassmen aren't allowed to leave campus throughout the day like upperclassmen, and teachers don't really care when you get your work in, so that's up to you. Obviously, there's an eventual cutoff, but other than that, they aren't going to ask you for missing assignments because it's up to you to turn it in or not," GVHS sophomore Cybil Gonzales said.

HIGH SCHOOL, 20



Mrs. Carter/ GVMS News

On March 7th, inspirational speaker Dee Hankins visited GVMS, sharing his story with students. He also played basketball during recess, signed shoes, and engaged with students in other fun activities.

Dee Hankins: Resilience is Everything

By Terran Hughley

A guest speaker at GVMS left students and staff feeling inspired as he shared his life story.

Dee Hankins, a motivational speaker from L.A., spoke about his experiences and the importance of resilience.

“Yes, ‘resilience is everything’ is my motto; it’s what my belief system is,” Hankins said.

While being a motivational speaker might seem easy, Hankins explained that it comes with its own challenges. “[I struggle with] time with family. You also have to live out what you’re talking about, and sometimes people may not like you,” Hankins said.

Though Hankins enjoys being a motivational speaker, he also values spending time with his family. One of his favorite activities is cosplaying with his kids.

“[I like cosplaying] because I like comic books. The dream to become a superhero,” Hankins said.

Hankins is passionate about resilience and self-importance.

“I want people to know that they are resilient and that resilience is going to take them to a better place in life. I want people to know they matter,” Hankins said.

Ceramics Spotlight: Aila Griffin

By Alexis Baca

Aila Griffin is an eighth grade ceramics student at GVMS. Art teacher Jesse Withouse has chosen her for a ceramics spotlight because she shows great passion for the art and is really good at it.

Withouse sees a lot of promise in Aila, not only for how she works in the art room but also because of her dedication to ceramics.

“Aila stands out because of how she approaches her process. She thinks big and solves problems with care and attention,” Withouse said.

For Griffin, the best part of ceramics is watching her ideas come to life. It’s one of the things that helps her stay motivated.

“One of the things that helps me stay motivated is just seeing everything slowly start to come together,” Griffin said.

Griffin has a positive impact on her classmates, and she’s always looking for ways to improve as a ceramic artist.

“Aila has a positive impact on the class because she helps others understand the process. She’s consistent and open to suggestions and feedback,” Withouse said.

Griffin encourages beginning artists not to give up too easily. She has some helpful tips for anyone starting out in ceramics.

“Don’t give up! It’s a long creative process, and even if it doesn’t turn out how you want, don’t get discouraged,” Griffin said.



Mrs. Carter/ GVMS News

Above: Eighth grader Aila Griffin holds one of her many ceramic projects. These unique pieces are called her "Monsters" or "Traveling Oddities."

Left: Aila's final ceramics project at GVMS is a monster key holder, and she's excited to see the finished product.

Exciting Ways to Spend Your Summer: From Camping to Amusement Parks

By Alexandra Fowler



There are so many things to do over the summer, such as camping, swimming, gardening, hiking, horseback riding, bike rides, going to the beach, fishing, visiting national parks, amusement parks, tubing, rock climbing, zip lining, sports, kayaking, and canoeing. Here are some exciting activities in Colorado to consider for your summer fun:

Camping



Grand Mesa, Colorado: Grand Mesa is the largest flat-top mountain in the world, standing at 10,000 feet above sea level. It is known for its lush aspen forests, groves of pine trees, and serene lakes. Grand Mesa offers opportunities to spot wildlife like moose, deer, elk, bears, squirrels, chipmunks, birds, and fish.

Twin Peaks Campground: Twin Peaks is a first-come, first-serve campground with 35 spacious, well-maintained sites. Sitting at 9,600 feet, it offers a peaceful atmosphere, great RV camping, and beautiful views of the Sawatch Range.

State Parks



Jackson Lake State Park, Colorado: Jackson Lake State Park is known for its warm waters and sandy beaches. The park is perfect for swimming, boating, fishing, and water skiing, and it also has campsites.

Elkhead Reservoir State Park: Elkhead Reservoir State Park, located in the beautiful Yampa Valley in northwest Colorado, is like an oasis in the high desert. The 900-acre reservoir offers tons of fun activities like boating, swimming, jet skiing, wildlife watching, hiking, and camping.

Hiking



Sky Pond via Glacier Gorge Trail: This 8.6-mile trail near Estes Park is a popular hiking spot, known for stunning views of the Rocky Mountains. While pets aren't allowed, this out-and-back trail offers amazing vistas and the chance to explore some of the best views in Rocky Mountain National Park. The elevation is about 9,240 feet.

Saint Mary's Glacier: Located near Idaho Springs, this 1.7-mile out-and-back trail is a great spot for hiking, fishing, and enjoying breathtaking views. The trail is dog-friendly, and the elevation is around 10,428 feet.

Amusement Parks



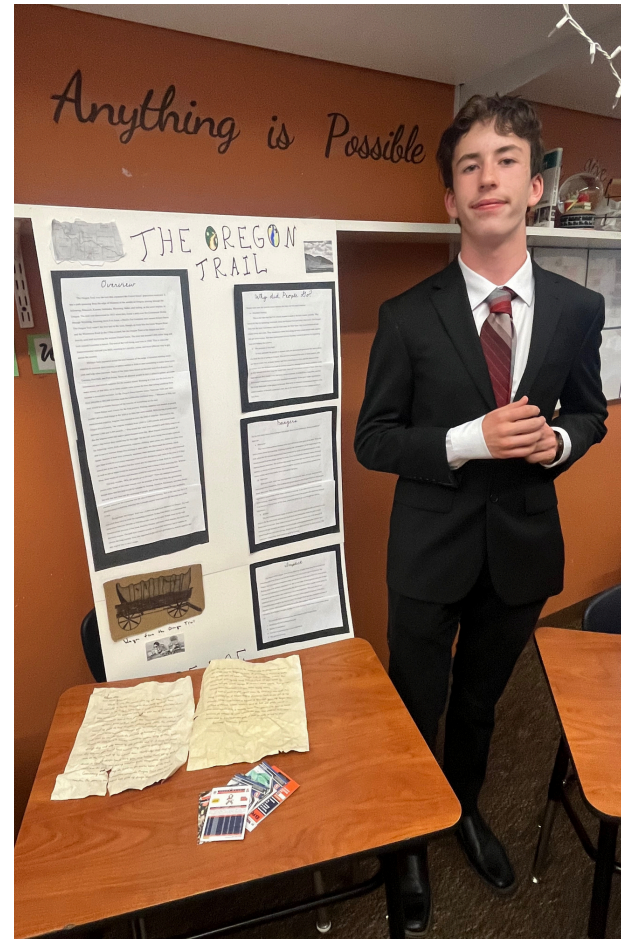
Water World: This popular water park, located in Federal Heights, spans 70 acres and features over 50 water attractions. It's one of the largest water parks in the nation, and its most famous ride, "Voyage to the Center of the Earth," is a must-see.

Elitch Gardens Amusement Park: Elitches is in Denver, and it is known for its thrilling rides, entertaining shows, and refreshing water slides. Elitch Gardens offers 40 attractions across 65 acres. It's a great place for family fun and excitement.

GVMS Happenings

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GVMS NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM



Mrs. Carter/ GVMS News



Top Left: Eighth grader Joseph Roe presenting his information on The Oregon Trail on May 16th.

Top Right: Eighth graders Lucas Miller, Yerson Arroyo, and Zackry Wells dressed as mountain men. At the culminating event, they served guests stew and sourdough.

Bottom Left: Shylie Jacobs, Terran Hughley, and Emily Farris dressed as pioneers for the event.

MUSEUM

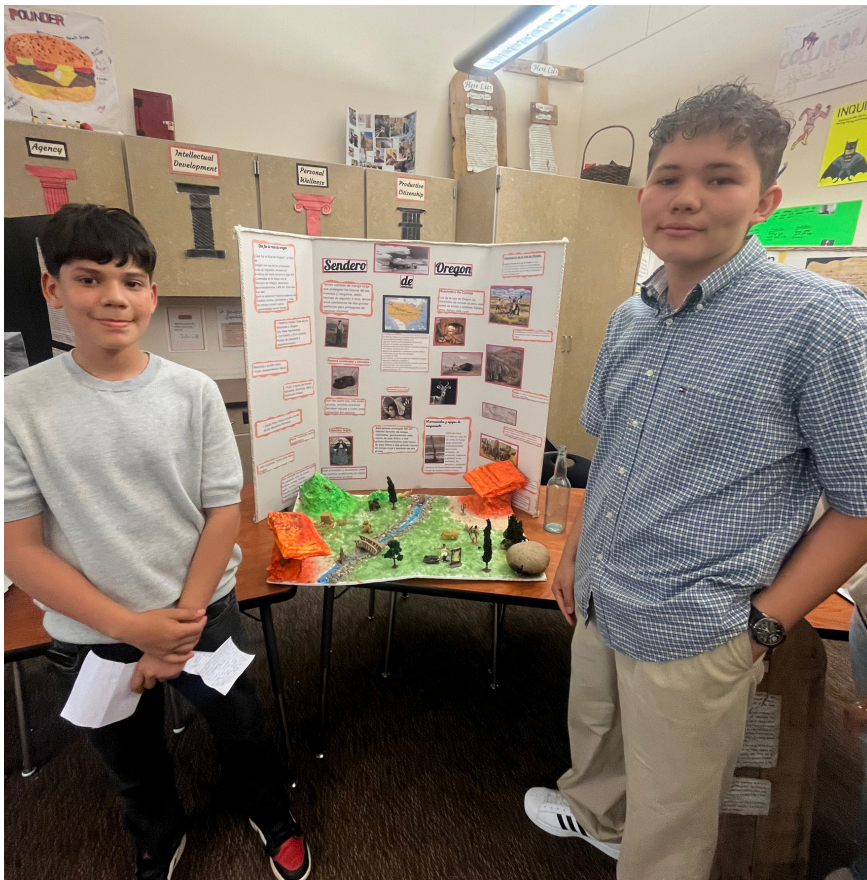
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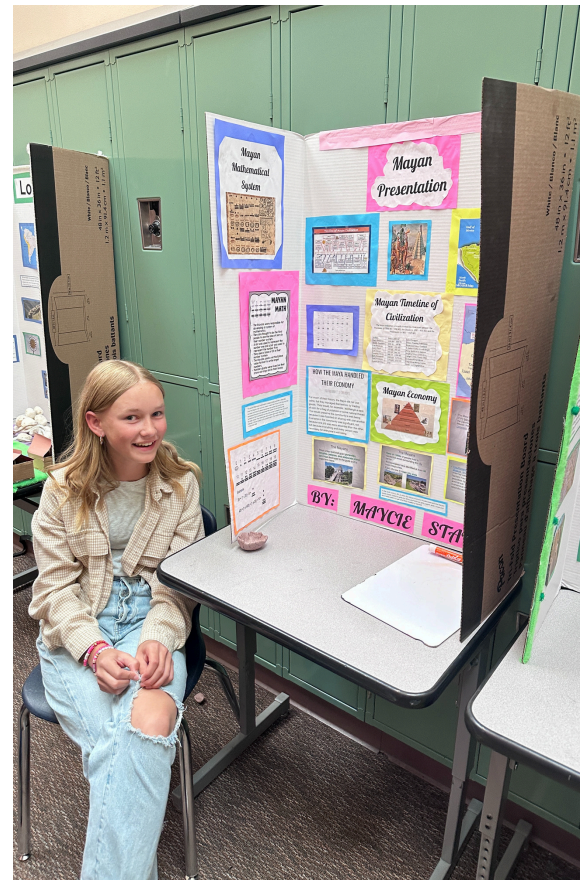
Mrs. Carter/ GVMS News



Mrs. Carter/ GVMS News



Mrs. Carter/ GVMS News



Mrs. Stark

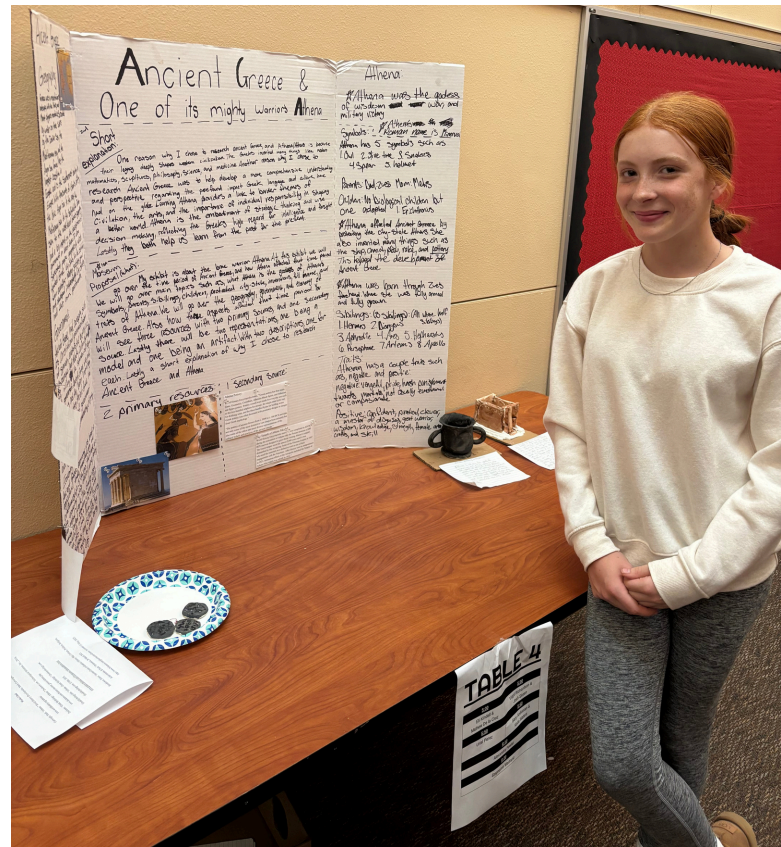
Top Left: Eighth grader Gracy Whiting Joseph Smith and the Los Church Pioneers.

Top Right: Eighth grader Cayden Gunderman created a "Panning for Gold" station for the culminating event.

Bottom Left: Eighth graders Justin Carbajal Flores and Angel Melendez present about the Oregon Trail.

Bottom Right: Sixth grader Maycie Stark presents about the Mayans.

MUSEUM
from page 12



Top Left: Seventh grader Alexandra Fowler presents on Ancient Greece and Athena.

Top Right: Seventh grader Alli Passey presens on Homer and The Odyssey.

Bottom Left: Seventh grader Addyson Coombs holding her shield, showcasing her arrow, and presenting about Ares' Arsenal.

Bottom Right: Seventh grader Jonas Muneton Rodriguez presents on Ancient Mesopotamia.

Ms. Peskuski/ GVMS News



National Junior Honor Society



Ms. Johnson

On April 3rd, Grand Valley Middle School's Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society inducted 9 new members.

Top Row (from left to right): Mrs. Carter , Mrs. Hoyt, Kimber Baker, Vivian Arthur, Aila Griffin, Joseph Roe, Thomas Hartman, Lucas Miller, Jesus Torres Aguilar, and Jared Parker. Bottom Row (from left to right): Marshal Baker, Vincent Longhurst, Kyler Trani, Charlie White, Grace Terrazas, Elliana Hoffman, and Eli Kindell. Not pictured: Alexandra Fowler, Adyson Pittman, and Maycie Stark.

By Alexis Baca

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is an organization that helps improve the school and community. It's led by Grand Valley Middle School's Counselor Jennifer Hoyt and eighth grade English Language Arts and Journalism teacher Jessica Carter. The newest members of NJHS recently had their induction ceremony in April.

The current NJHS members include the following: Eighth graders Vivian Arthur, Kimber Baker, Aila Griffin, Thomas Hartman, Lucas Miller, Jared Parker, and Joseph Roe. Seventh graders Alexandra Fowler, Adyson Pittman, and Jesus Torres Aguilar. Sixth graders Marshal Baker, Elliana Hoffman, Eli Kindell, Vincent Longhurst, Maycie Stark, Grace Terrazas, Kyler Trani, and Charlee White.

To be a part of NJHS, students need to meet several requirements and maintain high standards throughout the year.

"[Members] must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale and no failing grades in the current school year," Hoyt said.

One important aspect of NJHS is service to the community. To become a member, students need to complete service hours, and there are many ways to get involved. The president of NJHS, Lucas Miller, offers advice on how to help out.

"If you see trash, pick it up. If there's an opportunity to help out in your community, take it," Miller said.

There are also rules that students must follow both before joining and while they're active members in the society.

"Students are expected to maintain a 3.25 GPA each semester, follow all school rules, be kind and respectful to staff and peers, complete community service hours, and participate in school activities," Hoyt said.

Getting into NJHS isn't easy – it takes hard work and dedication. But there are ways to stay motivated and meet the standards.

"Honestly, it's all about staying out of trouble and keeping your grades up," Miller said.

McTeacher's Night Raises Funds for GVMS



Mrs. Carter/ GVMS News

Eighth graders Kaden Poyner and Paysli Dowd at McTeacher's Night.



Provided

Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Carter, Ms. Tammie, and Ms. Johnson helping at McTeacher's Night on April 18th.

By Jocabed Espinoza

Grand Valley Middle School partnered with McDonald's to raise funds for our school. Eighth grade English Language Arts and Journalism teacher, Jessica Carter, helped organize the event.

"We hosted a McTeacher's Night in partnership with our local McDonald's to raise funds for GVMS," Carter said. "The money we raised will go toward rebranding our school to match our new vision."

McTeacher's Night is a great way to connect the school with the community.

"GVMS received 40 percent of any digital order sales from the event," Carter said. "We met our goal and raised \$1,500 to support our school."

The goal is to make this a yearly event.

"Next school year, I'd love to draw for prizes for students who attend," Carter said.

The turnout for our first McTeacher's Night was fantastic.

"It was really fun seeing all my favorite teachers and getting food," eighth grader Paysli Dowd said. "My ice cream cone was the creamiest ice cream I've ever had!"



Mrs. Carter/ GVMS News

Seventh grader Chloe David and eighth graders Chris Flores, Alexa Munoz, and Briana Lewis helping support GVMS at McTeacher's Night.

Many teachers and staff attended and supported the event, including seventh and eighth grade Math teacher Tammie Crossen.

"It went awesome! The staff at McDonald's made sure all customers used the kiosks, both in English and Spanish. They were welcoming and did everything they could to help us raise money," Crossen said.

Thank you to all the students and staff who attended and helped make our vision a reality.

8TH GRADE STUDENTS EXLPORE CAREER FAIR OPTIONS



Mrs. Carter/ GVMS News

On May 13th, all eighth graders attended a career fair organized by Educational Pathways to Innovative Careers (EPIC). Students had the opportunity to explore a variety of stations, including: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Outdoor Recreation, Virtual Reality & Holographic Systems, Robotics, Construction Trades, HEST (Heavy Equipment Student Trainer), MASS (Mobile Aviation Student Simulator), Wilderness Survival, Law Enforcement, Culinary, and Work-based Learning.

6TH & 7TH GRADERS CELEBRATE EARTH DAY WITH SERVICE & FUN



GVMS sixth graders at Community Park on April 16th.

Provided



GVMS seventh graders at Community Park on April 16th.

Mrs. Blair/ GVMS News



Provided

Bottom Left: Sixth graders coming together on Earth Day service projects to make a positive impact in our community!
Bottom Right: Seventh graders working together for Earth Day service projects, making a positive difference in our community!



Mrs. Blair/ GVMS News



Coach Syd: Inspiring Athletes On and Off the Court

By Thomas Hartman

Sydni Brandon, PE teacher and the seventh grade girls' basketball coach for GVMS is catching the eyes of student-athletes.

Brandon has played basketball on many different levels including college.

"[I played basketball] all the way through college. I played point guard at CMU," Brandon said.

Brandon continued her learning about sports even off of the court to continue improving.

"I received both my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Sport Management," Brandon said.

Brandon likes to get to know the players on her team and getting to teach them new things.

"[My favorite part about coaching is] building relationships and teaching kids the skills they need to be successful," Brandon said.

Seventh grade basketball player Adyson Pittman is inspired to play better by Coach Syd.

"I like that she is very funny and she is a great coach... she inspired me to play better because she is an amazing athlete," Pittman said.

Brandon also has pets at home who she loves like they are her kids.

"I have two long-haired weenie dogs and a cat. Mars, Nola, and Carter," Brandon said.

Brandon works hard to make sure her team functions like it's supposed to and is successful.

"I ensure collaboration by setting the standard of how we are going to treat each other. I do my best to make sure everyone feels like they have a role on the team, and that their role is as important as anyone else's," Brandon said.



Provided

GVMS PE teacher and basketball coach, Sydni Brandon, with her two dogs, Mars and Nola.

Brandon also has other hobbies outside of coaching and playing basketball.

Outside of coaching and teaching I like to watch sports and shows like *The Bachelor*, *One Tree Hill*, *All-American*," Brandon said.

Brandon's love of the sport was initially introduced by her dad at a young age.

"My dad always took me outside to play when I was little," Brandon said.

Brandon immediately knew that basketball would be a big influence on her life for the rest of it.

"I have loved the sport ever since the day I was born!" Brandon said.



GVMS Yearbook

Eighth grade B team player Sophia Suarez looks for an opportunity to pass the ball during the game.

Athlete Spotlight: Sophia Suarez

By Lexi Boles

Sophia Suarez is a key player on the 8th grade B team, and Coach Shawnee Knob has nothing but praise for her.

“She plays post, and she's a really good listener. I can put her in any position I need her to, and she always steps up,” Coach Shawnee said.

Coach Shawnee also mentioned how quickly Sophia has picked up the game and how coachable she is.

“She's a new player, but she's super coachable and gives 100 percent effort, whether it's during the games or in practice,” Coach Shawnee said.

Suarez has had a big impact on the team, not just with her skills but also with her attitude.

SUAREZ, 17

Athlete Spotlight: Marisol Caraveo

By Adyson Pittman

Marisol Caraveo, an 8th grader at GVMS, has been playing basketball for two years and is already making a name for herself as a key player on the A team.

Coach Steve Young, who coaches the A team, has recognized Caraveo as one of the team's standout players.

“Marisol is an incredible athlete. She's well-rounded and plays well in any position,” Coach Young said.

However, she has a special preference for one position.

“I love playing wing because I get to move around a lot and it helps me get better at dribbling,” Caraveo said.

Beyond basketball, Caraveo is an all-around athlete. She also plays volleyball.

“She really stood out to me because of how much she's grown over the past year,” Coach Young said. “Last year, she was a starter on the B team, and now she's starting for the A team.”

Caraveo was inspired to pursue basketball by her uncle, a talented player who she looks up to. She hopes to follow in his footsteps and become as skilled as he is.

“My uncle is a great basketball player, and I want to be just like him someday,” Caraveo said.

Basketball has taught Caraveo many valuable lessons, including teamwork and the importance of hard work.

“Basketball has taught me how to work with others and that you have to work hard for what you want,” Caraveo said.

Looking ahead, Caraveo plans to continue playing basketball in high school and hopes to keep growing in the sport.

“Marisol is not only a great athlete, but she's also funny, a true team player, and very coachable,” Coach Young said. “She's always positive and brings a great attitude to practice and games.”

Athlete Spotlight:

Adyson Pittman

By Emily Farris

Adyson Pittman is a dedicated basketball player who has been playing the sport for seven or eight years. Coach Sydni Brandon chose her for the 7th grade A team spotlight because of her incredible effort.

“Adyson gives 100 percent no matter what, every game, even when there are no subs,” Coach Syd said.

Pittman works hard at everything she does, always pushing herself to be better. She looks up to her older sister, Jaycee, a freshman playing basketball at the Colorado School of Mines, and strives to follow in her footsteps.

“My sister [inspired me] because she is really good at basketball, and I want to be just like her,” she said.

Always aiming to improve, Pittman focuses on her skills and is great at working with her teammates. She’s committed to doing her best in every game and practice.

“I just work on what I need to do,” she said.

Pittman loves basketball and wants to help others experience that same passion. She enjoys motivating her teammates and encouraging them to keep going, even when things get tough.

“When you keep playing basketball, it gets more and more fun,” she said.

Her love for the sport is clear, and she brings that energy to every practice and game. Pittman’s positive attitude and respect for everyone around her are part of what makes her such a great player.

“Adyson’s heart and effort inspired her teammates to give their best as well. I enjoy coaching Adyson because on top of being a great basketball player, she’s a really awesome human being. She’s one of the most respectful kids I know,” Coach Syd said.



GVMS Yearbook

Seventh grade A team player Adyson Pittman takes a shot during a home game.

SUAREZ

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“She communicates well with her teammates and always puts the team first,” Coach Shawnee said. “She’ll do whatever it takes to help her team.”

Suarez is also enjoying basketball because of her friends on the team. She’s also a big motivator for her team, always supporting them, win or lose.

“We keep our heads up, no matter what. We don’t focus on the games we lost. We look ahead to the next one,” Suarez said. “We win or lose as a team, and we give 100 percent effort every time.”

Suarez plans to keep playing basketball in high school and hopes Coach Shawnee will continue to coach in the years ahead.

SHYLIE JACOBS: A RISING VOLLEYBALL PLAYER

By Mariana Velasco Lopez

Thirteen-year-old Shylie Jacobs has been playing volleyball for four years, starting her journey in 4th grade. Although volleyball wasn't always her passion, Jacobs' interest grew after being inspired by her sister, Rilyn.

Not only has she played volleyball for GVMS, but she is a part of the Defiance Volleyball Club.

"When I was younger, volleyball didn't really catch my interest, but I guess I just wanted to try something new," Jacobs said.

Through volleyball, Jacobs has learned one important lesson: the importance of teamwork. You can't succeed by playing alone, and you have to rely on your teammates to win.

"If you don't play as a team, you'll most likely end up losing the game," she said.

Jacobs' favorite position is setter, a role she loves because it feels calmer compared to others.

"As a hitter, you always have to be ready to block, hit, or pass, but as a setter, you just have to be ready to set or pass to your hitters," Jacobs said.

Even though she loves being a setter, Jacobs isn't sure if she will always play in that position.

"No matter what position you play, you always have to be a cheerful player, no matter what," she said.



Provided

Eighth grader Shylie Jacobs bumps the volleyball over the net during a tournament.

Athlete Spotlight: Lenny Suarez

By Katelynn Lopez

Adelenny (Lenny) Suarez was chosen for the 7th grade B team spotlight by Coach Nicholas Steckel because of her strong work ethic and commitment to always giving her best while playing basketball.

This is Suarez's first year playing basketball, and she has shown that even as a beginner, you can still succeed and give your best effort.

"Lenny turned her grades around so she could play, and she shows a lot of effort in the sport," Coach Steckel said.

Suarez really enjoys playing basketball, even when she gets hurt while trying to help her team score.

"I thought it would be a fun experience to remember, even though I would sometimes hurt my legs or knees" she said.

Although basketball isn't her favorite sport, she was a valuable asset to the team. Coach Steckel would put her in different positions, and she always played well, even in spots like post.

"She is a dedicated player who puts everything into her game and her team. We look forward to seeing her play again next year," Coach Steckel said.

GVMS Wrestlers Excel at State

By Shylie Jacobs

Grand Valley Middle School had an amazing time at regionals. They had 17 middle schoolers make it to state. Even though only five of them placed, their hard work did not go unnoticed. Two of the five were GVMS students. The other three, 6th grader Jaxon Brynildson placed 1st, 7th grader Jace Brackett placed 3rd, and 8th grader Brody Gherardini also placed 3rd.

Eighth grader Emily Farris was one of the five who placed at state. She got 4th at regionals and 6th at state, and has not been wrestling for long.

“[I had been wrestling for] about 6 weeks... My state experience was very fun, but terrifying at the same time. I have never been to state, so it was really cool,” Farris said.

Eighth grader Erin Mattedi also took 6th at state, wrestling at 135 pounds. He wrestled 8 matches.

“I won 4 out of 8 matches. I won my first four and lost my last four. [I would want to go again] because there is great competition and there were people that challenged me,” Mattedi said.



Provided

Grand Valley Middle School eighth grader Emily Farris is about to wrestle her opponent.

The following students made it to state: sixth graders include Brentley Brooks, Brayley Dutton, Titus Miller, Marshal Baker, and Jaxon Brynildson. Seventh graders include Mathew De la Cruz, Thatcher Wheeler, Jace Brackett, Jayce Sabata, Kolson Thurmon, and Payson Atterbury. Eighth graders include Kaden Poyner, Erin Mattedi, Brody Gherardini, Emily Farris, Joseph Roe, and Abel Miller.

“It is a once-in-a-lifetime thing. The atmosphere is amazing, and you get to see a bunch of different types of wrestling that other people do,” eighth grader Roe said.

Although 6th grader Marshal Baker did not place, he still believes you should go to state, no matter what.

“If you have a chance at state, you should always go for it. Even if you don’t get a trophy or a medal, you should go anyway because it is a great experience,” Baker said.

Track Spotlight: JJ Reyes

By Katelynn Lopez

Yoel (JJ) Reyes, an 8th grader at Grand Valley Middle School, is one of the standout runners on the track team. He recently broke a school record that had stood since 2014, running the mile in an impressive 5:16.16 — beating the previous record of 5:20.98.

In addition to his mile, Reyes competes in several events, including the high jump, the 100-meter dash, and the 4x100 relay.

When asked about his best time, Reyes proudly shared, “My best time was probably in my mile, which was 5:16, and I broke the school record.”

Like many athletes, Reyes experiences stress during track meets, but he has a strategy to stay focused. He remembers something his teacher, Mrs. Flor, told him.

“She tells me to stay calm and to do my best, even when I think I can't,” Reyes said.

For Reyes, being a good teammate is also important.

“A teammate means someone who communicates, helps, and shows up to practice so they can actually improve,” Reyes said.

Reyes is not only an incredible runner, but also a great teammate with a positive attitude.

8th grade 2025 Track Records

1600

- 1st place: Yoel (JJ) Reyes – 5:16.16

800

- 2nd place: Yerson Arroyo Jr. – 2:23.13

4x200 Relay (800 Meter Relay)

- 2nd place: Adrianna Vinson, Briana Lewis, Allison Govea, and Paysli Dowd – 2:18.15
- 4th place: Tanner Hunt, Lucas Miller, Thomas Hartman, and Enrique Ruiz – 2:03.25

Long Jump

- 5th place: Marisol Caraveo (13' 2")

7th grade 2025 Track Records

4x200 Relay (800 Meter Relay)

- 2nd place: Jose Duran, Gary Andionan, Isai Perez, and Daniel Chavez – 2:16.22
- 4th place: Alexandra Fowler, Lesly Muniz Vargas, Stephanie Medrano, and Hayry Ruvalcaba – 2:37.48

HIGH SCHOOL

from page 3

There are definitely more responsibilities when you become a high schooler, but it’s not all bad. For one thing, you get a fresh start. But, it’s also when your grades start to really count towards your future.

“Your grades now count toward graduation and your future. That’s a big shift from middle school. Colleges and scholarships will look at how you did starting in 9th grade, so every class matters,” McCormick added.

Moving on and getting closer to adulthood can be a little scary, but high school is also your chance to find out who you are and grow as a person.

“High school is what you make it. Don’t be afraid to try new things, ask for help when you need it, and treat people with kindness. You’ll grow a lot in these four years, so enjoy the journey!” McCormick said.

Opinion

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!! LAST DAY OF SCHOOL !!

Thursday May 29

4:04

What happens after
cleaning lockers
←



Phones in Lockers: A Rule That Helps, Not Hurts

By Alli Passey

One of the many new rules this year is that phones must remain in lockers all school day, not to come out at all. Should our phones be allowed to be on us during the school day? I believe they should remain silenced and in our lockers from 8:05 a.m. to 4:05 p.m. There are many valid reasons that phones should stay in there all day.

We shouldn't have our phones, so we aren't tempted to look at them. If you don't have your phone, then you won't be tempted to play games or check it. Phones are a major distraction in everyday life, so putting them away will improve focus. They won't reach for their phone for a bit of dopamine and online interaction. If you were to use your phone in school, you can struggle with getting work done on time. It can cause issues with your reaction time, overall performance, and your cognitive capacity.

HIGH KALIBER CHEERLEADERS



Mrs. Carter/ GVMS News

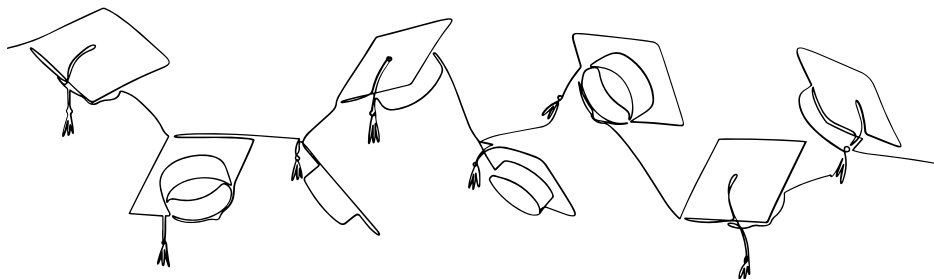
Eighth graders Terran Hughley and Adrianna Vinson at their cheer competition in Salt Lake City, Utah. This marks the conclusion of their competitive All Star cheer season with High Kaliber Athletics. Terran will continue cheering at Coal Ridge High School, while Adrianna will cheer at Grand Valley High School.

CEREMONY

from page 1

After the ceremony, there will be plenty of fun outdoor activities. Davis encourages students to bring comfortable clothes for the festivities, which will include a dunk tank, slip-and-slide, bouncy houses, and more.

“Eighth graders should bring comfortable clothes for the outdoor activities,” Davis said. “There will be plenty of fun activities to celebrate the end of the year!”



MILLER

from page 4

“I’ve grown up in the valley my whole life,” Deputy Miller said.

He’s lived in Basalt, Silt, and Parachute, and even though he has been a police officer for over two decades, he didn’t always dream of becoming one. In fact, during middle and high school, he wanted to be a mechanic.

“I was a mechanic, and that’s what I always wanted to do,” Deputy Miller said.

He even took a few classes in high school to become a mechanic and worked on cars. While in high school, he also played sports.

“I played football and wrestled,” he said.

His football team made it deep into the playoffs, but he never made it to state in wrestling. Outside of school, he enjoyed playing video games, especially Madden and Call of Duty.

When it comes to food, Officer Miller enjoys a few local spots, including Funky Bear, Brickhouse, and Nalini’s.

In high school, Officer Miller didn’t stick to just one social group. He got along with everyone.

“I kinda got along with everyone. I didn’t fit into just one social group,” he said.

After 20 years of fighting crime, Officer Miller has been a big help in many areas of our town and school district. Even after all this time, he still works hard to keep our community safe and help guide kids away from making bad choices.

PHONES

from page 21

By keeping your phone in your locker, you're keeping it well protected. When your phone is away, you aren't going to break it. In the halls, you could easily drop or lose it. You are also going to keep yourself safe in everyday life, and if an emergency were to happen. Then, our instincts are to text someone and tell them what you think is happening. This can cause phone lines to jam, it can take a while for the school to call 911. Family members will go to the school, and evacuation could be difficult.

Without a phone, you can remember how to have conversations in real life. Social media, and phones in general cause some impacts, that aren't the best, on our social skills. We spend so much time on our phones, that we ignore the people around us, and how to talk to them. With phones staying in lockers, we can remember what people are like and how to have human interaction.

However, others might speak differently. They say that having your phone can allow you to learn when you should use your phone. There could be a threat and they could call the police, and if students are sick they could call a parent. Those may be true, but with our phones in our lockers, we can learn similar responsibilities. By having your phone in your locker, it helps both educators and students. Students can learn to follow rules and the importance of focusing on their studies.

I firmly believe that the little block of electricity and metal should remain in your locker, where they are supposed to be. It isn't doing any harm to be away from those phones for 8 hours. Perhaps our phone rules should stay unique to our school. After all, we always get them back.

KIDS SUMMER PROGRAMS

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JULY 7-25

Cost per week, per child
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THEATRE ASPEN SUMMER PROGRAM

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July 7 - 18
Monday - Friday
9 AM - 3PM

Free Registration
GVMS 0364 Sipprelle Drive,
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THEATRE ASPEN EDU

Learn more and Register at:
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 or scan the code