



Grant Community High School

District Newsletter

April 2026



Student of the Month

Miami de la Rosa



The Grant Community High School April Student of the Month is senior Miami de la Rosa, daughter of Reynold and Florivilla de la Rosa of Volo. Miami is a highly accomplished senior at Grant Community High School who exemplifies academic excellence and a deep commitment to both her school and heritage. With an exceptional GPA of 5.045, Miami has pursued a rigorous academic path, enrolling in a total of 10 AP classes and earning the AP Scholar Award during her junior year. She has been a member of the National Honor Society (NHS) since her sophomore year and is a consistent fixture on the Honor Roll. In addition to her classroom achievements, she has earned the Scholar Athlete Award for her contributions to the tennis team.

Miami is a prominent leader in extracurricular activities, currently serving as the President of the Computer Science Club. Her competitive drive is evident through her three-year involvement in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), where she placed 2nd at Regionals, 4th at State, and qualified for the national level as a junior. On the court, she participated in four years of JV and Varsity tennis, earning the MVP award during her sophomore year. She also serves as the manager for the boys' tennis team and has volunteered her time at summer tennis camps for children.

Her dedication to service is reflected in her 150+ community service hours. Miami has volunteered for a variety of organizations, including Feed My Starving Children, Teen Court, NHS community service projects, and school concessions. While she does not have traditional employment experience, she completed a notable internship at the Sibonga Municipal Hall in the Philippines for Civil Engineering, where she earned certifications in basic AutoCAD and GIS Mapping. In her free time, she enjoys traveling internationally to collect postcards and spending quality time with her family and friends.

Looking toward the future, Miami has committed to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for Civil Engineering. For Miami, being named Student of the Month is a way to honor the sacrifices made by her parents, who immigrated from the Philippines to provide her with a strong education. She hopes to use this recognition to inspire underclassmen to stay dedicated to their education and community service, proving that perseverance and sacrifice lead to meaningful success.

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Board of Education

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

Ivy Fleming
Laurie Hembrey
Ed Lescher
Bob Yanik



Principal's Corner



I hope that everyone had a restful and restorative Spring Break. As we come back to school for the final two months before the end of the year, we have a lot to look forward to as a Bulldog community. As mentioned in my last letter, we completed our final College and Career Readiness Activity on March 31st. These activities and the curriculum developed around them are targeted at helping each student find their pathway to success after graduation from Grant Community High School. We believe that each student should have a college or career plan that they can build over their four years of high school and, as a result of their work and preparation, be successful in their transition from Grant Community High School. I have enjoyed getting feedback from our students about these days and hearing about their hopes and dreams. In continued partnership with our community, families, and students, we can build pathways for our students to reach their goals, be active cheerleaders for them along the way when the path gets more challenging, and celebrate their successes. We have a strong community dedicated to the success of our students, and I look forward to continuing in this work with our students and seeing them succeed as graduates of Grant Community High School.

An important step to this success is coming up on April 7th. On this day, freshman through junior students will be taking the ACT, or the version appropriate to their grade level. The ACT is an important tool for opening doors for students for scholarships and for college and university admission. Please remind your students to get plenty of sleep in preparation for the test. Over the week preceding the test, we will be celebrating "Test Your Best" week. During this week, we provide tips for students to help them prepare for the test on April 7th and theme days to help build excitement about the many opportunities that may become available for students. Our students have been preparing for the test using Edgenuity, and all junior students participated in an ACT preparation day in March. I know that the hard work that our students are doing each day as part of their classes makes a difference.

This month, we will also be hosting our annual Writer's Expo. This week serves as a celebration of storytelling and features guest speakers who share their stories and writing process, student voice through stories and written works, and staff members sharing writing they have created. This event helps bring writing to life for our students, inspires them to find ways to use writing to share their story, and helps our students see that there are many opportunities for careers associated with writing. It continues to be an event that is enjoyed by our students and staff alike. The event has offered the opportunity for many great points of conversation between students and staff. Having had a role in the event in the past, I always enjoyed engaging with our students and have always been impressed by how engaged our students are as an audience. Our students certainly take every opportunity to learn and grow, especially during events like Writer's Expo and our Veterans' Day celebrations.

Continuing the theme of self-expression, Grant will host the NLCC Art Show for the first time in eight years on April 10th. Students from across the NLCC will be coming to Grant to showcase their art, participate in clinicals with professional artists, and build a piece of unique art with members of schools from across the conference. It is an important event to showcase the creativity and skill of the artists within our NLCC community. At the event, our bands and choirs will be providing music for the show when it officially opens to the public. I hope to see our Grant community support the arts at this unique and special event.

This month, we will also be honoring our freshman students who have started strong and met the criteria to be honored at the Freshman Honors Breakfast. We will also be inducting new students into the National Honor Society this month and will be honoring two of our seniors at the Illinois Principal Association's student recognition breakfast. We look forward to May, when we will be recognizing and honoring more student success at our Honors Night celebration.

There is a lot to look forward to this month, and I am excited to see what we can all accomplish together as a community committed to the success of our students!

Go Bulldogs!

Mr. Blair Schoell
Principal





ACT Testing

On Tuesday, April 7, Grant Community High School students in grades 9-11 will take the state mandated ACT (Juniors), Pre-ACT Secure (Sophomores), or Pre-ACT (Freshmen) test at school. This assessment opportunity gives our students a chance to measure their academic achievement and readiness for college and career, whether they're going to college or into the workforce. All freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are expected to be in attendance on that day for the exam. The ACT exam is a part of the state graduation requirements. Seniors will not report to school, and are encouraged to use the day to explore future options.

Buses will run typical routes on the morning of April 7. The school day will begin at 7:40 AM with students reporting to their assigned testing locations. Freshmen and sophomores should finish testing at 11:00 AM and will be released with buses running typical routes. Juniors will complete testing at 12:00 PM, and normal bus transportation home will be provided at that time. Students with accommodations will be released at different times, which the office of special education will

communicate individually with those families.

After spring break, students will receive a letter identifying the classroom and teacher for their assessment day. All room assignments will also be posted in the hallways on the day of testing. Juniors will be given directions to create a MyACT account as part of their non-test experience the week of April 1. Please encourage your student to complete all questions, including listing up to four colleges where they can send their scores for free, before the test.

Materials needed for testing day include:

- Student ID
- Fully charged Chromebook
- Chromebook charging cord
- A calculator. If you are not sure that your calculator is a type that is permitted, please check the [ACT website](#).

Parents and guardians can help students do their best on the test by encouraging the following:

- Attend school and be on time on the day of testing
- Get a good night's sleep before testing
- Eat breakfast on the morning of testing

Please remind them why taking the ACT matters: it can help them measure academic growth; it gives them information on careers they might enjoy; and their scores can lead to scholarship and financial aid opportunities for college.

We want all students to have a positive experience with the test. If you have questions about the required testing, contact the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment at (847) 973-3800. You can also visit the [ACT website](#) for more test-taking tips, and free practice tests can be found on [ACT Practice Test](#) section of their website.

Good luck on testing day, Bulldogs!



TEST YOUR BEST WEEK

SPIRIT DAYS

**MARCH
30**

MISMATCH MONDAY

wear mismatched clothing or crazy accessories

**MARCH
31**

TEAM SPIRIT TUESDAY

wear your favorite team jersey or school colors

**APRIL
1**

WHOA-TIVATIONAL WEDNESDAY

wear your favorite bright colors

**APRIL
2**

THROWBACK THURSDAY

dress in styles from your favorite decade

**APRIL
6**

MAKE IT HAPPEN MONDAY

dress as your future career or rep your college

**APRIL
7**

ACT WITH CONFIDENCE

wear an outfit that makes you feel confident
& ready to succeed

ACT[®] WITH CONFIDENCE - ACHIEVE YOUR HIGHEST POTENTIAL



Music In Our Schools

For more than 30 years, March has been officially designated by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) for the observance of Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM®), the time of year when music education becomes the focus of schools across the nation. The purpose of MIOSM is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children and to remind citizens that school is where all children should have access to music. MIOSM is an opportunity for music teachers to bring their music programs to the attention of the school and the community, and to display the benefits that school music brings to students of all ages.



MIOS Choir Concert Performance



MIOS Band Concert Performance

To celebrate Music In Our Schools Month in our community, the Grant Community High School Music Department hosted the Music In Our Schools (MIOS) Festival on Wednesday, March 4. Since 2007, GCHS has welcomed the music programs of our surrounding middle schools to perform together and celebrate our shared passion for music. Band and choir students from Grant, Big Hollow, Gavin South, and Stanton came together for an afternoon of rehearsals and an evening concert that featured band and choir performances by students from all schools. During the rehearsal day, students had the opportunity to improve their performance skills, connect with other students who enjoy singing and playing, and work with the music educators from each school. The efforts of students and directors

were showcased in the evening concert, culminating in a grand finale featuring all band and choir students. For those who could not attend or would like to relive the night, we have a full recording of our [MIOS Festival Concert](#).

The GCHS Music Department would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the Boards of Education, Administrators, Music Educators, and Families of students from all participating schools for their support of this event. We are grateful to be part of a community that values Music Education!



MIOS Choir Concert Performance



MIOS Choir Concert Performance



MIOS Band Concert Performance



Social Studies Golden Globe Recipient

James Plescia is April's recipient of the Social Studies Golden Globe Award!

James is a student who brings thoughtful comments, important questions, and different perspectives to class discussions. While it can be easier to analyze certain topics over others, James brings a consistent level of curiosity, care, and engagement every day. His teacher, Ms. Becmer, shared that "it's clear that he's not just interested in learning what happened in the past, he genuinely wants to understand why it happened, what it meant to the people involved, and what we can learn from it today." Through his ability to challenge ideas, willingness to go the extra mile, and approach to learning, James has proven himself to be worthy of the prestigious Golden Globe recognition. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition, James!



The Social Studies Department presents James with the Golden Globe award.

ACT Rising Stars

The PreACT Rising Stars program celebrates students who are already demonstrating strong academic potential, recognizing those who score in the top half of all U.S. students on the PreACT 8/9 Assessment. This exam offers an early look at the ACT testing experience while providing valuable insight into future performance and college readiness.

More than just a benchmark, the assessment helps students, families, and educators better understand strengths, identify opportunities for growth, and begin thinking about future college and career pathways.

Students are recognized at three levels based on their national performance:

- Distinguished Scholars Award – Top 3% of test takers nationwide
- Rising Scholars Award – Top 4–10%
- Early Scholars Award – Top 11–50%

At GCHS, students earned recognition at all three levels:

- 11 students received the Distinguished Scholars Award
- 21 students earned the Rising Scholars Award
- 165 students were honored with the Early Scholars Award

Students recognized as Distinguished and Rising Scholars received a lapel pin and certificate, while Early Scholars were awarded a certificate in recognition of their achievement.

The PreACT 8/9 and Rising Stars program serves as an important starting point, helping students build confidence and see what's possible as they continue their academic journey.

For more information, visit act.org/rising-stars or act.org/preact.



Distinguished Scholars



Rising Scholars



Early Scholars

NHS Receives Fox Lake Anchor Award

Grant Community High School is proud to share that its National Honor Society (NHS) has been selected as a recipient of the Village of Fox Lake Anchor Award, presented by Mayor Schmit and the Village Board. This recognition highlights the outstanding commitment of NHS members to service, leadership, and community involvement.

Throughout the year, NHS members dedicate their time and energy to a variety of initiatives, including community clean-ups, food drives, peer mentoring, and support for local events. Their consistent willingness to give back and lead by example has made a meaningful and lasting impact on the Fox Lake community.

This honor reflects the core pillars of NHS—Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character—and the way Grant students continue to embody those principles both inside and outside the classroom.

We are grateful to the Village of Fox Lake for this recognition and incredibly proud of our NHS members for the positive difference they make every day.



The Village of Fox Lake presents Grant NHS members with the Fox Lake Anchor Award.



2026 INDUCTIONS

This month, the Grant Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) is welcoming 50 new members to the organization. The inductees were selected based on their character, leadership, and willingness to serve others. As members, the inductees will be empowered with opportunities to further develop these characteristics and to leave a positive mark on our school and community, all while balancing their academics as they are required to maintain a 3.5 unweighted grade point average and be passing their academic classes.

All NHS members volunteer in a minimum of six hours of ongoing service per quarter. This can include being a Big Dawg mentor during TEAM, a peer tutor in one of the academic labs, or volunteering with a community organization. Members are also expected to volunteer for five separate events throughout the school year. This year, members have served at Back to School Night, Lake Villa Fall Festival, Fox Lake Pumpkin Jubilee, numerous feeder school events, and 8th Grade Enrollment Night among many others. The NHS advisers, officers, and current members look forward to working with the 2026 inductees!

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.

HOSTED BY GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

NLCC ART SHOW

a celebration of creativity & student talent from across the conference

APRIL 10 - GCHS EAST GYM

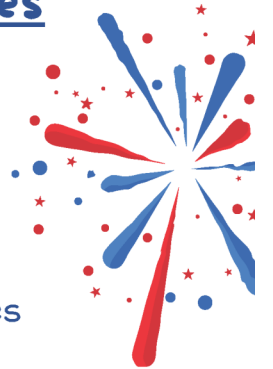


Lake County Celebrates America's 250th Birthday!

K-12 ART & ESSAY CONTEST

We the People: America Through My Eyes

- Share your personal vision of America.
- What does "We the People" mean to you personally?
- Through art or essay, share how your life, family, landscapes, traditions, community or culture reflects the spirit of America.
- Demonstrate how your unique perspective contributes to the larger story of who we are as a nation.



Grade-level Categories:

- Kindergarten - 2nd grade
- 3rd - 5th grade
- 6th - 8th grade
- 9th - 12th grade

Submit by:
April 15, 2026



Art Submissions:

- Drawing, painting, collage, digital art or photography
- Maximum size: 18" x 24"

Essay Submissions:

- Up to 250 words



County Administrator's Office
18 N. County St., 9th Floor
Waukegan, IL 60085
(847) 377 - 2300
communications@lakecountyil.gov

Additional information and the Official Rules are available on page 2 and online at:
www.lakecountyil.gov/250contest
Or, scan the QR code:



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Mathletes Qualify for State

On Saturday, February 28, the Math Team competed at the ICTM Regional at Northern Illinois University for the opportunity to qualify for the ICTM State Competition. The team had been preparing since September for this competition, including practicing multiple days each week and participating in local invites to measure their abilities. The hard work paid off, as 17 students qualified for at least one event at the state competition! On Saturday, April 18, the following individuals will be attending Illinois State University to compete for some state hardware:

Malcolm Parsons, Adrian Monroe, Layla Kalmerton - Algebra I, Fr/So 8-Person Team, Calculator Team

Lyra Langhoff, Daniel Martin - Algebra I, Fr/So 8-Person Team

Cooper Marsek - Fr/So 8-Person Team

Patryk Schab - Algebra I

Teagan Lord, Sydney Halliday - Fr/So 8-Person Team

John McCollom, Ravi Soni, Avery Hamilton, Joey Reiner, Piotr Schab -

Calculator Team

Kyle Neuber - Algebra II

Bella Raube, Nicole Sak - Pre-Calculus

Good luck at State, Math-elites!



Regional Math Team

HEY JUNIORS!

WE NEED PROOF OF YOUR MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE

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

Did you receive this vaccine after you turned 16?

- YES - Check with your doctor or pharmacy & get documentation for our Health Office.
- NO - Get your vaccine! It is required for Senior year.

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

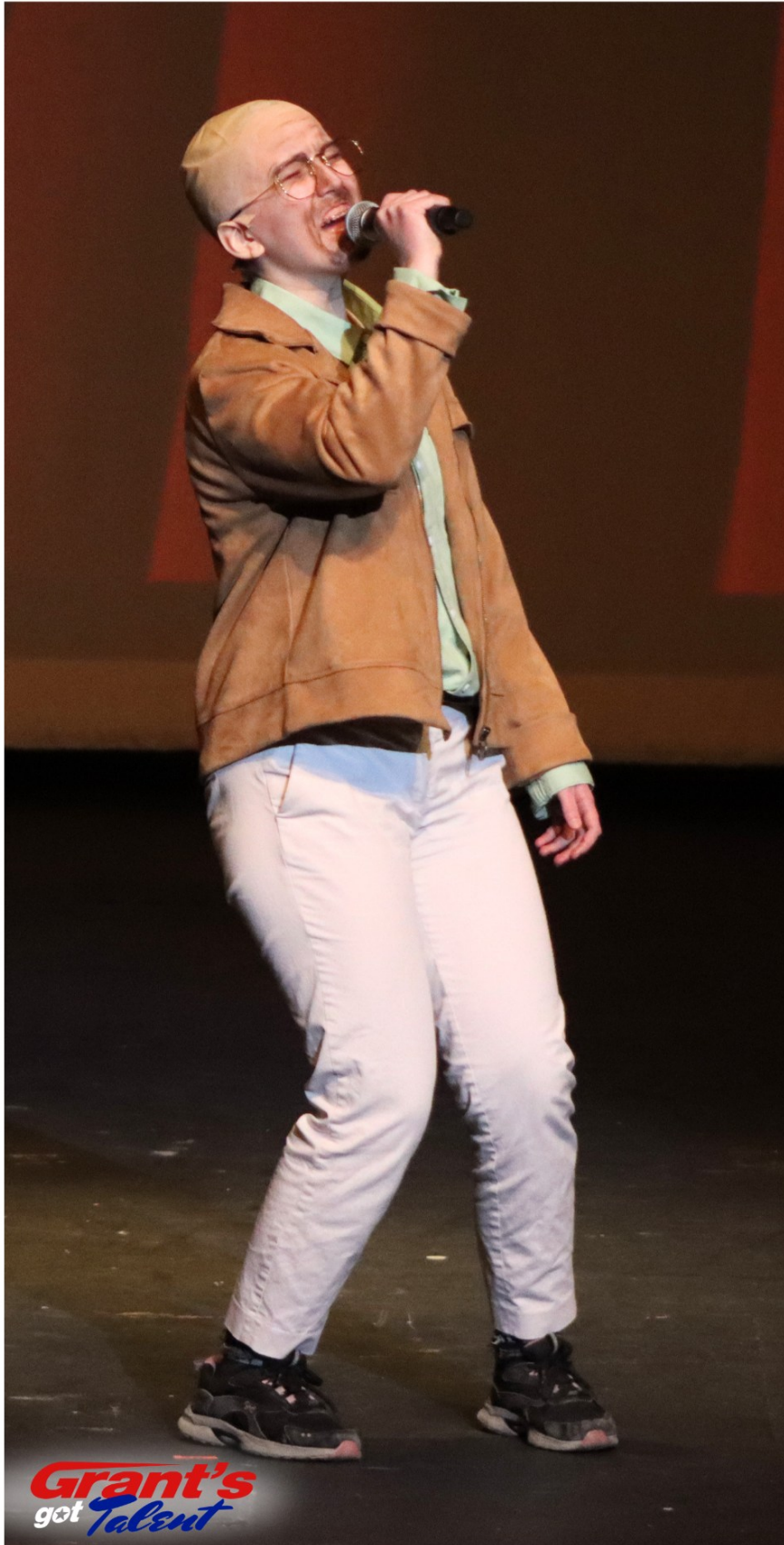
Grant's
got Talent

Grant's Got Talent once again delivered an unforgettable night of entertainment, highlighting the creativity and talent of our Bulldogs. From duets and dancing to powerful vocal performances, the show featured a wide range of acts that kept the audience engaged from start to finish.

Top honors were awarded to Sara Hawkins, who earned First Place for her performance of *Baby Blue*. Derrick Rios took home Second Place with *My Way*, while Brady Nix secured Third Place with his rendition of *Glycerine*. The Audience Choice Award went to the duo of Audrey Simcoe and Sophie Dollinger for their performance of *Therapy* from *Tick, Tick... Boom!*.

All performers brought energy and passion to the stage, making the event a true celebration of student talent. A special thank you goes to the National Art Honor Society (NAHS) for organizing and hosting the event, as well as the Talking Bulldogs for serving as emcees throughout the evening. Appreciation also goes out to the audience for their participation in selecting the Audience Choice winner.

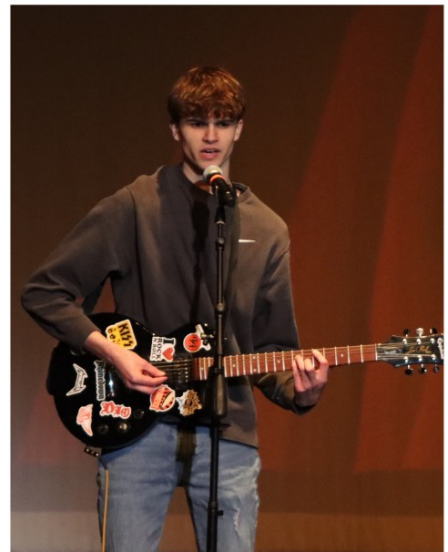




First Place, Sara Hawkins



Second Place, Derrick Rios



Third Place, Brady Nix



Audience Choice,
Audrey Simcoe & Sophie Dollinger



Anne Glitz, Glori Rodriguez, Sophia Fandel, & Sophia Weber



Christian Russo



Cayden Zeller



Ana Blancas



Joshua Huerta



Glori Rodriguez



Phoenix Soloveychik



Asher Levine



Bitter/Cress



Dylan Schmidt



Phoenix Soloveychik



Amelia Foy



Sofia Esparza



Xander Jurgaitis



Michael Lamz



Jay Bermudeza



Gerry Clark



Arianna Walker



Sebastian Arteaga



Gwen Szarban



Lance Lavajo & Kaelee Feliciano



OPTIONS FAIR 2026

A fair to connect individuals with disabilities to essential resources
for future planning

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Lake Zurich High School

(Field House)

300 Church St

Lake Zurich, IL 60047

GUEST SPEAKERS: Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

6:00 PM - 6:45 PM

OPTIONS Fair

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Spanish interpreting available.

If requesting additional accommodations, please contact your home
district by March 1, 2026

Agencies and resources at the OPTIONS FAIR areas of focus:

Educational Opportunities • Employment Services • Vocational Day
Programs • Government Programs • Health Services • Legal Resources •
Recreational Opportunities • Referral Sources • Residential Programs •
Transportation Resources

LOP Students Bring Pop-Up Shop to Life

From Concept to Customer

For the potted plants, students thrifted unique pots from Goodwill and carefully selected and planted greenery, learning both budgeting and design skills. Freshies were made by scenting and dyeing wax beads, then baking them to create fragrant car air fresheners. Students also created simmer pots by dehydrating lemons and using an assembly-line system to efficiently package each set.

Beyond creating products, students gained valuable real-world experience by interacting with customers, handling transactions, and adapting to feedback. The pop-up shop not only highlighted their creativity but also helped build essential life and job skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by and supported our students by making a purchase. We truly appreciate your encouragement!

The Learning Opportunities Program (LOP) recently hosted a successful pop-up shop, showcasing a variety of handmade items created entirely by students. Products included potted plants, freshies, and simmer pots, each crafted through hands-on, student-led processes.

For the potted plants, students thrifted unique pots from Goodwill and carefully selected and planted greenery, learning both budgeting and design skills. Freshies were made by scenting and dyeing wax beads, then baking them to create fragrant



LOP Pop-Up Shop, Students, & Staff

Students within our Technology Education Department showcased their skills at the Lake County Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology & Trades Competition on Friday, March 6, earning top finishes across multiple events. Competing in five different challenges, our Bulldogs placed 1st–3rd in three events, including an impressive showing with both 1st and 2nd place finishes in the same category.

In Process Design Development, students were tasked with designing a precise manufacturing solution for a company's mold while incorporating branding and functionality. The team of Piotr Schab, Cole Tellez, Ethan Weiher, and Lairek Shulman earned 3rd place for their work.

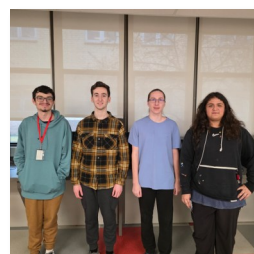
The Children's Furniture Installation event challenged students to design modular, adaptable furniture tailored to customer needs. Grant excelled in this category, earning both 1st place (Evelyn Vasey, Michelangelo Sampson, and Christina Von Hoene) and 2nd place (Joe Sovsky, Andrew Berger, James Plescia, and Jorge Vazquez-Reyes).

In Automated Assembly, students focused on improving efficiency and accuracy within a simulated workcell using industry principles and equipment. Andrew Grill, Evan Johnson, and Charlie Swederski took home 1st place in the event.

Congratulations to all of the students who competed and represented Grant so well! Their success highlights the strength of the program and the real-world skills they continue to develop in the classroom.

Tech Ed Students Earn Top Finishes at County Competition

From Blueprint to Build



Process Design Development Team—3rd Place



Automated Assembly Team—1st Place



Children's Furniture Installation Team—2nd Place



Children's Furniture Installation Team—1st Place

Tackle Post-High School Planning

Parent University is a series of workshops and events designed to support parents, guardians, and caregivers. Our April Parent University session focuses on supporting our students throughout the financial aid process for college.



April 22—Financial Aid Night (Juniors)

Whether you are new to the financial aid process, halfway through your application, or need help determining the correct educational path, join our School Counselors on April 22 for information about college applications, FAFSA, and more!

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. Check out the [Parent University](#) section of the Grant website for more event information.

Upcoming Food Service Promotions & Updates

Week of April 6

Orange Banana Smoothies will be available for purchase at the Dawg Bowl.

Tuesday, April 14

Grilled Ham & Cheese Panini—Senior Cafe

Monday, April 20

Beef Taco Salad—Commons, Salad Bar Line #5

Monday, April 27

All American Wrap/Coleslaw—Commons, Deli Line Express

Make sure to grab a serving and let them know how it is!

Do you enjoy dining out and catching a show but don't want to pay outrageous prices?

The Grant Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) has a deal for you! Before enjoying the opening night of *The SpongeBob Musical* on Friday, April 24, enjoy all-you-can-eat spaghetti, breadstick, dessert, and a drink all for just \$7! Plus, children who are preschool-age or younger eat for free!

Takeout is also available.

We will be gladly serving patrons from 4:30 - 7:00 PM. Tickets can be purchased online either through the provided link to by scanning the QR code. When prompted to include the name of the NHS student you purchased your ticket from, you can include the name of NHS member that you know, or simply put "Newsletter Sale".



[NHS Spaghetti Dinner Ticket Purchase Link](#)

We look forward to serving you dinner before the show!

DON'T FORGETTI



TO JOIN US FOR SPAGHETTI

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



Hall of Fame

Nomination Information

The Hall of Fame has been established to recognize and showcase outstanding graduates and dedicated staff as part of our efforts to promote excellence and achievement for learners in Grant Community High School District 124.

The Hall of Fame was designed to honor exemplary individuals who have achieved distinction, outstanding accomplishment, or significant contribution within their professions, communities, schools, families, or personal lives.

Nominations

Nominations will be accepted for the Hall of Fame, Class of 2026, until April 24, 2026. Visit [GCHS Hall of Fame](#) for the nomination forms.

Criteria to be Considered for Alumni

- Graduates of Grant Community High School are eligible for consideration, provided that graduation occurred at least ten years prior to the year in which they are nominated.
- Graduate has made a significant contribution within their profession, community, school, family, or personal life.
- Graduate positively promotes Grant Community High School.

Criteria to be Considered for Staff

- Staff of Grant Community High School are eligible for consideration if they have a minimum of twenty years of service to District 124 and provided they are either retired or have ceased active employment at least three years prior to the year in which they are nominated.
- Staff member has made a significant contribution at Grant Community High School, in their community, family, or personal life.
- Staff member positively promotes Grant Community High School.

Procedures for Nominations

- Nominations may be made by families, friends, alumni, faculty, staff, administration, and community members of District 124.
- In order to be considered, the nomination form should be fully completed and submitted as outlined on the form.
- Nominations will be kept on file and considered for a total of five years following submission. After five years, a candidate may be re-nominated.

Selection of Inductees

- The selection committee is comprised of a member of the Board of Education, administration, staff, alumni of Grant Community High School District 124, and community members.
- Selected inductees will be contacted by July 1, 2026.

Induction

- New members of the Hall of Fame will be inducted at a ceremony during Homecoming Week 2026.
- New members will be asked to participate in a variety of Homecoming activities, including a reception and awards ceremony at a meeting of the Board of Education, an all-school pep assembly, the varsity football game, and the Homecoming parade. While the intent of this program is to honor graduates and Grant staff, it is also to provide positive role models and inspiration for current students.

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.

CLASS OF 2026

College is **ONE CLICK** away!



Getting into college is **easy** with



NO Application Fees

NO Essays

NO Letters of Recommendation

One Click College Admit is Illinois' direct admissions program into state public universities and community colleges. Your high school GPA is all you need to be admitted into a partner institution!

How It Works: Class of 2026 (Seniors)

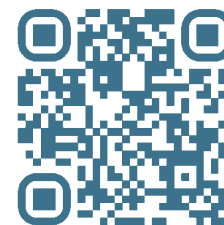
- Just create a [Common App](#) account and enter your info & GPA.
- Wait to receive admission offers.
- Accept an offer by the enrollment deadline.

Partner Universities



Visit oneclickadmit.org for a list of partner community colleges

Visit oneclickadmit.org or scan the QR code to get started!



Have questions? Email info@oneclickadmit.org

August 2025



Seniors, have you received a scholarship or award outside of the Grant Community Scholarships? We want to celebrate you! Email Mrs. Schroeder with your accomplishments by April 17 to be included in our senior shout-outs. Don't miss your chance to be recognized!



GRANT BASEBALL 12TH ANNUAL BOWLING FOR BULLDOGS BASEBALL

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH
1PM & 3PM STARTS
RAYMOND'S BOWL, JOHNSBURG**



**\$25 PER BOWLER
INCLUDES BOWLING, SHOES, PIZZA & SODA**

**DRAWINGS TO WIN:
✓ RAFFLE BASKETS
✓ 50/50 DRAWINGS**

**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO SIGN UP**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT LORI SLEDZIK
(847) 343-9073
SLDZK@YAHOO.COM**

Bulldog Happenings

Makary Sekulich Caps Off High School Career with Top Finish at Nationals



Makary Sekulich

Makary Sekulich closed out his high school wheelchair basketball career with an outstanding performance on the national stage. Competing with the WASA Marquette Eagles, his team earned a spot at the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) Junior Nationals after a strong showing in their qualifying tournament, entering Nationals ranked 6th in the country.

From March 18–23 in West Monroe, Louisiana, Makary and his team competed against the best in the nation. They advanced to Day Two with two wins, including a major upset over the #3 seed. After a hard-fought game against the #2 seed, the Eagles rebounded to defeat the CLT Rollin' Hornets and secure an impressive 3rd place finish in the nation.

In addition to his team's success, Makary was recognized as a NWBA Timothy Nugent Academic All-American, highlighting his achievements both on the court and in the classroom.

While this marks the end of his high school career, Makary's journey is far from over. He will continue competing at the next level as a member of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater wheelchair basketball program.

Pickleball with a Purpose

Our second annual Pickleball Tournament was a huge hit! With 20 teams competing and over \$1,000 raised in entry fees and donations, it was an incredible day supporting scholarships for our first generation students. It was great to see so many people from the greater Bulldog community come together for a great cause! Congratulations to our Championship Teams!



Andy Berger competing in the Pickleball Tournament.

Bulldogs Shine in Army Fitness Challenge



Bulldogs receive trophy & certificate for being the "U.S. Army Fittest School" in the area.

Our Bulldogs crushed the Army Fitness Challenge and brought home the title of "U.S. Army Fittest School" in the area! Competing against two nearby schools, our Bulldogs showed teamwork, leadership, and unstoppable determination.

The Army Fitness Challenge is a full-day PE takeover where local Soldiers, along with our Health & Wellness team, guide students through high-energy fitness stations designed to emphasize teamwork, leadership, and healthy living. Students competed in period-long team relays for the fastest overall times, earning free T-shirts along the way.

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

A GOLDEN MOMENT

PROM 2026

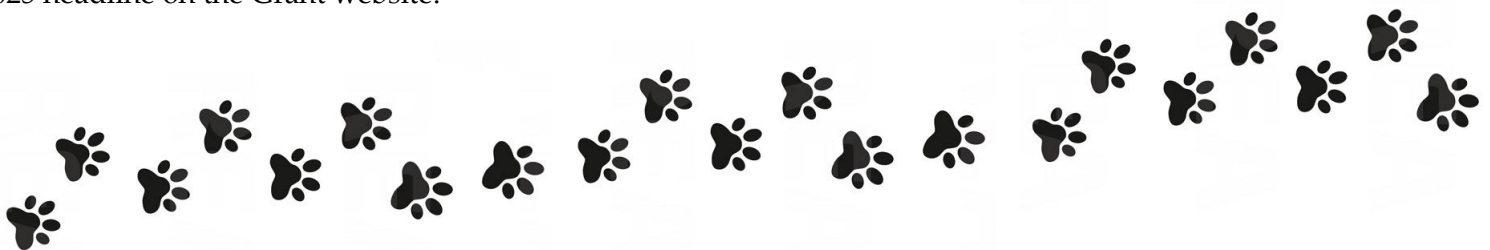
This year's Prom, A Golden Moment, is quickly approaching! Prom is Friday, May 1, and the destination is the Belvedere Banquets in Elk Grove Village, IL. In order to attend Prom, students must be a Junior or Senior currently enrolled at GCHS. Students wishing to bring a Freshman, Sophomore, or out-of-school guest are allowed. Our [Guest Dance Approval Form](#) has moved online this year. Students wishing to bring a guest must complete the online form by 3:10 PM on Friday, April 3.

Tickets to the event will be sold at \$80.00 per ticket. Prom tickets will be on sale online or in the Bookstore from April 10 through April 17. Only check and cash payments can be made in the Bookstore. All GCHS Senior and Junior Students must purchase tickets individually. Senior and Junior Students may not purchase two tickets under the same ID#. If you are purchasing a ticket for your date who is an underclassman (Sophomore/Freshman) or out-of-school guest, you must use that student's name and student ID#. Seniors/Juniors who are bringing a guest are responsible for their guests. When purchasing tickets for you and your guest, please select the appropriate ticket purchase. Students who have been approved to bring an outside guest will select the Senior/Junior taking an out-of-school guest ticket. If your guest has not been pre-approved, the student will not be allowed to attend.

Prom is a school function; all school rules and regulations, as stated in the Student/Parent Handbook, apply to all students attending prom. Students who behave improperly will be referred to a GCHS administrator and parents will be notified. All students and guests will be required to ride school-sponsored bus transportation to and from Prom. This bus transportation is included in the price of the ticket and is mandatory. Students are not allowed to utilize private transportation to or from Prom. Students who do so will not be admitted to Prom.

Prom check-in will begin in the Field House at 4:45 PM on Prom night. Students must present their ticket and current ID upon check-in to the Prom. Outside guests must present a valid state-issued photo ID to be admitted to Prom. Students who do not have proper identification will not be allowed to board a bus. Buses will depart beginning at 5:30 PM. All students must be present for the entire school day on Friday, May 1, in order to attend Prom. No absences, tardies, or passes off campus will be excused for students attending Prom.

All questions can be directed to event organizers Ms. Highley at (847) 973-3742, thighley@grantbulldogs.org, or Ms. Crambes at (847) 973-3455, tcrambes@grantbulldogs.org. For more information on Prom, visit our Prom 2025 headline on the Grant website.



AI Chatbots and Teens

What parents need to know — and how to talk about safety concerns.

Like the rest of us, teenagers are increasingly using AI chatbots, digital tools that simulate human interactions. AI bots are also proliferating on gaming and social media sites. Platforms like Replika and Character.AI allow the user to create highly customized characters to interact with as you would a friend (or partner!). A recent study found that 72 percent of teens surveyed have used AI companions at least once, and 52 percent qualify as regular users who interact with these platforms at least a few times a month. This trend is causing concerns among mental health professionals, who are worried these obliging digital companions may pose significant risks to teens' emotional and social well-being, citing such concerns as exposure to sexual content and dangerous advice.

AI chatbots as digital companions

While they come in different forms, chatbots generally engage in ongoing back-and-forth conversations with the user. The more you interact, the more the bot learns about you and the more personalized its responses become. Bots can come off as your best friend — their answers are often affirming, they are available 24/7, they will churn out that three-page essay on Hamlet in seconds, no complaints. They respond to your every request with effusive enthusiasm (That is an insightful question! Great idea! What would you like me to do next for you?).

This charm is by design: While they might seem to be an empathetic pal, chatbots are driven by an algorithm whose main purpose is to keep you engaged so it can mine your data or get you to linger on a platform as long as possible.

While teens might start off by using AI for help with schoolwork, they are increasingly relying on chatbots for the kind of emotional support and unburdening of confidences that earlier generations turned to real-life besties for. In fact, many teens can come to depend on it.

Many teens do simply experiment with bots for entertainment or information. Experts indicate that most teens understand that interacting with obliging chatbots does not constitute a real relationship. But relationships with AI chatbots have in a few high-profile cases appeared to play a role in reinforcing self-harm and suicidal thoughts for teens struggling with their mental health.

Why teens are drawn to chatbots

Developmentally, teenagers may be uniquely vulnerable to chatbots, suggest experts: They have grown up very comfortable forming “relationships” with computer characters from the time they could first swipe their tiny finger on a screen. Adolescence is also an age when teens are increasingly focused on how they are fitting in with friends and peer groups which can create a lot of social anxiety. The option of a connection with an AI ‘friend’ who is not going to judge you is uniquely enticing for this population. Sharing feelings and private thoughts with a chatbot provides the flavor of friendship in a frictionless way, with no risk of rejection or awkwardness. While a friend might not text you back, chat bots are always available and judgment-free.

Risks of using chatbots

But these synthetic connections have risks for teens, too. An overreliance on bots can get in the way of the messy and sometimes painful business of forming and maintaining real life relationships. Practicing social skills to connect with complicated actual people is a key developmental task of adolescence. Experts suggest that the more teens engage with bots, the less practice they get in how to respond in the moment to what someone says, to clarify misunderstandings, or to tolerate the feelings that can come up in awkward social situations.

Additionally, chat bots may satisfy the need for connection in a superficial way. In those pre-iPhone days, boredom and loneliness used to drive teens to the food court or the basketball bleachers to mix it up with their peers.

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Continued from Page 22...

The weaker substitute of bots may be just enough to keep some teens alone on their phones in their bedrooms, idling away hours in what seem like friendly conversations.

Dangers for the most vulnerable

The human-like quality of AI chatbots can have particular allure for teens with underlying vulnerabilities, such as being socially isolated or suffering from a mental health disorder that might impair social interactions. If teens are struggling with their mental health and turn to AI for advice, it can respond in ways that can be unhelpful and even dangerous.

The results in a few extreme cases have been devastating. There have been tragic stories where a teenager was talking intensely to a chatbot, and it led toward an acceleration of the mental health crisis the teenager was currently experiencing. In some cases, chatbots can act as dangerous echo chambers, reinforcing a user's serious mental health symptoms rather than questioning them. It is important to note that chatbots can't and don't do what a trained therapist does — assess for risk, make sure to confirm that someone is connecting to social or professional support to ensure safety, or supportively challenge and reframe a patient's thinking when it has the potential to hurt them.

How to talk to your teen about chatbots

It is an understatement to say the landscape of AI is changing rapidly and we are all scrambling to keep up. Even in the face of lawsuits, tech companies have been slow to put up effective guardrails on chatbot use by youth. This makes it even more important to have a talk with your teen to fostering their digital literacy.

Be curious. At this naturally rebellious age, simply telling teens “Don't do this” might not work well. A better approach with teens is to be curious. Ask your teen, how have you used AI? What was it like for you? What did you find helpful? What did you find unhelpful? How are your friends using it?” That can start a discussion that will give you insight into their experience.

Educate. Pull back the curtain on chatbots' main goal. Have a back-and-forth conversation with them about how algorithms work, how companies have their own motives behind chatbots and how they are designed to keep you interacting with them. To avoid eye rolling, present this concern as something you are learning about together, not about deciding whether AI is good or bad.

Encourage self-sufficiency. You want to help your teen build their own social “muscle.” Encourage kids to try on their own first before asking AI. Before asking Chat to write an apology text to a friend, suggest they give it a whirl themselves. Help them build confidence that they can do it without AI.

Help kids foster real-life connections

If your teen is spending more time on their devices than interacting with actual people, investigate what may be going on. Be curious about what's making it so much more appealing for your teen to be online. It is important to remember that even in this digital age, there is no substitute for actual human-to-human interaction. Teens can have social lives that exist to some degree in the digital world, but parents need to support their teens in having face-to-face peer experiences. That might mean talking to a school counselor or teacher to see if there is a club your teen can join so they around other like-minded peers.

Keep your own lines of communication with your teen wide open. Remind them they can always come to you for advice and support if they are struggling. Being that sounding board can make their craving for a bot's willing ear a little less compelling.

Adapted from [AI Chatbots and Teens](#) by Jennifer King Lindley

Fido Fest Returns to Grant on May 9th



GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
285 EAST GRANT AVE.
FOX LAKE, IL 60020

Check out our social media sites for updates!



Instagram: grant_canine_Connections

Facebook Event page:
<https://www.facebook.com/share/1FWPtteUL2/>



BROUGHT TO YOU BY

GCHS CANINE CONNECTIONS CLUB

MAY 9, 2026 | 11 AM-2:30 PM

JOIN US FOR VENDORS, RESCUES,
DEMOS, BASKET RAFFLES, AND
FAMILY FUN!

ALL FUNDS GO TO:



CONTACT CHERYL TREVITHICK AT 847-973-3705
CTREVITHICK@GRANTBULLDOGS.ORG

The Canine Connections Club is excited to welcome the community back to Fido Fest, our annual adoption and fundraising event, on Saturday, May 9th, from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM. This free, family-friendly celebration will take place in the East Gym at Grant, with guests encouraged to enter through the auditorium doors.

This year's event will feature the return of several beloved rescue organizations, many favorite vendors, and a few new additions—including an extra guest speaker. Families can enjoy a wide range of activities such as face painting, crafts, and games for children and adults.

Food and treats will be plentiful. Our Dawg Bowl concession area will be open, Nothing Bundt Cakes will be on-site, and 7 Brew Coffee will generously donate 150 free iced drinks around noon. Attendees can also use our event QR code to purchase fundraising items, including raffle tickets, painted rocks, dog toys, and paw-themed magnets.

New this year, guests can participate in two fun ways to earn extra goodies. Visitors are invited to stop by the welcome table to pick up a Vendor Bingo Card and a Doggy Demo Card. After collecting a stamp from each vendor on the bingo card, guests can trade it in for a folder filled with helpful dog-related

resources. In addition, adults 18 and older can earn up to three free raffle tickets by attending three of the five scheduled demonstrations.

We also encourage attendees to bring cash to enjoy the tail-wagging treats created by our Transition Program and to vote for the crowd favorite during our doggy fashion show demonstration.

A highlight of the event will be our raffle basket showcase, featuring dozens of themed baskets with prizes ranging from restaurant gift cards and entertainment experiences to pet products, books, toys, seasonal items, and more. All proceeds from fundraising efforts will be shared among the four rescue organizations joining us this year.



We look forward to welcoming students, families, staff, and community members to this special event celebrating dogs, community spirit, and compassionate care.

**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

April

April 1	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Writers Expo, Students & Staff
April 2	Writers Expo, Gene Ha & Nate Marshall
April 3	No School Prom Guest Forms Due
April 7	ACT Testing
April 8	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start NHS Induction
April 10	Prom Ticket Sales Begin NLCC Art Show
April 15	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
April 16	Board of Education Meeting
April 17	Last Day to Purchase Prom Tickets
April 22	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Wellness Fair Freshman Honors Breakfast
April 24	Parent University – Financial Aid Night (Juniors) Hall of Fame Nominations Due NHS Spaghetti Dinner
April 24-26	Spring Musical – The SpongeBob Musical
April 29	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start

May

May 1	Early Release, 1:35 PM Prom
May 4	AP Testing Begins
May 5	Spring Band Concert
May 6	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Senior Honors Night
May 9	Fido Fest
May 12	Senior Final Exams Spring Choir Concert
May 13	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Senior Final Exams
May 15	Early Release, 1:35 PM Graduation Rehearsal
May 17	Graduation
May 20-22	Freshman, Sophomore, & Junior Final Exams
May 25	Memorial Day