

Intersectionality Commemorated Through Black History Showcase

Jumaria Owoo

02.04.2026

February marks the beginning of Black History Month, a memorial and celebration of the important people and events of African American history. At GMHS, where a substantial amount of the population identifies as Black and/or African, this month holds great significance.

The school community reflects a wide range of identities, traditions, and lived experiences, creating an environment rich in cultural intersectionality. This February, on Friday the 6th, GMHS will host a student-led showcase celebrating Black and African history.

The annual event commemorating history, taking place over the last four years, has allowed a multitude of students and community members to showcase their culture and heritage. The showcase has become a meaningful tradition—one that highlights not only history, but also the voices of students here today.

Daphne Hosley, head director of the Black Student Union (BSU), an organization within the school that is responsible for the February showcase, expressed why she believes this is such an important show. “I think it means everything to our students...giving them that platform to show their skills.”



Hosley then went on to add, "They feel comfortable coming out of their skin," a quote which resonates with many members of the production.

Many students, who have never performed before a crowd before, have found an outlet to showcase another side of themselves.

Junior Nana Frempong, a student involved in the planning and hosting of the showcase, echoed this sense of unity and pride, "To share with everyone...we come together to promote our cultures." She also highlighted how the production brings together the entirety of the school to showcase culture in dozens of ways.

As a token of appreciation for the student body, an in school performance takes place during the first three periods of February 6th. 400 students who completed an interest form will be permitted to attend the showcase.

This year's performance explores the journey from ancestral roots to modern achievements, highlighting stories of resilience, creativity, and groundbreaking innovation. Through poetry recitations, singing, dancing, and other powerful performances, audiences will experience the strength that fuels dreams and the spirit that drives progress. The Black History Month Showcase stands as a tribute to a legacy that honors the past while shaping a bold and hopeful future—one performance at a time.

The Learning Bus: Bringing Books to Groveport

Taze Owens

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This school year, the Groveport Madison Construction Trades Class and Mr. Gibbs have been working on a “mobile library” for all Groveport Madison schools. This Mobile Library is a school bus that has been filled with books and will drive around the district so that all students can have access to books.

While some Groveport Madison elementary schools already have library spaces, those areas have been recently converted into classrooms because of overcrowding. Due to this, the district came to Mr. Gibbs last November asking him if he and his class could turn a bus into a library.

“We planned everything out, and then they went through and we got the prints and everything. Students made the prints. Then we went ahead and ordered all the materials and everything. They started making the cabinets, ripped the floors up, did all the demo,” Mr. Gibbs said.

As of now, the Mobile Library is completely finished and full of books. All of the books are donated books.

The library will spend most of its time at the elementary schools, however it will be at the high school 1 or 2 days a year, says Mr. Gibbs.

Mr. Gibbs gave a special shoutout to senior Cameron Fisher. “He was pretty much a project lead,” Mr. Gibbs said. Nick Hodge, and twins Dillon and Darren Everett also played an important role in the project. Mr. Gibbs continued, “They’ve been working on it from start to finish.”

A full year of hard work from these dedicated students has been devoted to creating something good for the community and the school district. The construction trades class and Mr. Gibbs deserve all the recognition for this great program that will help enrich our community.

Celebrating Spectacular Students and Staff

Krishan Patel

2.04.2026

Student and Staff of the Month returned to GMHS for its first edition after winter break on January 13th, 2026 in room 261. This program gives students and staff the opportunity to be recognized for their hard work and accomplishments throughout the month. The event has been running for several years and promotes a more positive and healthy environment. Winning staff and students are treated to a breakfast, a custom shirt, and their photo hanging in the rotunda.

In regards to being one of the winning staff members, Aleisa Tobin said “It’s rewarding to be selected as myself and fellow staff members have been working so hard. Specifically, the biology team has been working so hard to prepare for the EOC and making sure everything’s aligned so that our kids can be successful and show growth and I feel like it’s pretty amazing to be recognized and that my fellow co-workers chose me.”

One of the students who was recognized for his accomplishments, Austin Rogols (as pictured below), had this to say about the ceremony: “Well, it gives us a little bit of a break from first period, we get free muffins which is pretty nice and some good coffee which I was all about. We also get a photo of us in the rotunda which is nice. Is it a good reward per se? Well, it could be better, but given what the school can do, it is nice to be recognized.”



Students of the month aren't just randomly selected. They are chosen by specific staff members each month who are given the privilege to grant a student the reward.

Blake Snyder was one of teachers who had this privilege for January, and he said this about how he chooses a student: "When I choose it, I don't necessarily choose based on the great academic student, nor do I choose the best behaving one. I try to look for the best all round student. I think that there is nothing more important student wise than being well rounded so I try to find the best, well rounded student in terms of academics, behavior, personality, helping others, and a few other factors."



Mr. Snyder honored Camron Tabler for his Student of the Month.

Celebrating Students and Staff of the Month is a key part of our community at GMHS. It gives both of these key groups at our school an opportunity to be recognized for their efforts that they put in each and every day. As a school, we should strive to continue and improve this program as years go by in order to foster encouragement and commitment within everyone.

Other students rewarded with Student of the Month in January were Rowan Gawronski, Lily Feasel, Trinity Askew, Brianna Gabriel, Olivia Thompson, Jean Roberson Jean Marie, and Zaire Jarmon. Hannah Lain was also awarded the Staff member of the Month, alongside Aleisa Tobin.

Human Waste Fills the Halls of GMHS

Austin Rogols

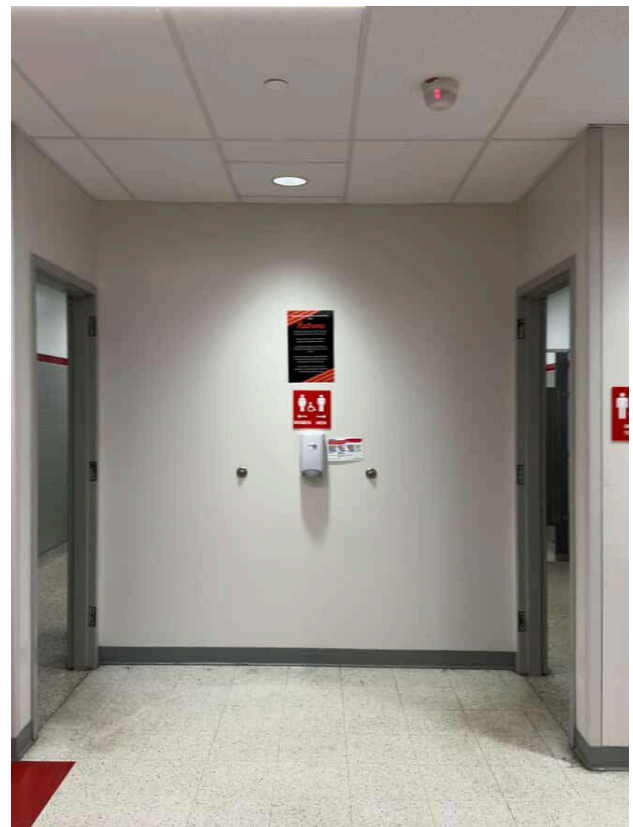
02.04.2026

Bodily fluids aren't the only thing the students of GMHS are flushing down the toilets. In the school, there are sewage issues due to how many items are flushed. Clogged toilets tend to leave entire hallways smelling awful and fumes of human waste lingering for days or even weeks at a time. Students hate the smell, and teachers who are near the restrooms have to deal with this every time it happens. Stories persist of people flushing vapes pens, drugs, and whole rolls of toilet paper. But the fact of the matter is that there's more people in the school than it was built to handle.

The teachers all agreed the issue is an annoying one.

Audrey Gauthier, an English teacher at GMHS, had the strongest feeling about this issue. She is in the hallway that floods the most, and she said, "We've all been assaulted by the septic smell of our building. And, I don't know if I'm crazy, but it seems particularly bad down here in the lower Pride and construction hallway. I've been told it's a 'drain trap' issue, but I'd like to know what, exactly, is wrong with it and if we're planning on doing something about it. I think it's important to have some semblance of pride in where you go to school and where you work. It's really hard to muster that up when your building literally smells like a Porta John that's been neglected during a hot summer".

Ian Ferguson said, "It is pooppy, it breaks every week."



Mr. Lee Warner added, "Nothing is more pleasant at 6 in the morning."

A teacher who wanted to be anonymous said, "I don't know how a building built in 2018 can have those issues." He added on later its mostly vape pens that back up the lines and from that it causes the fumes and leakage.

Amiee O'Brien believes it does smell bad and grosses her out, but in her room the odor isn't strong. She said, "We shouldn't have these issues in a building that's 7 years old."

Students also all agree that the issues are annoying and embarrassing. Senior Lillian Kirk said, "It's always in my 6th period hallway this year."

"It's Always in Rarey" aligns with what other students say. But someone from every hallway thinks their hallway is the worst.

Another huge reason the school has this issue is because the school was built to accommodate fewer people than it has. The higher influx of human waste in the school means a higher chance of it hitting max capacity and then flooding over.

Cleaning up human waste and having to fish out whatever clogged it is sure to ruin anyone's mood. The school also has to call plumbers to fix these issues, which costs the school money and closes down bathrooms when they need repaired. It becomes a pain for the teachers, custodians, students, and whomever is called in to fix the issue. The school was meant to hold 1,800 kids, and there are 2,200, which adds to this problem.

Principal Jeff Altman got to shed some more light on the situation. He believes the issues come from a few different things. He thinks the plumbing wasn't done as well as it should have been when the school was built and over time it's gotten worse. Another is the increase in students, as well as students who are flushing vapes down the toilets. When the issue does occur, the stress is thrown onto him because he has to pay for the repairs. If a bathroom is closed, it leaves kids to roam the halls due to bathrooms not being closed, and that bathroom is unavailable until it's fixed. He thinks the Cruiser hallway is the worst of them all, and that's where most freshmen are. That could be a coincidence, or perhaps freshmen are the main issue.

Imploring the GMHS community, Mr. Altman said, "Control your controlables, only flush items that are expected to be flushed down toilets. Please wash your hands and keep yourself clean during this time with the flu going around." He added that students should "treat [your school] as a second home."

One of the most famous stories of the bad sewage issue is from Scott Wilson, when his room flooded so badly he was up to his ankles in human fecal matter. His class runs into the water lines. One day it flooded and human waste was coming through the drains and filled the room full of urine water with chunks of feces.

All of these issues are a call for students to take better care of this school. The school is people's jobs and other people's safe haven, and breaking it will lead to consequences now and in the future. It's shocking how much of an issue it has become over the years. The students can solve the issue only if they can unite and stop causing the floods and backed up lines. We must respect the stalls and the property of the school.

The Cruisers

Need to Start Cruising

A'Niyah White

02/04/2026

Governor Mike Dewine signed a law in 2025 that Ohioans under the age of 21 must take drivers ed courses to get their driver license. Groveport Madison needs to offer these courses as a class during the school day.

Groveport Madison students would benefit from this class because it would allow them to be eligible for the Driving and Skills Tests. It could also be offered as a credit to graduate. The community would also benefit from this change because parents and guardians wouldn't have to even think about paying out of pocket for a drivers ed course. Students who take the course will drive more safely out in the world. Offering this course would allow teenagers to go out and have fun with friends, help out family members by taking siblings to things like afterschool activities, and provide transportation to work.

To be eligible for the Ohio Driving Test, 16-20 years olds need 24 hours online or in person class time and eight hours of monitored driving. On top of that, teens need 50 hours of driving, with at least ten hours at night. The reason for this law is the high rates of fatal crashes amongst teenagers. Many high schools offer a drivers ed class that counts as the credit for the 24 hours required to take the Driving or Skills Tests. Groveport Madison does not offer a class, meaning students have to pay out of pocket or wait until after they turn 21 to be eligible for the test. If you go the route of driving school in central Ohio, the prices range. For an Online course, the lowest is \$100, but that doesn't cover the 8 hours behind the wheel that is still required. For a course that covers 24 hours online and 8 hours behind the wheel, the price ranges from \$499-\$600.

An art teacher at GMHS, Mrs. Stauffer-Miller, believes that Groveport Madison should offer drivers ed as a class because the cost of private driving schools can be expensive for families. She shared that her daughter has already completed drivers ed and her son will soon begin, once he gets his permit. Mrs. Stauffer-Miller suggested that the class should be a priority for students who are close to finishing their graduation credits so they can take advantage of it. Additionally, she mentioned that the school could partner with an outside program to make offering driver's ed more manageable and accessible for students.

Drivers ed should definitely be offered at Groveport Madison. It would help students meet driver requirements in Ohio. Offering this class would benefit students, parents, and the community.

Intemperate Fiends Terrorize No More! Amity Must Prevail

Henry Mireku

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During a recent 6th period lunch, a vicious melee began over a spat between two students, leading them to blows.

Most students and staff present during the 6th period likely remember the violent excursion they witnessed. Two students who are supposed to grow to be respectable adults were beating upon each other like wild animals; the violence, the aggression, the sheer horror! But what should've been disparaged as a useless fight was instead acclaimed, as a good portion of the students began to rally around the hullabaloo and were laughing about it afterwards.

One would assume that any rational soul would be filled with grief upon witnessing such a violent sight, yet so many students are eager to witness their peers beat each other like savage beasts! The sheer insanity of seeing such battle-lust in students is insanity incarnate!

A student who remarked in exchange for anonymity stated, "I mean, I wouldn't wanna be too harsh, but I would want to have an emphasis on being able to put up with other students, even if you really hate them, you know? I get people can be real annoying and disrespectful at times, but you have got to have self control."

The use of suffering for entertainment is frankly disgusting. Allowing ourselves to demonstrate into such bloodthirsty cravings is inane! It isn't even sustainable considering that the rate of brawls are on a steady decline. According to the discipline incidents of GMHS, the number of students fighting during the first semester was 39, as opposed to the 87 it was in 2024 or the 85 reports in 2023. Senseless whoopings will hopefully continue to decrease in the coming future.

The entertainment should be allocated to regulated shows like a boxing or a wrestling match, not a savage schoolyard brawl!

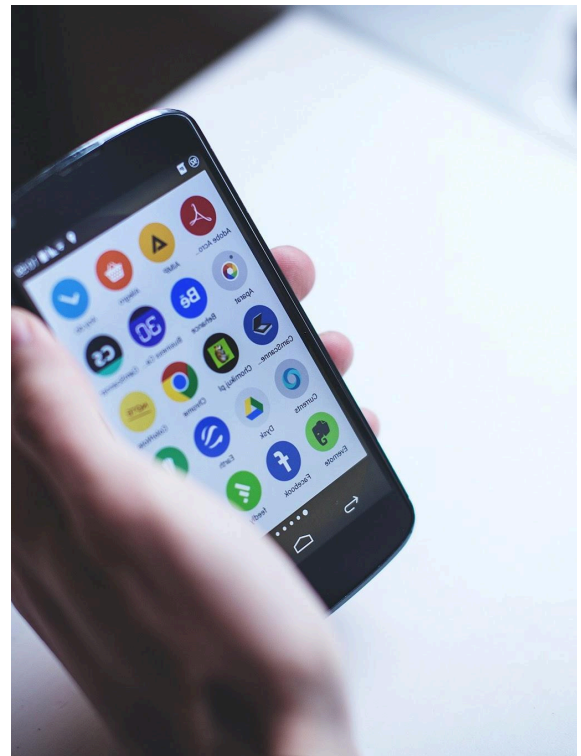
Technology Ban; Proving Useful or Simply Unfruitful?

Montana Leatherbury

02.04.2026

Imagine a study hall, every desk filled with students. The room is dead silent, other than the buzzing of the fluorescent lights overhead and occasional ruffle of papers. The air is nearly stagnant; no one can move or talk. Many students have no work to be finished, in a class where that is the sole task, and so a search for something else to do begins. Perhaps one doesn't want to use their chromebook, as they need to save their battery for other classes. One rule remains consistent: under no circumstances are you allowed to use outside electronics during school hours.

This is the reality most students may find themselves in following the signing of House Bill 250 by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine in May of 2024, requiring every Ohio school district to establish a phone/electronic policy limiting and prohibiting usage during school hours. This law required schools to enact their policy by 2026.



The policy was created to address studies linking prohibiting phone use to an increase in productivity and reductions in bullying incidences.

While this bill required the policy for the 2025-2026 school year and onwards, many Ohio schools had policies before this bill. For example, Cincinnati Public Schools in 2024 had middle and high school students lock their phones in special magnetic pouches they kept on them for the duration of the school day.

Similar policies prohibit devices such as headphones. However, these policies can negatively affect students with special needs, who often utilize noise-cancelling headphones to decrease overstimulation, increase focus, and/or help audibly understand text.

HB 250 was signed not only to improve education, but to improve safety conditions during school hours. According to law enforcement, the banning of phones decreases bullying and makes it harder to coordinate fights.

Banning phones also improves safety in case of emergency, as parents who receive emergency information from their children can cause traffic congestion and occasionally block first aid when arriving at the school. Despite this, many students and parents within and outside of Groveport have raised concerns about these new policies.

In a survey conducted for the Groveport Madison student body, 57.7% of students responded “no” when asked if they felt school had become safer since the policy came into effect. However, evidence may point to the contrary. In a report from the GMHS administration, the number of students involved in fighting/assaults in the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year decreased by 50%.

“I would say it's not that safe to do at all,” junior Tristen B. responded. “There are many reasons as to why. For example, family emergencies could happen, and what if you need to contact your parents for something immediately?”

Sophomore Kirsten W. said, “Even if we have had less fights, it has still caused other harm for us. I can't contact my mom and it has caused my anxiety to get worse. I can't message my mom things to remind myself. I can't make sure that my friends are okay if they aren't at school. I can't message my mom if I feel sick because the office does nothing. I have a lot of problems and I can't contact my mom in any way to keep her updated.”

Many students and parents have expressed concern over the lack of easy access to parental contact during school hours in case of emergency. Along with this, a major complaint from students stemming from this policy has been the prohibition of headphones.

“Headphones should be allowed. Some kids have issues focusing with so many sounds around them or even if it is too quiet, so having the headphones to block out noise or to put music [on] can help students focus,” said an anonymous respondent.

Various anonymous student responses also expressed their desire for electronics and/or headphones to be at least allowed during non-academic periods, such as lunch, study halls, and transition time.

The debate over phones in school will likely continue to be controversial, and it will not dissipate any time soon. We will continue to cover opinions from parents, students, teaching staff and lawmakers about this issue as they change and develop.