



Grant Community High School

District Newsletter

February 2026

Student of the Month

Lance Lavajo



The Grant Community High School February Student of the Month is senior Lance Lavajo, son of Francis and Lorraine Lavajo of Ingleside. Lance is a standout senior at Grant Community High School, balancing rigorous academics with deep involvement in athletics and the arts. Maintaining a 4.338 GPA, Lance has challenged himself with a heavy course load that includes AP World History, AP Language and Composition, AP US History, and AP Government. Beyond his Advanced Placement studies, he is currently enrolled in dual credit coursework in Biotech and English. Lance has also qualified for Honor Roll each semester of his high school career.

His academic excellence extends to his athletic life, where he has consistently been recognized as an All-Academic student and a Scholar-Athlete for volleyball for three consecutive years. In the athletic arena, Lance is a leader on the Grant Boys Volleyball team, where he serves as Captain. His performance on the court has been record-breaking; he holds the career records for the most digs, receives, and serves as of 2025, and previously set the single-season record for digs in 2024. These efforts earned him a spot on the NLCC All-Conference team in 2025. Beyond school sports, he competes at a high level with the Adversity and Sports Performance (SPVB) volleyball clubs. Lance is equally active in Grant's music and club culture, participating in Jazz Band, Marching Band, and various choir ensembles, while also holding memberships in the MEDS, Guitar, Fiber, and ASL clubs.

Lance was inducted into the National Honor Society during his sophomore year. His commitment to service is evidenced by volunteering in concessions, Feed My Starving Children, and Lake Villa Fall Festival, and participating in the Fox Lake Polar Plunge, among others. He also has professional experience as a caddie at Biltmore Country Club during the summer. With interests rooted in health, wellness, and life sciences, Lance plans to pursue a future career in either physical therapy or biomedical engineering. He is currently considering several options for post-secondary education where he can also continue to play volleyball, as well as pursue his other interests.

Lance intends to inspire his peers to deepen their involvement in both the school and the surrounding community. He views the honor of being named a Grant Student of the Month as a way to build stronger connections with those who share his ethical values and to set a high standard for students who wish to "chase the stars." Drawing on his diverse experiences as an athlete, employee, and student, he is dedicated to contributing his skills and feedback to improve the Grant community in every way possible.

Board of Education

Kathy Kusiak, *President*
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Ivy Fleming
Laurie Hembrey
Ed Lescher
Bob Yanik



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BULLDOGS AT STATE

Boys Bowling Caps Off A Historic Year

The Grant Boys Bowling team put together a memorable postseason run this year, making history as the only team in program history to qualify for the IHSA State Finals. Competing against the top programs in Illinois, the Bowldogs capped off the season with a 21st-place finish, rolling a combined team pinfall of 5,771. Their state performance reflected a true team effort, with every frame, pin, and cheer contributing to their success.

While the team did not advance to Day Two, freshman Dylan Wastag represented the program as an individual, advancing after finishing 22nd on Day One. Dylan followed that up with an outstanding Day Two performance, finishing 8th in the state with a total pinfall of 2,653. His finish earned him First Team All-State honors and marked the highest individual placement in Grant Boys Bowling program history.

Congratulations to the Bowldogs and their coaches on an outstanding season and a postseason run to be proud of. Their success this year is a testament to the strength of the program and the standard they continue to build.



Grant Boys Bowling Team at IHSA State Finals.

Dance Closes Out a Strong IHSA Season



Grant Dance Team at the IHSA Dance State Finals.

Closing out a strong IHSA season, the Grant Varsity Dance team competed at the IHSA Dance State Finals, placing 14th overall among the top teams in Illinois. The Bulldogs put together a solid performance on the state stage, highlighting the progress and growth made throughout the year. Finishing in 14th Place at the IHSA State Finals is a notable accomplishment, and the dancers and coaches should be proud of what they achieved this season. Congratulations on a successful IHSA run! And they're not done yet... Next stop: Nationals! Be sure to follow @grantdanceteam on Instagram for updates as they prepare for the national stage.

Four Bulldogs Represent Grant at ILMEA All-State

For the first time in school history, four Grant students represented GCHS at the ILMEA All-State Music Festival in Peoria! Senior Myles Foreman and sophomore Joaquin Argueta performed in the Honors Chorus, junior Derrick Rios sang with the All-State Chorus, and junior Elaina Schiller participated in the Future Music Educators Seminar, one of only 55 students selected statewide. Over the course of four days, our performing Bulldogs honed their skills, learned from top music educators, and collaborated with some of the best high school musicians in Illinois. Their experience culminated in a finale concert, celebrating their hard work, dedication, and growth as musicians.



ILMEA All-State Representatives, Ms. Koske, & Ms. McGovern

Congratulations to Myles, Joaquin, Derrick, and Elaina on this historic achievement!

Principal's Corner

It was exciting to see our staff and students jump back into learning as we returned to school in January. With the new semester started, it is a good opportunity to review our commitments and goals we set at the beginning of the school year. We remain committed to preparing each student for success beyond high school by offering opportunities to develop individual skills to harness the power of communication, learn perseverance, demonstrate integrity, practice adaptability, problem solve, and develop an empowered learning mindset. In the pursuit of those commitments, we remind every student and family that no goal is too big at Grant Community High School. If you dedicate yourself to success through your daily commitment to excellence, our staff is dedicated to meeting your goals by providing opportunities to grow and excel inside and outside the classroom. I look forward to seeing the growth of our students over the Spring Semester and the product of our combined effort to make sure our students get the most out of this semester.



This month, we will return to our focus on College and Career Readiness with our third College and Career Readiness Activity on February 24th. During the activity, students will continue to familiarize themselves with the SchoolLinks platform and participate in specialized instruction consistent with their grade level. On this day, students will also participate in taking the 5Essentials Survey. This survey asks students questions about the five indicators that positively affect school success and how those indicators come to life for them as students at Grant Community High School. Their feedback, along with parent and staff responses to the 5Essentials survey help us better shape our work to make sure that we are working towards being the best school for our students and a source of pride for our community. Please look for communication regarding this survey and how you can participate within the next month. We look forward to receiving your feedback and continuing to work together to make Grant Community High School the best that it can be.

In January, we saw the strength of our staff and student investment in athletics and activities as our teams started earning their way into State Series competitions. Notably, our Boys Bowling team qualified for the IHSA State Bowling Finals as a team for the first time in Grant history. Our Dance Team qualified for the IHSA Dance State Finals as well after a Conference Championship performance at the NLCC Conference Competition and a strong finish at the IHSA Sectional. The Grant Wrestling and Girls Bowling teams earned the title of NLCC Conference Championships this season and are still competing. The Cheerleading team earned a second-place finish at the NLCC Conference championship. Our arts were highlighted by three of our choir members qualifying for the Illinois Music Education Association Honors Chorus and All-State Chorus performances. Additionally, one of our band members was selected as one of 55 students from across the state for the Future Music Educators Seminar. Finally, 23 of our FBLA members qualified for the FBLA State Competition in April. We are exceptionally proud of all of our coaches, sponsors, and students for demonstrating excellence in their sports and activities and representing our school and community with respect and pride across the state of Illinois. I look forward to updating these accomplishments as we build on our success throughout the month of February.

Looking towards the future, this past month, we welcomed students and families from the Class of 2030 to campus for 8th Grade Enrollment Night. It was exciting to meet our next generation of students and their families. Our teachers helped educate our future students with information about their curriculum choices and helped our future students develop a better understanding of the many electives available to our students in their first year. We look forward to the Class of 2030 joining our learning community and becoming Bulldogs in August!

Go Bulldogs!

Mr. Blair Schoell
Principal





Business Bulldogs Qualify for FBLA State

FBLA members recently competed in the Northern Area Regional Conference. After testing their knowledge and skills, 23 Business Bulldogs walked away with a top-ten finish and will be advancing to the FBLA State Competition in March!

GCHS Northern Area Competition Standings

1st Place—Izabela Podgorski for Computer Game & Simulation Programming, Sophie Lelchuk for Cyber Security, Samantha Archuleta for Job Interview, & Jay Pole for Retail Management

2nd Place—John Dollinger for Business Plan

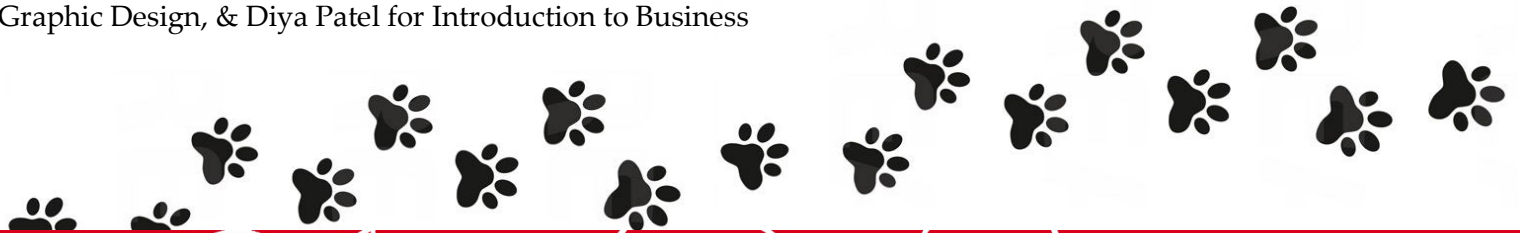
4th Place—Neelah Johnson for Agribusiness, Joseph Reiner for Economics, Carson Strid for Introduction to FBLA, Brooke Horn & Natalia Fafrowicz for Sales Presentation, & Addison Smith for HealthCare Administration

5th Place—Gainele Muntu & Ryan Kadlec for Business Ethics & Vic Lin for Electronic Career Portfolio

6th Place—Vani Patel for Business Communication

7th Place—Jasmine Bo for Advertising & Nicole Kubiak for Introduction to Information Technology

8th Place—Piotr Schab & Chase Muir for Data Analysis, Sukhmanpreet Sandhu, Jasmine Khaira, & Moksha Soni for Graphic Design, & Diya Patel for Introduction to Business



GCHS TALKING BULLDOGS PRESENTS

SPEECH SHOWCASE

FEBRUARY 6 | DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM | AUDITORIUM

National School Counseling Week

Helping Students Thrive

National School Counseling Week 2026 is scheduled for February 2-6. This week focuses public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems and how students are impacted as a result of what their school counselor can do for and with them. This week is sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) and works to highlight the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for careers.

School Counselors at Grant are actively engaged in helping students examine their abilities, strengths, interests and talents; work in a partnership with parents as they encounter the challenges of raising children in today's world; focus on positive ways to enhance students' academic, postsecondary and social/emotional development; and work with teachers and other educators to provide an educational system where students can realize their potential and set healthy, realistic and optimistic aspirations for themselves. School Counselors are certified, experienced educators with a master's degree in school counseling. The combination of their training and experience makes them an integral part of the total educational program.



Grant Counseling Team & Assistant Principal Geist

With all that our counselors do to help students succeed, we encourage everyone to take a minute or two out of their day and send a note of appreciation to one of our amazing counselors—[Staff Appreciation Form](#). For more information about National School Counseling Week, visit ASCA's website, www.schoolcounselor.org

Summer School Information

Brochures and registration forms for summer school will be available in the Front Office and on our website. All classes are on a first come, first served basis. There are no refunds after the first day of class. Summer school is open to all students who reside within the District 124 attendance boundaries, and who have completed their Freshman, Sophomore, or Junior year. For further information, please visit our website (www.grantbulldogs.org) and see the headline listed: Summer School 2026.

Save the Date for 2026 Parent University Events!

Parent University is a series of workshops and events designed to support parents, guardians, and caregivers. Throughout second semester, we will be hosting several events for parents focused on supporting our students, Career & Technical Education, financial aid, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL).

[Pre-registration](#) for each event is encouraged, but not required.

- February 25—Career & Technical Education—6:30-8:30 PM
- March 5—Parent/Guardian Support Group—6:30-8:00 PM
- April 22—Financial Aid Night (Juniors) - 6:30-8:00 PM

For all sessions, the doors open at 6:00 PM for registration. We recommend parking in the student lot and entering through Door 9. Sessions begin at 6:30 PM.





GRANT'S 2ND ANNUAL PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

*First timers
welcome!*

*Win
Medals!*

SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH @ 9:00AM
Grant's West Gym

\$50 / \$30

Per Adult Team

Per Student Team

**SPACES LIMITED!
SCAN THE QR CODE TO
REGISTER BY 2/27!**



*Scan here to donate to our
First Generation Scholarship*



Tournament Divisions:
Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced
Questions? Please reach out to
counselors@grantbulldogs.org.

HONOR ROLL



FIRST SEMESTER 2025-26

Grade 9

Andrew Abellera
Delainie Adams
OluwaDemilade Adejola
Evette Al Dawoodi
Carter Alvarez
Lyla Alvarez
Fiona Anderson
Samantha Anderson
Griffin Art
Zemira Ayers
Dakota Barr
Jaylynn Barscheski
Valerie Bobadilla
Daniel Borchard
Avery Brook
Brock Bryowsky
Ava Burke
Kylie Burkhardt
Alivia Bush
Jason Cardenas
Breeza Chairez
Jordan Cistaro
Anthony Coloma
Nicholas Contreras
Kennedy Cornell
Alexis Coronado
Kyle Dittmer

Cameron Eckman
Alyssa Egan
Catherine Eshaba
Elianna Estrada
Sophia Fandel
Owen Fritchen
Mason Gallina
Katie Gaulke
Yaretzi Gil-Enriquez
Jayden Gill
Mehar Gill
Anne Glitz
Esmae Gorski
Christian Grosskopf
Jonathan Grosskopf
Xian Guinguing
Nathaniel Gwate
Bowie Haschak
Kaiya Helbling
Amelia Huizar
Kelly Huizar
Corina Ibarra Guardado
Julia Johnsonbaugh
Jacob Kadlec
Layla Kalmerton
Benjamin Karlo-Verstege
Ava Kerns

Jersey Kettner
Patrick Kosciukiewicz
Abigail Kozak
Harmony LaBeff
Lyra Langhoff
Karianne Lanners
Aubrey Lehner
Troy Leicht
Asher Levine
Meredith Lopez-Perez
Azul Marquez
Cooper Marsek
Anne Martin
Daniel Martin
Macie Martin
Jazmin Martinez
Declan McSherry
Anabel Meads
Bella Medina
Yocelyn Mejia
Jack Mendoza
Autumn Mieling
Adrian Monroe
Marley Monroe
Matthew Montero
Axel Morales-Pacheco
Taimur Mumin

Tristan Nelson
Phoebe Norberg
Karoline Oliveros Vega
Christopher Orozco
Juan Ortiz
Malcolm Parsons
Sebastian Parsons
Diya Patel
Kevin Patterson
Aloe Payseur
Bethany Perez
Melody Perez
Viviana Perez
Tyler Phillips
Brittany Pineda Castillo
Harrison Pope
Gianna Potempa
Henry Quigley
Abigail Quirk
Amy Ramirez
Logan Reimer
Amaya Rivera
Olivia Roach
Aubrey Robinson
Vienna Robison
Gloriana Rodriguez
Leila Rodriguez

Sophia Romy
Kylie Rous
Daniel Saavedra
Daniel Scanlon
Ptryk Schab
Jackson Schartner
Claira Sharani
Aden Sheehan
Jill Soni
Chance Sparkman
Tyler Swanson
Tyler Tancun
Matthew Todd
Michael Van
Ivanna Vazquez
Valentina Venegas
Genavieve Von Bargaen
Christina Von Hoene
Sophia Weber
Annabelle Whitney
Gavin Wines
Nora Wuchter
Mason Young
Kenia Zavala

Grade 10

Aliya Abdelhak
Elijah Abellera
Anthony Adame
Kaylee Albovias
Natalie Alvarez Lopez
Evey Aragon
Joaquin Argueta
Ash Avers
Manuel Ayala
Inyakee Josh Bactol
Olivia Baldwin
Nikolas Barcena
Andrew Berger
Haylie Blake
Nathan Booth
Dylan Bornhorst
Joshua Bowker
Emma Bradford
Gera Buchanan
Jacob Bychowski
America Camacho
Addison Capko
Benjamin Cappert
Stella Capulong
Sophia Carr
Jasmyrn Catalan Barrera
Caleb Chrzanowski
Leah Church
Madison Clack
Lily Contreras
James Cooper
Caelyn Craft
Addyson Czerwinski
Christian Dabrowski

Naomi Davis
Isabella Depner
Paden Domek
Jasmine Dowell
Natalia Dziadosz
Kaitlyn Edwards
Brooklynn Eggins-Smith
Devin Ekstrom
Liam Elich
Sienna Enters
Matthew Esparza
Chloe Evans
Franklin Fandel
Adrian Faria
Jacob Fetter
Aaliyah Fields
Isaac Fierro
Chatham Gehring
Deja Gerald
Jayce Glauser
Sophia Gonzalez
David Gonzalez Alba
Payton Govea
Alexander Grimes
Alexandra Grotowski
Cayden Gullifor
Logan Hahn
Sydney Halliday
Perry Hansen
Jax Hartmann
Alexa Haskins
Sara Hawkins
Daniel Hayes
Kaitlin Herrmann

Addison Ironside
Leah Jackson
Lorebella Jensen
Aspen Johnson
Piper Johnson
Jasmine Khaira
Lillian Knapp
Nicole Kubiak
Zachary Labtis
Robert LaMantia
Joseph LaMar
Arianna Larracas
Cali Laskowski
Alexandra Leonce
Sydney Lescher
Kaitlyn Levy
Gabriella Lima
Leland Lindsey
Luke Liston
Teagan Lord
Jayden Luna
Madison Lunardi
Daven Lundberg
Brody Lyons
Evelyn Maggiore
Cora Martens
Isabella Martinez
Johnathan McCollom
Caelyn McDaniel
Jillian McKenzie
Taleah Mcquarter
Lillianah Medina
Isaac Meiselwitz
Jasen Melton

Christian Menendez
Ryan Miller
Ruby Moll
Jaime Moreno
Matthew Muldowney
Brady Myatt
Sebastian Negron Cruz
Madalyn Oakes
Aabreanna Ange Oso
Michelle Paddock
Mia Padilla
Alyssa Bianca Panares
Venitzya Pena
Katey Pineda
Alejandro Pizarro
James Plescica
Zacary Pope
Joseph Popeck
Michael Potempa
Carson Provost
Payton Pruski
Calvin Ramirez
Sophia Raube
Jocelyn Reda
Nathaniel Reimer
Maria Rizon
Ace Rodabaugh
Athena Roman
John Ross
Mia Rossi
Michelangelo Sampson
Jesus Sanchez
Jashanpreet Sandhu
Sukhmanpreet Sandhu

Jaclyn Sauser
Ellie Schmitt
Kara Schubert
Camdyn Schultz
Jacob Sherman
Tanner Shogren
Mikella Silva
Kelsie Simmons
Kanwalnain Singh
Moksha Soni
Ashlyn Soutar
Joseph Sovsky
Teagan Statfield
Brooke Stewart
Mia Stollings
Carson Strid
Colton Swanson
Andrew Tadewald
Isabelle Tancun
Sophia Tellez
Nevae Tribble
Melrose Tucibat-Townsend
Nico Valle
Caleb Wagner
Tyler Wahls
Iris Weisheit
Kaden Williams
Zakkary Williams
Andrew Wirth
Noah Wright
Anthony Zamora
Braden Zeller
Zane Ziegler

Grade 11

Zofiya Rae Abadilla
Alexander Acosta
Yahir Agripino
Alexander Albitzer
Jazmin Albitzer
Victoria Alva
Brianna Andrade
Kimberly Andrade-Ceja
Grace Ano
Karla Antunez
McKenna Arnold
Sebastian Arteaga
Samantha Astorino
Peyton Atkocaitis
Allen Baker
Viridiana Barcenas
Cameron Barr
Emilee Beaudion
Raelin Bechelli
Daniel Benitez
Abilene Bemudez
Jordynn Bernicchi
Maeghan Blanquel
Kayli Brook
Ashlyn Bryant
Jayden Bueno
Natalia Cabrero
Camila Cano
Dominick Carlisi
Kaitlyn Carpenter
Jeylen Catalan
Cameron Chavez
Gerardo Chavez, Jr.
Bartek Chrupek
Sophie Connealy

Nathanael Contreras-Loek
Emma Corbett
Cole Couture
Ena Cranmer
Tyler Crutchfield
Alexandra Cruz
Kaylee Cruz
Kaylee Cuellar
Katherine Danca
Abigail Daniele
Noian Davis
Andrew DeRose
Caroline DeYoung
Sophie Dollinger
Matthew Escatel
Connor Evans
Olivia Farley
Jayden Figueroa
Ryan Fitzgerald
Amelia Foy
Thomas Franklin
Carrera Frazier-Ortelge
Garrett Fries
Alexis Fulghum
Emily Garcia
Kobe Garcia
Kahrssten Geary
Michael Gebhardt
Gianna Gentile
Tyler Gibbons
Anikah Giuliani
Athena Goebel
Gabryela Gonzales
Nicholas Goyes
D'neya Griffin

Andrew Grill
Tess Haberstroh
Mykenzie Haensgen
Michaela Hageli
Tyler Crutchfield
Avery Hamilton
Austin Hammond
Abbigale Hamner
Nicholas Hansen
Brooke Harvey
Alexa Haut
Andrea Hernandez
Steve Herrera
Jadyn Herron
Evan Hogan-Dighero
Aubrey Hopkins
Ericka Hopkins
Alexander Horbatenko
Emily Horbus
Kaniah Howard
Joshua Huerta
Anamaria Jasinski
Leon Jiron
Elijah Johnson
Emmett Johnson
Evan Johnson
Jack Johnson
Neelah Johnson
Lukas Jonota
Raegan Justus
Aaliyah Kaganovsky
Felicia Kaweck
Kaitlyn Kelly
Nathan Kempf
Isabella Kloss

Kian Korach
Madison Kozak
Eisie Kramer
Hannah Krause
Emily Kunzer
Madilynn Ladewig
Michael Lamz
Amanda Lay
Cassidy Ledger
Isaac Lee
Chloe Lewkowicz
Ginnel Lopez-Perez
Sianna Lorenzo
Alexander Luna
Ariana Maldonado
Ryleigh Marshall-Kwasny
Benjamin Martin
Abigail Martinez
Ken Massey
Mia Mata
Reese Mateja
Savannah McBride
Carter McCleery
Lily McCollom
Emily McCormick
Rose McManus
Jazzalynn McNellis
James MEEKS
Leonardo Mercado Espino
Jeffrey Miller
Justin Liam Morales
Riley Mowery
Chase Muir
Kyle Neuber
Erioluwa Obisesan

Riley OGrady
Kathleen Olsen
Keeleigh Olson
Karis Packard
Juliana Palmer
Liam Paquette
Valeria Perez
Zendrea Pfau
Emma Pflugrad
Aliyah Phachan
Izabela Podgorski
Elisa Portilla Dehn
Daniel Proa
Aiden Ramirez
Allison Rector
Andy Rendon-Urbina
Ava Renn
Charlie Renn
Mylia Reyes
Derrick Rios
Emily Roach
Jasper Rosenquist
Gabrielle Saavedra
Caylah Sanchez
Kara Scanlon
Piotr Schab
Elaina Schiller
Everett Schneider
Kev Schweitzer
Reeve Seymour
Joshua Sherman
Seth Sider
Evan Sigler
Hayden Silverberg
Audrey Simcoe

Colton Skinner
Maria Soto Valdes
Ava Stohr
Alysse Sutschek
Charles Swiderski
Hayley Tate
Sophia Taylor
Cole Tellez
William Teplan
Leah Terryberry
Ava Timm
Andrea Torres
Cory Tribble Jr.
Sophia Trinidad
Ashlynn Unruh
Christopher Urbina
Alexandra Urdaneta
Evelyn Vasey
Kateryna Velychenko
Vincent Viramontes
Liana Viscarra
Jasper Von Bargaen
John Von Hoene
Quentaysia Walthour
Ethan Weiher
Any Whitton
Sarah Whitson
Ajani Williams
Lukas Wilson
Livia Yaras
Hope Young
Brianna Zeiger

Grade 12

Ramzi Abdelhak
Estrella Allen
Conner Altergott
Sarah Alvarez
Sophia Anzelmo
Natalie Araujo
Samantha Archuleta
David Ascencio
Alexa Barahona
Braedan Bartels
Ashlyn Bartlett
Kaitlyn Bartlett
Elizabeth Becerra
Lizeth Becerra
Gavin Belletynee
Gabiella Bendingelli
Patrik Bene
Cody Berg
Caleb Berryman
Gabriel Betancourt
Shane Blunte
Jasmine Bo
Elliot Bunge
Ashley Jacel Calaunan
Dustyn Calvert
Wyatt Cappert
Fiona Carlson
Christian Castillo
Ryan Caulder
Dulce Cervantes
Imanol Cervantes Valdivia
Camila Chacon
Taylor Chanhourack
Mya Clark
Kaden Cleveland
Zachary Collins
Alexis Cooper
Cheznie Dahl
Chase D'Andrade
Kahlen Davis
Mya Davis
Jaeden Dayson
Miami De La Rosa
Gianna Deacon
Desiree Dickson
Caley Dionne

Trinity Dodd
John Dollinger
Cherish Eason
Isabelle Ellington
Mariam Eshaba
Sofia Esparza
Sofia Esparza
Natalia Fafrowicz
Gavin Farley
Krysteanna Feliciano
Jackson Findley
Adaly Flores
Myles Foreman
Shaelyn Fortin
Katilyn Franzua
Jayden Gil
Matthew Gipson
Kimberly Gomar-Santos
Madison Govea
Dianey Granados
Jacob Gregory
Cole Guild
Madison Guild
Ava Guzman
Maxwell Haas
Isaiah Haque
Grayce Haschak
Ethan Henney
Frida Hernandez
Linna Hidrogo
Maurice Hill
Caden Hitzler
Kelley Hobbs
Kyle Hobson
Matthew Honeywell
Brooke Horn
Amelie Hosler
Caleigh Houdek
Jaslene Huerta
Tristan Huizar
Farida Humphries
Austyn Hunt
Brandon Hunt
Whisper Hunt
David Ikhtiari
Juliana Janicki

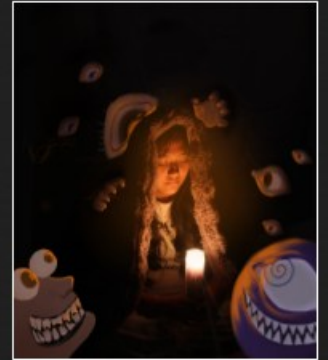
Alex Jasinski
Jiada Jefferson
Destiny Jenkins
Delaney Johnson
Luke Johnsonbaugh
Landon Jones
Ryan Kadlec
MaKayla Kamanda
Penelope Karczewski
Cameron King
Polina Kolosova
Joanna Kowal
Ana Larson
Lance Ioannes Lavajo
Gavin Lawrence
Sophie Lechuk
Micky Li
Vic Lin
Patrick Liston
Sarah Lobont
Matthew Longabaugh
Jared Lopez
Lilianna Ludford King
Doren Lundberg
Emma Malak
Averie Martin
Jocelyn Martinez
Lesly Martinez Ruiz
Destiny Mason
Kyle McDonough
Maddox Meade
Jayden Medina
Madison Mesmer
Gavin Meyer
Logan Miller
Hailey Montanez
Goretta Morales
Cole Munaretto
Gainele Muntu
Raelynn Murillo
Rayiani Nano
Erin Neiveem
Brady Nix
Peyton OBrien
Aaliyah Ocampo
Emeri Oliver

Arelí Ortiz
Reed Palladino
Kelsey Palomo
Vani Patel
Cole Pemberton
Vanessa Pendell
Riley Pilman
Michaela Pole
Diego Popoca
Lawrence Quirk
Eros Dave Rabor
Eric Ramirez Miranda
Isabella Raube
Jeffrey Reda
Joseph Reiner
Mallory Rich
Emily Riley
Jiselle Robles
Leonardo Rodriguez Garcia
Tyler Roepke
Aiden Rosemeyer
Ava Roth
Nicole Sak
Angela Nicole Salamat
Haley Schadle
Hayden Schmidt
Sarah Schmidt
Jesse Schmitt
Madeline Schneider
Shane Schuelke
Baylie Schultz
Emma Schuster
Kelly Scott
Makany Sekulich
Kolton Selders
Alessandra Serrano
Camila Serrano
Michael Shulha
Lairek Shulman
Tabitha Sibley
Spencer Sica
Alyssa Siong
Carli Sipe
Aiden Skindingsrude
Logan Sledzik
Sabelle Slightam

Audrey Smetters-Boling
Addison Smith
Annabelle Smith
Damarrion Smith
Jayden Smith
Jameson Soco
Phoenix Soloveychik
Ravi Soni
Sohan Soni
Abigail Sovsky
Logan Swanson
Angel Tayo-Balogun
Landon Terryberry
Logan Terryberry
Caitlyn Themanson
Allison Thomas
Norman Tillery
Reece Timm
Madison Tomassetti
Elyanna Torres
Ethan Torres
Addison Ullrich
Jorge Vazquez-Reyes
Angelina Velez
Veronica Vera
Leah Wagner
Alyxandria Walker
Natalee Whitson
Larry Williams III
Raniyah Winters
Alivia Wisniowicz
Chloey Wolff
Ryelle Marie Yasona
Jacob Zaleski
McKenzie Zamora
Tyler Zdon
Cayden Zeller
Elijah Zerbe



GRANT ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



Each month, the Grant Art Department comes together to recognize a student whose creativity, effort, and passion deserves to be celebrated. This feature is our way of shining a light on the incredible talent within our halls and giving our community a chance to see the unique voices of our young artists.

Artist Statement—Kaylee Cruz

Since I was born, I have been surrounded by art. I grew up in a family of artists, so creativity has always been a natural and important part of my life. Art was never something distant or unfamiliar to me; it was something I experienced every day. Because of this, I developed an appreciation for art at a young age and found inspiration in the people around me. One of my biggest inspirations has always been my brother. He helped me discover how to create art and encouraged me to explore my creativity. Through his guidance and support, I learned different techniques and also learned how meaningful art could be. Because of him, I now enjoy creating art more than ever.

Art has helped me connect with others and express myself. When I create art, I feel comfortable sharing ideas and having fun with people around. Art allows me to let my creativity loose and be confident in my work. In the past three years at Grant, art classes have played a major role in shaping my high school experience. I have taken Intro to Art, Drawing I, and I am currently in AP Art. Each class helped me grow as an artist and taught me skills that I continue to use today. Some of my favorite memories come from creating projects while learning new techniques. I enjoy experimenting with different materials, styles, and ideas and seeing how my artwork improves over time.

One especially memorable experience was going on the art museum field trip. Seeing artwork from many different artists in person was inspiring and exciting. I enjoyed observing new styles and techniques and understanding how artists express themselves. Taking pictures of the artwork while spending time with friends made the experience meaningful and fun. In AP Art, I enjoy being able to discuss my artwork with others while still enjoying the creative process. Sharing ideas, receiving feedback, and learning from my classmates have helped me think deeply about my art. These conversations push me to see my work from new perspectives and motivate me to improve. Art class has become a place where I feel supported, challenged, and encouraged to grow creatively.

Taking art classes at Grant has greatly improved my overall high school experience. I learned new techniques and developed new ways of thinking when creating art. I have also learned about different artists and how their work influences my own. Attending art-related field trips expanded my understanding of art beyond the classroom and showed me how art exists in the real world. As a third-year student, I would recommend that students at Grant take art classes. Art has been one of my favorite classes throughout high school. You learn new skills while meeting people who share the same passion. Even if someone isn't confident, art classes provide a supportive environment where students can grow in college. I plan to continue studying art and expanding my creativity, and become a great artist in animation.

Bulldog Happenings

Makary Sekulich Shines in Wheelchair Basketball Season



Makary Sekulich competes in wheelchair basketball.

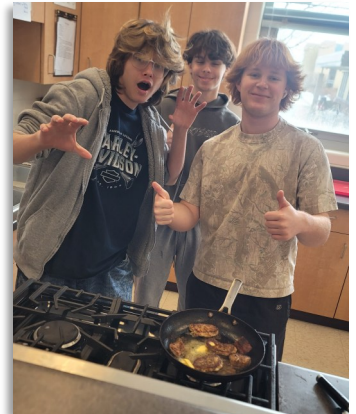
Makary's senior wheelchair basketball season is off to an impressive start! He began the season competing in St. Louis and later played in a Chicago tournament with a D3 men's team, where he scored a personal best of 31 points in a single game and was named Tournament MVP. In December, he competed in Madison, WI, going 6-0 with his team and earning the Pipe's Memorial Award, which recognizes an athlete who demonstrates determination, strength, and fosters team cohesion.

This season, Makary will be rostered with the NWBA on both his WASA varsity team and the D3 men's team, having been hand-selected for the latter, a notable achievement for any athlete. At this time, his team is ranked #6 in the country, with hopes of moving into the top 3 after their upcoming tournament in Whitewater.

Congratulations to Makary on a standout start to his senior season, reflecting his talent, leadership, and dedication on and off the court!

Bulldogs Create Pork Dishes in Food Preparation & Nutrition

Grant's Family & Consumer Science program recently received a \$250 IL Pork Council Food Service Grant, creating new opportunities for students to explore cooking techniques and recipe possibilities involving pork. The grant, available to high school culinary, food service, and consumer education programs across Illinois, is designed to increase awareness and understanding of pork in the kitchen. With this support, the FCS department has been able to expand learning within the Foods II meat unit, introducing students to a wider range of preparation methods and dish ideas, such as pork stir fry, ground pork quesadillas, and pan-fried pork medallions. These experiences help students think critically about ingredients, techniques, and flavor while building confidence in the kitchen.



Students in Food Preparation & Nutrition create pork-based dishes.

Nevada Holm Selected for Kay Yow Servant Leader Award

Grant graduate Nevada Holm, Class of 2024, is making waves at the next level! Now playing basketball at College of Lake County, Nevada has been recognized with the prestigious Kay Yow Servant Leader Award, which honors collegiate women basketball players nationwide for their leadership, character, and commitment both on and off the court.

Nevada's achievement is especially remarkable as she was the only junior college player in the entire country to receive this honor. The award highlights her dedication not just to basketball, but to serving her team, community, and the sport with integrity and passion.

Congratulations to Nevada on this outstanding national recognition, a true reflection of her leadership, work ethic, and the Bulldog spirit she carries with her beyond GCHS.



Nevada Holm, Current CLC Lancer, GCHS Grad



**CELEBRATE TODAY,
OWN TOMORROW!**

February is CTE (Career and Technical Education) Month, and we are using this time to celebrate the opportunities our students have through the CTE department. Over the past several years, our staff has worked hard to expand access and opportunities for our students to explore their career interests and expand their capacity through rigorous new curricula. In that time, our CTE department has launched courses in entrepreneurship, mobile application design, technology support, engineering, and education. The expansion in our curriculum has included dual credit courses, internships, and opportunities for students to earn industry credentials. These changes to our curriculum and our attention to developing career pathways for our students have led to exciting opportunities for our students.

In our entrepreneurship pathway, students have been engaged in the IncubatorEDU curriculum over the past four years. Students in this course have the opportunity to take an idea for a product

and build their business plan through the “lean start-up model.” As they do this, our students have the opportunity to engage with nearly twenty industry professionals and leaders to learn firsthand about how to start and run a business. Our students present their plans at minimum viable product pitches and then again at a final pitch to our Board of Advisors, who select the best business plan within the group.



Woodworking



Project Lead the Way

Our future engineers have immersed themselves in our engineering pathway as they have worked through our Project Lead the Way course sequence. Through these courses, students learn critical thinking skills and the technical skills to prepare for undergraduate study in Engineering. Students engage with industry professionals in this course as they learn about the Engineering career and receive professional feedback about their work. Within these classes, students work to understand and use CAD programs, 3D printing, programming of robotic arms and belt systems, and the milling of material.

Grant’s future educators have jumped into their future careers by taking our new dual credit Introduction to Education course. As part of this class, our students are interning for nearly 60 hours at our feeder schools, helping teachers in their classrooms.

Students in our Tech Support Internship (TSI) have earned over 82 industry credentials. These credentials include, but are not limited to, Microsoft Office Specialist Certification and the CompTIA ITF+ certification. Students also certify to fix our Chromebooks and offer all first-tier technical support for Chromebook issues across the school. These students have proved to be valuable assets to our teachers and students across the building.

Across all of our classes in the CTE department, we work to open doors to opportunities so our students can be college and career-ready.



TSI

Continues on Page 24...



Food Preparation—Golden Spoon Winners

Whether you want to go into carpentry or manufacturing and are exploring our woods classes, fixing small engines in our Technology Exploration classes, learning culinary skills in our Food Preparation and Nutrition courses, or creating the next generation of iPhone apps in our Mobile App Design course, we have a pathway for every student.

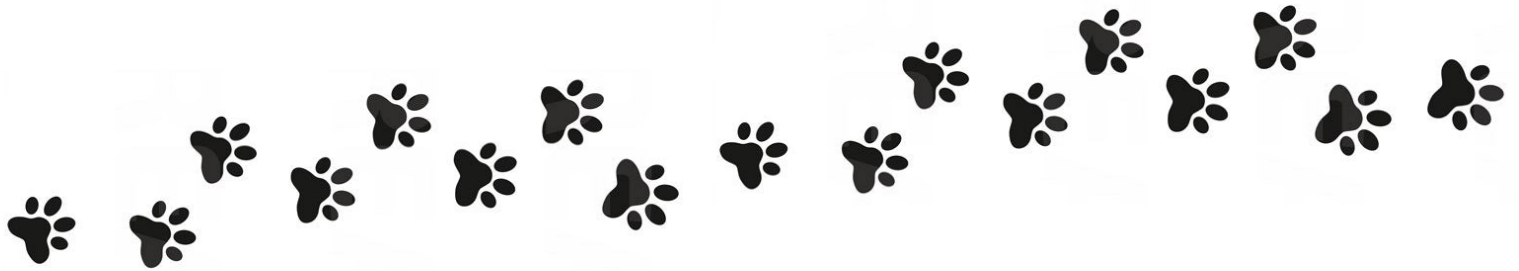
We encourage every student to go full steam ahead and take advantage of the opportunities available through the CTE department to prepare themselves for the workplace of tomorrow!

To learn more about CTE at Grant Community High School, please attend the February 25 Parent University highlighting CTE programs at Grant Community High School.

If you would like information about course registration, please contact your student’s school counselor or the Divisional Administrator for CTE, Ms. Ellen Skolar, at eskolar@grantbulldogs.org.



Intro to Teaching—Gallery Walk



SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION

- Track & Field (Boys & Girls)
- Baseball
- Badminton (Girls)
- Lacrosse (Boys)
- Softball
- Soccer (Girls)

- Tennis (Boys)
- Volleyball (Boys)

Spring Sports Registration is open! All spring athletes must complete the [online registration process](#) and must have a current physical on

file. For more information, reach out to the Athletic Office or your sport’s head coach.

Most sports begin at the end of February/beginning of March, so register ASAP!

5Essentials Survey

The Illinois 5Essentials Survey window is scheduled from February 3-March 13, 2026. Parents, students and teachers across Illinois have an opportunity to participate in the statewide Illinois 5Essentials Survey. This opportunity allows stakeholders to share their thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in a survey about Grant Community High School. As a parent, we hope you will take this opportunity to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness at Grant Community High School. Your identity and survey responses will be kept completely confidential and will never be connected to you or your child. As per state requirement, students and teachers will also be completing the [Illinois 5Essentials Survey](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact 5Essentials Client Services at 1-866-440-1874 or 5essentials@uchicago.edu.



Bring spare change to help vote for audience choice!

GCHS'S ANNUAL TALENT SHOW
Presented by The National Art Honor Society

Where: Auditorium
When: March 13, 2025
What time: 7:00 pm
Tickets are \$5.00 student and adult



FRESHMEN:
TURN IN PROOF OF
YOUR DENTAL EXAM

ALL FRESHMEN ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A DENTAL EXAM. PLEASE TURN IN PROOF OF A DENTAL EXAM, DATED WITHIN THE LAST YEAR. FORMS CAN BE FOUND UNDER THE [HEALTH SERVICES SECTION OF THE GCHS WEBSITE.](#)

FORMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF OR EMAILED TO HEALTHOFFICE@GRANTBULLDOGS.ORG. FOR QUESTIONS, CALL THE HEALTH OFFICE AT (847) 973-3452.

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.



ASVAB
MARCH.12TH

TIME: 12:00 - 3:10

LOCATION:
LECTURE HALL
PLEASE BE ON TIME



SIGN UP

AP Exams

The 2026 AP Exams will be administered in schools during the first two full weeks in May: May 4-8 & May 11-15. All remaining fee balances must be paid by Friday, March 6.

Students with a new second semester AP course (US Government or Macroeconomics) need to communicate with their instructors if they DO NOT wish to take the spring AP Exams by Friday, March 6. Once a student indicates that he or she is taking the test, parents should go to our [RevTrak system](#) to pay for the exam(s).

If your student receives free or reduced lunch, you may choose the AP Exams (Reduced Price) button within RevTrak. We will certainly work with individual students and families to make sure every qualified student is able to take Advanced Placement exams.

Important Deadlines for second semester AP Exam Registrations:

- Friday, March 6: Students in a second semester only AP course need to notify the Curriculum Office if they DO NOT plan to take the AP exam.
- Monday, March 13: All exams must have the remaining balance paid or the exam will be canceled and the \$40 pre-registration fee will be forfeited.

Please feel free to contact your student’s teacher or the Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment Office at (847) 973-3800 if you have any questions regarding the Advanced Placement program. On behalf of our faculty and administration, we would like to wish all of our students good luck as they continue to prepare for these important exams.

AP Exam Schedule—May 2026		
Week 1	Morning 8:00 a.m.	Afternoon 12:00 p.m.
Monday, May 4	Biology	Microeconomics
Tuesday, May 5	Chemistry	United States Government & Politics
Wednesday, May 6	English Literature & Composition	Physics 1: Algebra-Based
Thursday, May 7	World History: Modern	Statistics
Friday, May 8	United States History	Macroeconomics 2-D Art & Design (Project deadline 7:00 PM)
Week 2	Morning 8:00 a.m.	Afternoon 12:00 p.m.
Monday, May 11	Calculus AB Calculus BC	Music Theory
Tuesday, May 12	French Language & Composition	Psychology
Wednesday, May 13	English Language & Composition	Physics C: Mechanics
Thursday, May 14	Spanish Language & Culture	Computer Science Principles Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
Friday, May 15	Environmental Science	

Grant Community High School Presents
nickelodeon

THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL

April 24th 25th 26th

Are You Ready, Bulldogs?

Ahhh...bonjour, salut, and welcome to this quiet corner of the ocean floor, teeming with all the many kinds of undersea life. Here we will see Stephen Hillenburg's beloved cartoon burst onto the stage in a neon-drenched, high-stakes masterpiece! This isn't just a trip to the Pacific floor—it's a high-voltage reimagining of Bikini Bottom packed with kinetic energy and wild imagination. When the town discovers that the mighty Mount Humongous is about to blow, the community goes into a hilarious tailspin. Facing total "vol-ca-no" doom, SpongeBob (Junior, Kaitlyn Carpenter) and his seafaring squad must band together to save their undersea world from both falling rocks and rising

panic. With the clock ticking and the stakes higher than a tidal wave, our favorite "simple sponge" rises to the occasion, proving that a giant splash of optimism and radical kindness really can save the world!

The race against time is complicated by the devious Sheldon J. Plankton (Sophomore, Joaquin Argueta) and his sophisticated computer wife, Karen (Junior, Evelyn Vasey), who plot a "Super-Fast-and-Easy" scheme to hypnotize the town into finally liking chum. While they scheme, Mr. Krabs (Sophomore, Embry Tucibat) remains characteristically obsessed with capitalizing on the disaster, much to the frustration of his daughter, Pearl (Senior, Sofia Esparza), whose soaring rock-ballad vocals reveal a teenager yearning to be truly seen. Meanwhile, the grumpy Squidward Q. Tentacles (Junior, Audrey Simcoe) dreams of a life beyond the cashier booth, finally seizing his moment in the spotlight with a show-stopping, four-legged tap dance extravaganza.

Central to the mission of salvation is the brilliant Sandy Cheeks (Junior Sophie Dollinger), whose scientific bravery and martial arts prowess provide the brains and brawn needed to stop the eruption. As an "outsider" from Texas, Sandy faces the town's misplaced panic with grit, proving that intellect is just as heroic as any superpower. At her side, the lovable Patrick Star (Sophomore, Caleb Chrzanwski) finds himself on a hilarious journey of his own; lured by the adoration of a cult of sardines, he briefly rises to "Superstar" status, testing his loyalty to his best friend against the glitz of sudden fame.

This "deep-sea pearl" of a production features a book by Kyle Jarrow and was brilliantly conceived by Tina Landau. The Tony Award-winning score is a genre-defying masterpiece, featuring original songs by Yolanda Adams, Sara Bareilles, Jonathan Coulton, Alexander Ebert, The Flaming Lips, Lady A, Plain White T's, They Might Be Giants, and T.I. These hits sit seamlessly alongside legendary contributions from Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith, John Legend, Cyndi Lauper, and Panic! At The Disco, with additional music by David Bowie, Tom Kenny, Andy Paley, and Tom Kitt. From hip-hop swagger to gospel-infused anthems, this show is set to make a splash with audiences young and old. Tickets will go on sale on April 1st. Show dates are Friday, April 24th, 7 pm, Saturday, April 25th, 7 pm, and close on Sunday, April 26th, at 2 pm. Ticket prices are \$7.00 adults and \$5.00 Students. Visit the Grant website for online sales.

Be sure to follow the Grant Theatre Instagram page: @grant_theatre
And the Grant Theatre YouTube page: @GrantTheatre1936



**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

C A L E N D A R

February

Feb. 3	Start of National School Counseling Week (2/2-2/6)
Feb. 4	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Progress Reports
Feb. 5	Math NSML Event
Feb. 6	Speech Showcase
Feb. 7	Speech Regionals
Feb. 9-10	NLCC Honors Band Festival (Grayslake Central)
Feb. 11	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Feb. 12	Winter Pep Assembly
Feb. 13	Staff Institute Day, no student attendance
Feb. 16	President's Day observed, no school
Feb. 18	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Blood Drive Sign-Up
Feb. 19	Board of Education Meeting
Feb. 20	Blood Drive
Feb. 25	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Parent University: Career & Technical Education
Feb. 27	Registration Deadline for Pickleball Tournament

March

Mar. 4	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Music In Our Schools Concert
Mar. 5	Parent University — Parent/Guardian Support Group
Mar. 8	Pickleball Tournament
Mar. 11	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Mar. 12	Progress Reports
Mar. 13	Grant's Got Talent
Mar. 18	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Career Fair
Mar. 19	Board of Education Meeting
Mar. 23-27	Spring Break

April

Apr. 1	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Apr. 3	No School
Apr. 7	Spring ACT Testing
Apr. 8	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start NHS Induction
Apr. 10	NLCC Art Show
Apr. 15	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Apr. 16	Board of Education Meeting
Apr. 22	Progress Reports Freshman Honors Breakfast School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Wellness Fair
Apr. 24	Parent University: Financial Aid Night (Juniors)
Apr. 24	Spring Pep Assembly
Apr. 24-26	Spring Musical — The SpongeBob Musical
Apr. 29	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start