



Grant Community High School

District Newsletter

September 2026

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Student of the Month

Derrick Rios

The Grant Community High School September Student of the Month is senior Derrick Rios, son of Isela and Juan Rios of Round Lake. Derrick is a dynamic and exceptionally involved senior at GCHS who exemplifies the core values of school spirit, academic achievement, and service. Derrick maintains an impressive 4.876 GPA and has consistently earned Honor Roll each semester of his high school career. His academic record includes AP Language & Composition, selection for Boys State, the Golden Globe Award, and recognition as both a Scholar-Athlete and an NLCC All-Academic honoree. Additionally, Derrick has stepped into major student leadership roles, serving as Vice President of the National Honor Society (NHS) for the 2025/26 school year and President for the 2026/27 school year.



Derrick's high school career is defined by extraordinary involvement in the performing arts, athletics, and school culture. In choir, he serves as Section Leader, has qualified twice for All-District, and achieved All-State. He is also an Anthem Singer, performs in quartets, and placed second and third in the "Grant's Got Talent" showcase. Beyond music, Derrick plays Boys Volleyball, earning the Bulldog Award at school while serving as Captain for his club volleyball team. He served as a manager for the Girls Volleyball team, and his high-energy leadership extends across campus as Hype Master and through active participation in TEAM Live and the Dawg Pound.

Service is deeply central to Derrick's impact on his community. Through the Choir Leadership Team, NHS, and local initiatives, he has volunteered for the Veterans Day EXPO, Adopt-a-Highway cleanups, morning pledges, concessions, Grant Fall Fest, Fox Lake Pumpkin Fest, and a fundraiser for Colonia Benito Juarez. Beyond school events, he has proudly participated in four Quinceañeras for friends and family during his high school years. Looking ahead, Derrick plans to attend a four-year university to become a Physician Assistant specializing in Pediatric Oncology, all while continuing his passion for choir throughout college.

Derrick hopes to serve as a benchmark and inspiration for his peers to surpass. He aims to show underclassmen that by upholding the Bulldog values of being respectful, engaged, and dependable, they can break through barriers and achieve their highest goals. Reflecting on how he once looked up to the Student of the Month wall and senior leaders himself, Derrick wants to empower every student to look at their own dreams and say, "I can do that."

Board of Education

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

Ivy Fleming
Laurie Hembrey
Ed Lescher
Bob Yanik



Welcome Bulldogs!

As we launch into another exciting school year, I want to share a few reflections that are anchoring our focus for the months ahead. When our faculty and staff returned to our halls this fall, we grounded our work in a shared commitment to embrace challenges as the primary vehicle for building capacity. We rallied around the mentality of learning how to handle hard better. Nothing truly meaningful magically gets easier, and difficult tasks are not inherently negative. Stress and challenge are rarely signals to disengage; instead, they are the barometers of how deeply invested we are in work that truly matters.



This mindset is vital because culture is lived, not posted on a wall. If we expect our students to be brave, resilient, and curious, they must see the adults in their lives modeling that exact courage. Across our district, our overarching focus this year is active engagement—stepping out of our comfort zones and choosing to Say Yes to the opportunities around us. Research consistently shows that deep engagement does not drain our energy; it restores it. When we lean in, we discover connection, purpose, and fulfillment.

This is precisely what we want for every student who walks through our doors. Every day, we ask our students to step onto a stage, solve a complex proof, attempt an advanced course, or challenge themselves in athletics. They do not do this because it is easy; they do it to grow, embodying the core attributes of our Portrait of a Bulldog through adaptability, perseverance, integrity, and an empowered learning mindset.

We are challenging every student to *Leave Their Print* by *Saying Yes* to new ways of engaging in their high school experience. The more our students engage, the more doors open for them both at Grant and far beyond. When those four years come to an end, no graduate ever regrets trying more; they only regret waiting too long to jump in. We have an extraordinary faculty and staff ready to support them every step of the way, but we need our students to take that leap, embrace the challenge, and engage.

I know that we are all ready. I'm confident that our students can meet the high standards we set together, and I can't wait to see all the amazing things they achieve this year.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Let's have a fantastic year, *Say Yes*, and *Leave Our Print*!

Keep It RED,
Jeremy Schmidt



Leave Your Print at GCHS

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! We had a special start to the year, welcoming Grant's "Centennial Class", the Class of 2030, to our Bulldog Community in August. In addition to this milestone for our school and community, we experienced enthusiastic students and parents arriving for Material Pick-up days, Big Dawg Training, Freshman Orientation, Parent University, Fall Athletics Night, the Welcome Back Pep Assembly, and Back to School Night! These events combined serve as a reminder of how special our school is and how special it is to me to be a leader of our school in our community. I could not be more excited to start the school year and work together to accomplish our purpose of being the best school for our students and a source of pride for our community.



This year, as a school community, we will be focusing on the theme of "Leave Your Print" as we emphasize engagement in our school and in our community. At Freshman Orientation, our Class of 2030 was challenged to join one club or activity to start their school year. As part of the Freshman Orientation program, we included our Athletics and Activities Fair, which had previously been a standalone event in April. Our students had the opportunity to meet with club sponsors, directors, and coaches as part of the morning program. We repeated this message at our Welcome Back Pep Assembly and hope that all students choose to engage in an activity or sport. Research shows that the more connections students have to the school, the better their academic outcomes, attendance, and behavior. We are encouraging students to engage in these opportunities to get the most out of their experience at Grant Community High School. Additionally, involvement in these organizations helps students meet important career-ready indicators which, in part, qualify them for Distinguished Bulldog and Bulldog Scholar recognition.

We are also emphasizing the importance of engaging in the classroom with our students this year. We are challenging our students on a daily basis to prepare themselves to excel beyond Grant Community High School. As we strive to help students succeed academically, we do so to open more doors for them beyond Grant Community High School. An ACT score of 22 on Reading and Math tests meets the academic indicators for Distinguished Bulldog and Bulldog Scholar criteria. While ACT scores remain important for postsecondary placement, Pre-ACT scores are important for our students who are considering taking Dual Credit classes. Meeting academic indicators is important at every level, and showing growth through MAP testing continues to be of importance. Daily work across our curriculum prepares our students to meet their goals and open doors for them, while also preparing them for testing. Together, as a school community, we can reiterate the importance of staying engaged in the classroom and how that can lead to incredible opportunities for each of our students.

While engaging with your students in conversation about their day-to-day classwork, practices, and club meetings, we also encourage all parents to engage with Grant as partners. We encourage each parent to stay connected with their student's progress through Qmlativ, Schoology, and SchoolLinks. Parents have access to all three platforms and can follow student progress using these platforms. If you need help with access to these platforms, please contact our Technology Department. If you would like to engage in a more hands-on way, please join our Bulldog Booster Club. The Boosters offer many opportunities for leadership and direct support to our athletics and activities. We are also always looking for guest speakers, connections for internships, service opportunities, and career exploration activities. If you think that you can help contribute, please let us know. It is important for all of us to be engaged as a school community to help our students find success, and there is no limit to what we can accomplish when we are working together.

On behalf of the entire staff, we look forward to celebrating all of the incredible achievements that our students will accomplish this year!

Go Bulldogs!

Principal Schoell



Hall of Fame

Grant Community High School is pleased to announce the selection of Mr. Rich Becmer and Mr. Lee Oler, posthumously, to the Hall of Fame.

Rich Becmer graduated from GCHS in the Class of 1971. As a student, Rich excelled academically, served as Senior Class President and Student Council Vice President, and quickly earned a reputation for his natural ability to lead and his willingness to serve others. As a proud Bulldog, Rich was a four-year member of both the football and wrestling teams, serving as team captain during his senior year, and also played baseball for two years. Beyond athletics, he participated in Student Government Day, served as a dean's aide, and volunteered on numerous school committees. After graduation, Rich invested himself in the next generation by coaching softball, baseball, and football for the Lakeland Cardinals and the Grant Bulldogs. As president of the Cardinals for more than a decade, he helped shape opportunities for countless young athletes. He also served on the executive board of what is now GTAAA and helped build the baseball complex and concession stand at Veterans Park, as well as the original Paul G. Lewis Blockhouse at Grant's stadium. He served on the planning committee for the St. Bede Faith Formation Center and proposed relocating the Fox Lake Village Hall from the police station to its current central location—a vision that has benefited the community ever since. In 1975, at just 21 years old, Rich made history by becoming the youngest person in the State of Illinois to be elected to a high school Board of Education. During two separate tenures totaling 16 years, he helped guide the future of GCHS, giving back to the very school that helped shape him. That same year, Rich was sworn in as a Fox Lake Police Officer, beginning a distinguished 30-year career in law enforcement. Through hard work, integrity, and dedication, he rose through the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, and ultimately Deputy Chief of Police in 2003. For 18 years, he served as the department's lead juvenile officer and child abuse investigator, advocating for children and families during some of their most difficult moments. During his time in law enforcement, Rich introduced the D.A.R.E. program, established the Teen Court program, became GCHS's first School Resource Officer, and earned the Lake County Juvenile Officers Association Officer of the Year Award twice. When Rich retired from the Fox Lake Police Department in 2005, he joined Waukegan School District as their Educational Safety Specialist, where he developed district-wide safety protocols that continue to protect students and staff. In 2009, Rich began teaching Criminal Justice at the Lake County Technology campus, helping build an exceptional program that inspired hundreds of students to pursue careers in public service. In recognition of his passion for teaching and mentorship, he was named Most Inspirational Teacher in 2015. Even after retiring from teaching in 2020, Rich hasn't stopped serving. Today, he continues to volunteer at Prince of Peace Catholic Church through the Formation and Education Commission, the Mental Health Ministry, and the Parish Council. For more than five decades, Rich has worn many titles—student, athlete, coach, police officer, deputy chief, school board member, teacher, mentor, husband, father, and Grandpa. But through every chapter, one thing has remained constant: his commitment to serving others and the Fox Lake community. That is the legacy of a true Grant Bulldog. For his incredible dedication to the Grant community, Rich is more than deserving of this Grant Community High School Hall of Fame recognition.

Lee Oler graduated from GCHS in the Class of 1968. Lee was a second-generation GCHS graduate, with both of his parents having also attended. Lee was a standout basketball player during his four years at Grant, serving as a varsity player for three of those seasons. Known for his remarkable outside shot, he set the school record as high scorer prior to the introduction of the three-point line and graduated as Lake County's all-time leading scorer with 1,798 points. He was named a three-time All-Conference selection, All-County in 1967 and 1968, and All-State in 1968. In his senior year, he led the team to both District and Regional Championships and a Sectional berth. Lee went on to earn an Education degree from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he played four years of Division I basketball for the Badgers, earned Big Ten All-Academic honors in 1972, and finished his career ranked among the top 25 scorers in Badger history. He went on to play professionally internationally in Mexico and Australia for a year. Returning to Lake County, Lee spent 33 years as a Physical Education teacher at Wauconda High School, where he also coached basketball and golf. Outside of school, he competed in AAU Basketball from 1975 to 1985, earning AAU All-American honors in 1980. His athletic legacy earned him inductions into both the College of Lake County Hall of Fame in 1998 and the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2005. After retiring in 2006, Lee remained dedicated to youth sports by volunteering as a coach for the Grant Community High School boys' basketball team and assisting with basketball camps. Following his passing in September 2017, Grant Community High School posthumously dedicated its fieldhouse court in his honor in February 2018. Additionally, in August 2018, the Village of Fox Lake honorarily renamed Meade Ct., where he resided most of his life, to Lee M. Oler Ct. It is only fitting that he be recognized by the Grant Community High School Hall of Fame, where his celebrated basketball career first began.

The families of Rich Becmer and Lee Oler will take part in several homecoming activities, including a reception in their honor on September 24, 2026, an all-school pep assembly and the varsity football game on September 25, 2026, and the homecoming parade on September 26, 2026. For more information on the induction ceremony and events, visit www.grantbulldogs.org.



TIMES SQUARE AT MIDNIGHT

HOMEcoming 2026

Our "Times Square at Midnight" Homecoming week is approaching quickly! It's a week jam-packed with dress-up days and events, during and after school. Hopefully, everyone can join in and show their Bulldog spirit between September 21st and September 26th!

The week will kick off on Monday with "City That Never Sleeps". Put on your best pajamas and let's get this party started! From 7:40-9:25 AM, seniors will be out in the community painting windows of local businesses.

Tuesday is "Giants, Knicks, Oh My!" This is your time to rep your favorite sports team and show off how big of a fan you are. Whether it's a New York team, the Cubs, or your hometown Bulldogs, we can't wait to see whom you're cheering for. Tuesday is also the last day for seniors to vote for Homecoming Royalty!

Wednesday is "XOXO Gossip Girl". Get creative and dress as your type! When classes are done, students are welcome to join us for our annual Block Party! Our Block Party, sponsored by the Bulldog Boosters and Student Class Councils, will take place between 3:30-5:00 PM outside the fieldhouse. This event is free to students, and food, games, and face painting will be available. Following the Block Party, we will cheer on our Flag Football program as they battle against Mundelein.

On Thursday, dress for "Save the City". Dress as your favorite superhero, but leave the mask behind and let your true identity be known.

And of course, Friday is "The Big Apple". Break out your best spirit wear! Wear as much spirit wear as you can! There will be a pep assembly during school to get everyone pumped up for the football games that night! Homecoming Court will be announced before the Varsity Football game. Varsity Flag Football plays at 4:45 PM, and the Varsity Football game kicks off at 7:00 PM.

The fun doesn't stop there! Our Homecoming parade starts at 9:00 AM on Saturday for the whole community to watch. If you would like to be in the parade, please fill out the [Parade Entry Form](#). There will also be building tours for alumni and community members starting at 10:30 AM. Later that night is the Homecoming dance from 7:00-10:00 PM.

Saturday evening, the students of Grant look to celebrate victory with the Homecoming dance at 7:00 PM in the Field House. Students can purchase tickets to the dance at the school bookstore from 7:30 AM-3:00 PM starting on Monday, September 21. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. PRIOR to purchasing a ticket. Tickets WILL NOT be sold at the door. Anyone attending the dance should review the [Dance Policy and Dress Code](#).

With everything going on during the week, make sure you enjoy the fun! Any questions regarding Homecoming should be addressed to Ms. Payton Montemayor (pmontemayor@grantbulldogs.org) or Ms. Kayla Radtke (kradtke@grantbulldogs.org).



Have old
HOCO/ Prom Attire?
GCHS Presents

DRESS, TUXEDO, & ACCESSORY DRIVE

Getting
READY
WITH GRANT



**Donation bins located by Front
Office, Library, and Commons**

8/26 - 9/11

School Safety

Welcoming all to a safe, secure, and supportive environment is one of Grant Community High School District's ongoing goals. As part of that effort at the start of the new school year, this article is intended to communicate several safety-related matters.

- GCHS is a secure campus. During regular school hours, all visitors must check in with Safety at our Main Entrance (Door #1). Each visitor must present a driver's license or a valid state identification card for a background screening. Visitors without appropriate identification will not be allowed into the building. Visitors who clear the screening may be granted building access and will be provided a visitor's badge that they must wear at all times while on school grounds. If you have previously used your identification to be screened by our visitor management system, you can now opt to use our self-check-in tablet at the main entrance. Scan your government identification on the tablet to verify your identity, and Safety will provide you with a visitor's badge to wear during your visit.
- The school building opens for student access at 7:00 AM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. On Wednesdays, the school building opens for student access at 8:45 AM. From 7:40 AM – 3:10 PM, all exterior doors are locked, and access is only available to visitors via the Main Entrance. If students are staying on campus after school for activities/athletics, they must utilize the Activity Entrance (Door #9), as the Main Entrance will be closed after 4:00 PM.
- Grant students are informed of secure campus expectations. This information is provided in the student handbook. GCHS is a closed campus, meaning students are prohibited from leaving the building unsupervised without proper notification. Students are prohibited from opening exterior doors to allow other students or visitors into the building.
- During Safety Week, students performed Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Shelter, and Evacuation drills. GCHS utilizes The I Love You Guys Foundation, Standard Response Protocol, and Standard Reunification Method as a part of our Emergency Management plan. These nationally recognized emergency response protocols provide Grant with standardized response strategies necessary to successfully utilize the incident command structure, ensuring effective communication with assisting agencies.
- In the event of an emergency causing a significant disruption on the GCHS campus, or in the event a reunification is necessary at school or in an alternative location, parents will be notified through Skylert and provided information about the emergency situation. For this reason, it is important your contact information is accurate and up-to-date. Changes may be requested by you directly through Qmlativ, or you may contact the school at (847) 587-2561.
- A Skylert emergency alert test was performed on August 24 at 5:00 PM. If you did not receive a call or email, please contact the Main Office at (847) 576-2561 and share updated contact information.



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

If you plan on attending the 2026 Football season, please keep the following information in mind:

- All CURRENT Grant students will be admitted to games for FREE. Students must show their 2026-2027 school ID for free admission.
- Outside food and drink, backpacks, noisemakers, signs, flags, and athletic equipment (balls) are not allowed.
- No smoking or vaping on school property.
- All students younger than a Freshman must be accompanied by an adult.
- There is no re-entry.

**FRIDAY
NIGHT
FOOTBALL
REMINDERS**





GRANT ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Each month, the Grant Art Department comes together to recognize a student whose creativity, effort, and passion deserve 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 - Kayli Brook

Painting has been a defining part of my life for nearly four years now. I am not the type of artist who grew up as an “art kid,” never racking up years of drawing experience doodling and filling sketchbooks. So when I picked up a brush for the first time, I never expected to fall in love with the craft as much as I did. My painting journey started with an assigned passion project in 8th grade where I had to document learning a new skill. As I started experimenting with colors and shapes, painting was the one place I could let go of my perfectionism and allow my work to become perfectly imperfect. Art silences the outside world so I can feel free to shape a new one, one brimming with the unique ideas and forms I once doubted I could ever create. Beyond painting as an outlet for my own creative joy, I also love to show appreciation to people who inspire and support me by gifting my art, hoping to impart the joy I felt while creating it. At Grant, I have taken many art classes, including Intro to Art, Painting 1 & 2, and Drawing 1 & 2. Not only do these opportunities help me improve technical skills, but they also increase my confidence as an artist and strengthen my friendships with people who share the same passion. My favorite memory in an art class was creating a tapestry painting of a dragon fantasy scene with two of my closest friends. It is so fascinating for me to view other painting styles and learn how they intermix with mine to create something so unique and beautiful. I know we all grew closer from the experience! If I hadn’t joined the art program at Grant, I would have lost the valuable lessons and incredible opportunities that the National Art Honor Society has granted me. I have had the chance to become a leader, share my knowledge, and enhance my community with beautiful colors. Art helps me feel understood and build connections without even needing words, and I encourage anyone to start making a few colorful marks on a sheet of paper. Soon enough, these marks might turn into masterpieces shaped by a blooming artist. I am still learning and growing as a person and as an artist, but I hope to see many of my peers dive into the art program at Grant—projects are not only fun but also built for any skill or experience level. There is so much belonging, passion, and joy to be discovered within art at our school! I know that I will continue to paint and make art no matter what life throws at me. Even though I am not planning on majoring in art in college, it is so important for me to conserve a hobby that has become my passion and even my refuge. I cannot wait to explore all that I will create!

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

2025-2026

Gayle Richards



Special Education Requests

A continuum of special education services exists through Grant Community High School. This includes the opportunity for a comprehensive case study evaluation when appropriate. Parents/guardians have the right to receive a copy of 23 Ill. Admin. Code Part 226 and "A Parents' Guide- The Educational Rights of Students with Disabilities."

Students with disabilities who do not qualify for an individualized education program under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, may qualify for services under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 if the student (1) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, (2) has a record of a physical or mental impairment, or (3) is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment.

Requests or inquiries should be directed to a student's counselor of record.

Student Online Personal Protection Act

The Student Online Personal Protection Act, or SOPPA, is the data privacy law that regulates student data collection and use by schools, the Illinois State Board of Education, and District #124 vendors.

On August 23, 2019, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker signed into law a new version of SOPPA that gives parents/guardians greater control over student data. Among the changes is a new requirement to enact breach notifications that are available to the public. SOPPA will also require Illinois school districts to provide additional guarantees that student data is protected when collected and that data is used for beneficial purposes only. The law is effective on July 1, 2021.



District #124 values your child's privacy and strives to ensure that parents/guardians are aware of which web-based tools and applications are being used for educational purposes. A list of all District #124-approved web-based tools, written agreements with operators, and a list of data elements shared can be found on our [D124 Data Privacy Agreements](#) webpage.

Parents/guardians have the right to inspect, review, and correct information maintained by the school, operator, and the Illinois State Board of Education. All requests should be directed to the Director of Technology by using the following email address: soppa.request@grantbulldogs.org.

For more information about SOPPA, visit our [SOPPA resources page](#).



Bulldogs on Staff



We are excited to welcome **Amber Whitmer** as the newest addition to our Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment (CIA) team! Originally from Wailuku, Hawai'i, Amber attended Newberry High School in Florida and is currently pursuing her degree through National Louis University. Before joining Grant, she spent nearly eight years working at a Therapeutic Day School. This year, she will serve as our Administrative Assistant to the CIA Department. She is excited for the opportunity to transition from working directly in the classroom to supporting students and staff in a new way, while also being close to her daughter, who currently attends Grant.

We are excited to welcome **Lindsay Clarke** as the newest addition to our English Learner Department! Originally from Riohacha, La Guajira, Colombia, Lindsay earned her bachelor's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language from Universidad de Córdoba before coming to the United States through a cultural exchange program. Since then, she has continued her education by earning her Bilingual Endorsement from American College of Education, her master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University, and most recently, her World Language Endorsement. Before joining Grant, she spent six years in District 46, first as a Bilingual Assistant and then as a bilingual teacher. This year, she is excited to teach Spanish Language Arts (SLA), working with students in SLA 1 and SLA 3.



We are excited to welcome **Samantha LaVine** as the newest addition to our English Learner Department! Sammy earned her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Illinois State University and her Master of Science in Literacy Education with a focus in ESL from Northern Illinois University. Before joining Grant, she taught middle school math and science at District 96, where she also sponsored the Community Service Club and Number Ninjas, a peer tutoring program that helped students build confidence in math. This year, she will serve as an EL teacher, co-teaching in math and science classes.

We are excited to welcome **Benjamin Quint** as the newest addition to our English Learner Department! After graduating from Crystal Lake Central High School, Benjamin continued his education at McHenry County College, Northeastern Illinois University, William Woods University, and Dominican University, earning an associate degree, bachelor's degree, and two master's degrees. He brings a wealth of experience to Grant, having taught at the Missouri Military Academy, District 187, District 60, and District 116. This year, he will teach Spanish Language Arts (SLA) 2 and 3, helping our bilingual students continue to develop their literacy skills.



We are excited to welcome **Katherine Wishau** as our new Student Support Coordinator! After graduating from Libertyville High School, Katie went on to earn her Bachelor of Science from Illinois State University, her Master of Arts in Teaching from Dominican University, and her Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Northeastern Illinois University. Before joining Grant, she served as the K-12 Teaching and Learning Coordinator for Math & MTSS at District 116, following roles as a Math Curriculum & Instruction Specialist, Instructional Coach, and elementary teacher. This year, she is excited to collaborate with our educators, strengthen our MTSS systems, and help ensure every student has the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support they need to thrive.

Bulldogs on Staff



We are excited to welcome **Jenny Hoy** as the newest addition to our Student Services team! After graduating from Lake Park High School, Jenny earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Roosevelt University, her master's degree in school psychology from Northern Illinois University, and her Type 75 endorsement in Educational Administration from Aurora University. She brings extensive experience to Grant, having served as a School Psychologist, Special Education Coordinator, Special Education Division Chair, and District Psychologist in several school districts throughout the area. This year, she will serve as a School Psychologist, where she is excited to work with high school students and be part of the support teams that help them succeed.

After two years as a full-time building substitute, **Jesse James** is taking on a new role at Grant as a member of our English Learner Department! After graduating from Grant in 2020, Jesse went on to attend Elmhurst University, where he played baseball and earned his bachelor's degree in Secondary History Education. He is currently pursuing his graduate degree in ESL at National Louis University. This year, he will teach EL Resource and co-teach Earth Science. In his new role, Jesse is excited to approach learning from a different perspective and find new ways to connect content to his students' backgrounds and cultures. As a proud Grant graduate, he is especially excited for the opportunity to give back to the community that gave him so much as a student.



HEY BULLDOGS!

WE NEED PROOF OF YOUR MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE & SCHOOL PHYSICALS

MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE IS KNOWN AS MCY, MCY4, MENACTRA, OR MENVEO

FRESHMEN

➤ If you have not turned in your school physical yet, please do so ASAP. Any student not in compliance with the physical and/or immunization requirements will be excluded from school beginning October 15 until the correct information is submitted to the Health Office.

SENIORS

➤ Students must receive two doses of the Meningococcal vaccine. The second dose must occur on or after the 16th birthday. Only one dose is required if the first dose was received at age 16 or older.

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

Student Directory Information

Military

As part of federal legislation, schools are required to release directory information for all students as requested by military recruiters. Student Directory Information includes the student's name, address, and phone number. Parents have the right to request that this information not be disclosed without written consent. If a parent wishes not to disclose directory information about their student, direct a written or email request to awhilelm@grantbulldogs.org by October 2, 2026.

There is no reason for you to give a written or email request for your student if you already have done so. The written or email request will remain on file for the remainder of the student's high school career.

Public & Local Use

Parents/guardians who wish to restrict the use of their student's directory information (name, image, etc.) in District publications and communication tools must complete the [GCHS District 124 Student Image & Information Opt-Out Form](#) for the 2026–2027 school year. This form must be submitted to the Main Office annually. The form allows families to request that their child's image not be used in electronic, video, or print materials, with limited exceptions such as public events/performances and the school yearbook (unless otherwise indicated). Please note that the District cannot control images taken by outside individuals or organizations.



Bulldog Happenings



Congratulations to **McKenna Arnold** for representing Grant Community High School at the **FCCLA** National Conference in Washington, D.C.! Competing in the STAR Leadership event, McKenna earned a spot in the top 10 in the nation, showcasing her dedication, skill, and hard work. Her achievement highlights the talent and commitment of our students on a national stage, and we are proud to celebrate her success as a Bulldog.

Our Business Bulldogs represented Grant at **FBLA** Nationals in San Antonio, Texas! Ryan Kadlec and Gainele Muntu competed in Business Ethics, Jay Pole competed in Retail Management, and Chase Muir and Piotr Schab competed in Data Analysis. Special congratulations to Chase and Piotr, who advanced to the finals and finished among the Top 14 teams in the nation in Data Analysis! Beyond competition, our Bulldogs also had the opportunity to explore San Antonio and even experience their first rodeo. Congratulations to all of our competitors on an outstanding week and for representing Grant with pride!



The **Marching Bulldogs** are gearing up for an exciting season after experiencing a tremendous increase in participation. This year, the band welcomed more than 20 new members, bringing new energy and excitement to the program.

The band has already had a strong start to the season. This summer, the Marching Band earned second place in the Celebrate the Fox Lake Parade, giving the group an exciting opportunity to showcase its hard work. Since then, members have continued putting in the work throughout the summer and during band camp as they prepare for this year's field show, "It's Not a Phase." The show will feature a collection of rock favorites, including "Creep" by Radiohead, "All the Small Things" and

"Rock Show" by Blink-182, and "Light 'em Up" by Fall Out Boy.

With more than 20 new members joining the program and countless hours of preparation already behind them, the Marching Band is ready to take the field and rock the season. We can't wait to see them perform!



Online Safety

Our current world is constantly changing based on technological developments. The digital landscape in 2026 looks vastly different than at the turn of the 21st century. It is imperative for schools, together with parents/caregivers, to know how to protect our students and teach them how to responsibly and appropriately utilize technology.

An important tool to help parents and caregivers of high school students navigate the challenges of today's digital world is [Raising Digitally Responsible Youth](#), which can be found on our school website under the Family Resources tab. The resource offers important information and conversation starters to help families support responsible, safe, and thoughtful technology and social media use, while encouraging teens to develop good judgment and make positive choices online. Parents can use the guide to learn more about the digital environments their teens encounter, start meaningful conversations at home, and revisit topics as new situations or technologies arise.



Parent University

Working together to create success for your student.

Parent University is a series of workshops and events designed to support parents, guardians, and caregivers. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required.

RSVP by completing our [Parent University Registration Form](#).

Most events run from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. A reminder Skyward message will be emailed to parents the week before the event. Any available recordings and resources can be found on the Parent University webpage on the GCHS website. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to attend all or drop in for a single event.

September 9, 2026 - College 101 & Financial Aid (Juniors & Seniors)

October 14, 2026 - Collaborative Conversations on Career Paths

November 4, 2026 - AP & Dual Credit Night

December 2, 2026 - Mental Health Awareness

January 2027 - What parents need to know (online)

February 24, 2027 - Career & Technical Education

April 21, 2027 - Financial Aid Night (All Students & Parents)

Connect with GCHS



Grant Community High School District 124



Grant HS Bulldogs



Grant Community High School



Grant Bulldogs



Keep It Red



TEAM Live is back! Every Friday we are bringing announcements straight to your TEAM room beginning at 8:40 AM. If you ever miss a [TEAM Live](#) or are looking for more information, check out our [Digital Announcements](#).



FOLLOW ON SPOTIFY OR
YOUTUBE FOR STORIES ABOUT
OUR BULLDOG COMMUNITY



Gaughan Selected as Head Girls Wrestling Coach

In June, the Grant Community High School Board of Education approved the establishment of an official Girls Wrestling program at GCHS. While girls have been participating in wrestling at Grant for many years, the creation of a dedicated program represents an important step in further supporting and growing girls wrestling in our community.

We are excited to announce Michael Gaughan as the first Head Girls Wrestling Coach in Grant history. Gaughan has been a coach in the Grant wrestling program for many years and has played an important role in working with the girls as the program has grown over the past several seasons. In addition to his coaching experience, Gaughan serves as a social worker at GCHS, bringing his experience working with and supporting students to his role as head coach.



We are excited to see the Girls Wrestling program continue to grow and look forward to the start of the season under Coach Gaughan's leadership. We are proud to provide our girls wrestlers with a program of their own and can't wait to see what this next chapter brings for Grant Wrestling.

THIS FALL!

GRANT TENNIS WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ANY 5TH-8TH GRADERS A CHANCE TO PLAY TENNIS LED BY GRANT TENNIS COACHES!

MANY MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAYERS CAME OUT TO TENNIS CAMP THIS SUMMER, HAD FUN, GOT BETTER, AND WANTED A WAY TO KEEP PLAYING. SO, WE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER THE CHANCE TO GET BACK ON THE COURTS AND **KEEP IT GOING!** THERE WILL BE GROUP TENNIS LESSONS, GAMES, AND MATCHPLAY. BEGINNERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN TENNIS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AS WELL.



KEEP IT GOING!

NO CHARGE TO ATTEND!

REGISTER!



QUESTIONS? CONTACT COACH BOTON
MBOTON@GRANTBULLDOGS.ORG

WHERE?
GRANT TENNIS COURTS
WHO?
5TH AND 8TH GRADERS
WHEN?

9/14: 5:00-5:45 PM
9/18: 5:00-5:45 PM
9/21: 5:00-5:45 PM
9/25: 3:25-4:30 PM
10/2: 5:00-5:45 PM
10/5: 5:00-5:45 PM
10/13: 4:00-5:00 PM

Student Academic Support Opportunities

Subject Area	Location	Hours of Operation
Art	108	TEAM
EL	279	TEAM
English	241	Period 1, TEAM, 3-11
French	292	TEAM
Health & Wellness	Gymnasium	TEAM
Math	157 163 (TEAM only)	Period 1, TEAM, 3-11
Music	143	TEAM
Science	187	TEAM
Social Studies	241	TEAM
Spanish	290	TEAM
Testing Center	Library	Period 1, TEAM, 3-11

Get Involved & Join Your Class Council

Interested in getting involved and helping make a difference in your class? Class Council meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Students are encouraged to attend and get involved in planning activities, sharing ideas, and representing their class.

- Freshman Class Council: Room 231 at 7:15 AM
- Sophomore Class Council: Room 216 at 7:15 AM
- Junior Class Council: Room 221 at 7:10 AM
- Senior Class Council: Room 284 at 7:10 AM

Come be part of the conversation and help make this a great year for your class!



HONOR ROLL



SECOND SEMESTER 2025-26

Grade 9

Andrew Abellera
Delainie Adams
OluwaDemilade Adejola
Evette Al Dawoodi
Carter Alvarez
Fiona Anderson
Samantha Anderson
Zemira Ayers
Dakota Barr
Jaylynn Barscheski
Kamrynn Bernicchi
Valerie Bobadilla
Daniel Borchard
Avery Brook
Brock Bryowsky
Ava Burke
Kylie Burkhardt
Alivia Bush
Liam Byrd
Lukas Cardenas
Jocelyn Castro
Breeza Chairez
Jordan Cistaro
Nicholas Contreras
Kennedy Cornell
Alexis Coronado

Julian Corral
Taylor Ditore
Kyle Dittmer
Cameron Eckman
Alyssa Egan
Catherine Eshaba
Elianna Estrada
Sophia Fandel
Izabel Fries
Owen Fritchen
Daniella Garcia
Katie Gaulke
Yaretzi Gil-Enriquez
Jayden Gill
Anne Glitz
Edgar Gonzalez
Esmae Gorski
Christian Grosskopf
Jonathan Grosskopf
Xian Guinguing
Bowie Haschak
Giuliana Haut
Kaiya Helbling
Amelia Huizar
Kelly Huizar
Corina Ibarra Guardado

Jayssa Jefferson
Julia Johnsonbaugh
Jacob Kadlec
Layla Kalmerton
Benjamin Karlo-Verstege
Ava Kerns
Jersey Kettner
Parker Knopp
Patrick Kosciukiewicz
Abigail Kozak
Harmony LaBeff
Lyra Langhoff
Karianne Lanners
Aubrey Lehner
Asher Levine
Meredith Lopez-Perez
Azul Marquez
Cooper Marsek
Anne Martin
Daniel Martin
Macie Martin
Jazmin Martinez
Anabel Meads
Bella Medina
Yocelyn Mejia
Autumn Mieling

Adrian Monroe
Marley Monroe
Timothy Monroe
Axel Morales-Pacheco
Taimur Mumin
Tristan Nelson
Phoebe Norberg
Karoline Oliveros Vega
Christopher Orozco
Sadie Palace
Grace Palmer
Malcolm Parsons
Sebastian Parsons
Diya Patel
Kevin Patterson
Aloe Payseur
Lillyanna Paz
Bethany Perez
Melody Perez
Viviana Perez
Alex Phillips
Brittany Pineda Castillo
Harrison Pope
Gianna Potempa
Henry Quigley
Abigail Quirk

Amy Ramirez
Logan Reimer
Shane Riley
Amaya Rivera
Olivia Roach
Aubrey Robinson
Vienna Robison
Leila Rodriguez
Sophia Romy
Kylie Rous
Daniel Saavedra
Daniel Scanlon
Patrik Schab
Jackson Scharfner
Claira Sharani
Aden Sheehan
Jill Soni
Chance Sparkman
Tyler Swanson
Gwendolyn Szarban
Tyler Tancun
Matthew Todd
Michael Van
Ivanna Vazquez
Genavieve Von Bergen
Christina Von Hoene

Grade 10

Elijah Abellera
Anthony Adame
Kaylee Albovias
Natalie Alvarez Lopez
Camila Alvarez
Evey Aragon
Joaquin Argueta
Ash Avers
Nikolas Barcena
Andrew Berger
Haylie Blake
Oluwamayomikun Bolarin
Nathan Booth
Dylan Bornhorst
Joshua Bowker
Emma Bradford
Gera Buchanan
Jacob Bychowski
America Camacho
Addison Capko
Benjamin Cappert
Stella Capulong
Sophia Carr
Jasmyan Catalan Barrera
Caleb Chrzanoski
Leah Church
Madison Clack
DeAnna Clark
Andrew Cochran

Lily Contreras
James Cooper
Caelyn Craft
Addyson Czerwinski
Christian Dabrowski
Isabella Depner
Paden Domek
Jasmine Dowell
Andrzej Dyczewski
Shawn Dzierzynski
Kaitlyn Edwards
Brooklynn Eggins-Smith
Liam Elich
Sienna Enters
Matthew Esparza
Chloe Evans
Jacob Fetter
Isaac Fierro
Chatham Gehring
David Gonzalez Alba
Payton Govea
Alexander Grimes
Alexandra Grotowski
Hesley Guerrero-Martinez
Cayden Gullifor
Logan Hahn
Sydney Halliday
Perry Hansen
Jax Hartmann

Alexa Haskins
Sara Hawkins
Daniel Hayes
Kaitlin Herrmann
Jeffery Hirsch
Addison Ironside
Leah Jackson
Lorebella Jensen
Piper Johnson
Lillian Knapp
Nicole Kubiak
Zachary Labtis
Robert LaMantia
Joseph LaMar
Arianna Larracas
Destiny Lazaro
Alexandra Leonce
Sydney Lescher
Gabriella Lima
Leland Lindsey
Luke Liston
Teagan Lord
Jayden Luna
Madison Lunardi
Daven Lundberg
Brody Lyons
Evelyn Maggiore
Cora Martens
Johnathan McCollom

Caelyn McDaniel
Jillian McKenzie
Lillianah Medina
Isaac Meiselwitz
Jasen Melton
Christian Menendez
Ryan Miller
Ruby Moll
Jaime Moreno
Matthew Muldowney
Brady Myatt
Sebastian Negron Cruz
Aabreanna Ange Oso
Michelle Paddock
Alyssa Bianca Panares
Alejandro Pizarro
James Plescia
Joseph Popeck
Carson Provost
Payton Pruski
Calvin Ramirez
Sophia Raube
Nathanial Reimer
Maria Rizon
Ace Rodabaugh
Athena Roman
Mia Rossi
Michelangelo Sampson
Jesus Sanchez

Jashanpreet Sandhu
Sukhmanpreet Sandhu
Camdyn Schultz
Jacob Sherman
Mikella Silva
Kelsie Simmons
Kanwalnain Singh
Moksha Soni
Ashlyn Soutar
Joseph Sovsky
Teagan Stadtfeld
Brooke Stewart
Mia Stollings
Andrew Tadewald
Isabelle Tancun
Sophia Tellez
Nevaeh Tribble
Melrose Tucibat-Townsend
Nico Vavalle
Caleb Wagner
Tyler Wahls
Iris Weisheit
Andrew Wirth
Noah Wright
Anthony Zamora
Zane Ziegler

HONOR ROLL



SECOND SEMESTER 2025-26

Grade 11

Zofiya Rae Abadilla
Yahir Agripino
Alexander Albiter
Jazmin Albiter
Victoria Alva
Brianna Andrade
Kimberly Andrade-Ceja
Grace Ano
Karla Antunez
McKenna Arnold
Sebastian Arteaga
Samantha Astorino
Peyton Atkocaitis
Viridiana Barcenas
Cameron Barr
Jeffrey Bayer
Emilee Beaudion
Daniel Benitez
Abilane Bermudez
Jordynn Bernicchi
Maeghan Blanquel
Williams Bonilla
Kayli Brook
Ashlyn Bryant
Jayden Bueno
Riley Cabrera
Natalia Cabrero
Dominick Carlisi
Kaitlyn Carpenter
Cameron Chavez
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
Nolan Davis
Andrew DeRose
Caroline DeYoung
Sophie Dollinger
Matthew Escatel
Connor Evans
Olivia Farley
Jayden Figueroa
Ryan Fitzgerald
Thomas Franklin
Carrera Frazier-Ortega
Garrett Fries
Alexis Fulghum
Anthony Garcia
Emily Garcia
Kobe Garcia
Kahsten Geary
Michael Gebhardt
Gianna Gentile
Tyler Gibbons

Anikah Giuliani
Lillyana Gocek
Nicholas Goyes
D'neva Griffin
Andrew Grill
Michaela Hageli
Avery Hamilton
Abbigale Hamner
Nicholas Hansen
Brooke Harvey
Alexa Haut
Andrea Hernandez
Steve Herrera
Jadyn Herron
Evan Hogan-Dighero
Aubrey Hopkins
Ericka Hopkins
Emily Horbus
Kania Howard
Joshua Huerta
Leon Jiron
Elijah Johnson
Evan Johnson
Jack Johnson
Neelah Johnson
Lukas Jonota
Aaliyah Kaganovsky
Kaitlyn Kelly
Nathan Kempf
Isabella Kloss
Kian Korach

Madison Kozak
Elsie Kramer
Emily Kunzer
Madilynn Ladewig
Michael Lamz
Amanda Lay
Cassidy Ledger
Chloe Lewkowicz
Marley Lockert
Sianna Lorenzo
Alexander Luna
Niko Marquez
Ryleigh Marshall-Kwasny
Abigail Martinez
Keni Massey
Reese Mateja
Savannah McBride
Carter McCleery
Lily McCollom
Emily McCormick
Rose McManus
Jazzalynn McNellis
James Meeks
Jeffrey Miller
Justin Liam Morales
Riley Mowery
Chase Muir
Kyle Neuber
Eniola Obisesan
Riley OGrady

Keeleigh Olson
Karis Packard
Liam Paquette
Valeria Perez
Zendrea Pfau
Emma Pflugrad
Aliyah Phachan
Izabela Podgorski
Elisa Portilla Dehn
Isaac Ramirez Ramirez
Aiden Ramirez
Allison Rector
Ava Renn
Charlie Renn
Myla Reyes
Derrick Rios
Emily Roach
Gabrielle Saavedra
Caylah Sanchez
Kara Scanlon
Piotr Schab
Elaina Schiller
Everett Schneider
Reeve Seymour
Joshua Sherman
Evan Sigler
Hayden Silverberg
Audrey Simcoe
Colton Skinner
Maria Soto Valdes
Ava Stohr

Kyle Stuebner
Alyse Sutschek
Charles Swiderski
Kailee Tao
Sophia Taylor
Cole Tellez
William Teplan
Leah Terryberry
Ava Timm
Andrea Torres
Cory Tribble Jr.
Ian Trinidad
Sophia Trinidad
Ashlynn Unruh
Alexandra Urdaneta
Joey Vasco
Evelyn Vasey
Katerina Velychenko
Vincent Viramontes
Penelope Von Barga
John Von Hoene
Quentaysia Walthour
Ethan Weiher
Sarah Whitson
Ajani Williams
Lukas Wilson
Brody Worklan
Livia Yaras
Hope Young
Brianna Zeiger

Grade 12

Ramzi Abdelhak
Estrella Allen
Sarah Alvarez
Ricardo Alvarez-Espinoza
Sophia Anzelmo
Samantha Archuleta
David Ascencio
Alexa Barahona
Ashlyn Bartlett
Kaitlyn Bartlett
Elizabeth Becerra
Lizeth Becerra
Gavin Belletynee
Gabriella Bendinelli
Patrik Bene
Cody Berg
Caleb Berryman
Gabriel Betancourt
Shane Blunte
Jasmine Bo
Elliot Bunge
Ashley Jacel Calaunan
Fiona Carlson
Adrian Casillas
Christian Castillo
Ryan Caulder
Camila Chacon
Taylor Chanhourack
Mya Clark
Zachary Collins
Alexis Cooper
Michael Cronkrite
Cheznie Dahl
Kahlen Davis
Mya Davis
Jaeden Dayson
Miami De La Rosa
Desiree Dickson
Trinity Dodd

John Dollinger
Isabelle Ellington
Mariam Eshaba
Sofia Esparza
Natalia Fatrowicz
Gavin Farley
Krysteanna Feliciano
Jackson Findley
Adaly Flores
Myles Foreman
Shaelyn Fortin
Kaitlyn Franzua
Jayden Gil
Matthew Gipson
Madison Govea
Dianey Granados
Jacob Gregory
Cole Guild
Madison Guild
Ava Guzman
Maxwell Haas
Isaiah Haque
Grayce Haschak
Max Hembrey
Ethan Henney
Hayden Henningsen
Linna Hidrogo
Caden Hitzler
Kelley Hobbs
Kyle Hobson
Matthew Honeywell
Caleigh Houdek
Jaslene Huerta
Jacob Hughes
Tristan Huizar
Austyn Hunt
Whisper Hunt
Juliana Janicki
Vince Jasinski

Jaada Jefferson
Destiny Jenkins
Delaney Johnson
Luke Johnsonbaugh
Ryan Kadlec
Penelope Karczewski
Logan Karnath
Cameron King
Joanna Kowal
Nathan Krengiel
Ana Larson
Lance Ioannes Lavajo
Gavin Lawrence
Sophie Leichuk
Micky Li
Vic Lin
Haley Lloyd
Sarah Lobont
Lilianna Ludford King
Emma Malak
Averie Martin
Lesly Martinez Ruiz
Edwin McBride
Kyle McDonough
Maddox Meade
Jayden Medina
Annabelle Melton
Madison Mesmer
Gavin Meyer
Logan Miller
Hailey Montanez
Allani Mora
Goretti Morales
Cole Munaretto
Valeria Munoz
Gainele Muntu
Raelynn Murillo
Erin Neiwern
Peyton OBrien

Aaliyah Ocampo
Emeri Oliver
Arel 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
Erik Rodriguez
Tyler Roepke
Ava Roth
Nicole Sak
Angela Nicole Salamat
Haley Schadle
Hayden Schmidt
Sarah Schmidt
Jesse Schmitt
Madeline Schneider
Shane Schuelke
Baylie Schultz
Emma Schuster
Kaitlyn Scott
Kelly Scott
Makary Sekulich
Kolton Selders
Camila Serrano
Michael Shulha

Lairek Shulman
Spencer Sica
Alyssa Siong
Carli Sipe
Aiden Skindingsrude
Logan Sledzik
Sabelle Slightam
Addison Smith
Annabelle Smith
Jameson Soco
Phoenix Soloveychik
Ravi Soni
Sohan Soni
Abigail Sovsky
Logan Swanson
Angel Tayo-Balogun
Landon Terryberry
Logan Terryberry
Caitlyn Themanson
Allison Thomas
Madison Tomassetti
Elyanna Torres
Destiny Torres-Ocampo
Quang Truong
Addison Ullrich
Veronica Vera
Leah Wagner
Aliyah Wallace
Kylie Wells
Natalee Whitson
Hailey Wilferling
Alivia Wisniowicz
Chloey Wolff
Jacob Zaleski
McKenzie Zamora
Cayden Zeller

GCHS SOPHOMORE CLASS COUNCIL

Taffy apple sale



STAFF PRE-SALE
SEPTEMBER 8-15 VIA REVTRAK
PICK-UP DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 3:15 PM, STAFF LOUNGE

COMMUNITY SALE
HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME - SEPTEMBER 25
GRANT TOWNSHIP FALL FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 4

COST & OPTIONS
\$3/APPLE
CARAMEL, PEANUT, CHOCOLATE, & SPRINKLED APPLES

Introducing

FIRST GEN BULLDOGS



A group created to
Assist First Generation
students in the college
going process.



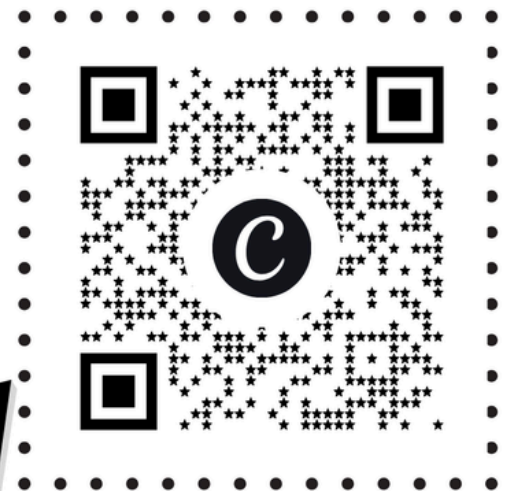
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THE
FIRST in YOUR FAMILY
TO GO TO COLLEGE

*Let's build your
Future*

HAVE YOU STARTED TO THINK
ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO
AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?
WHERE TO START?



FIRST GENERATION (ADJECTIVE) STUDENT:
A STUDENT WHOSE PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN(S)
HAVE NOT COMPLETE A POST-SECONDARY
DEGREE



SCAN ME
to JOIN the Group



**FIRST MEETING FOR
JUNIORS**
on 9/8/26 in the Lecture Hall

*Take the first step....
We've got you!!*

College & Career Center

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.

Career & Job Placement Center

Apprenticeship Awareness Program

Calendar of Programs 2026-2027

Manufacturing Apprenticeships Career Pathways Program

October 12, 13, 14 & 15, 2026 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Grayslake Campus & Advanced Technology
Center

Choose from one of the five CLC Apprenticeship Programs to gain hands-on experience and see how apprenticeships can lead to careers. *HVAC/R, Industrial Technology (INT), Precision Machining Technology (PMT), Automation-Robotics-Mechatronics (ARM), and CAD-Drafting Technology*

*Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend

Spring Break Apprenticeship Awareness Program

March 22 - 25, 2027 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Grayslake Campus

This **2 day in-person program** will give the participants an in-depth understanding of CLC's Apprenticeship Program. This program includes: professional development workshops, career path discussions, virtual and in-person employer visits, apprentice panels and more.

Spring Break - Year 2 Apprenticeship Awareness Program

March 22, 24 or 26, 2027 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Grayslake Campus

For students who attended a previous awareness program. This one day in-person employer visit to learn about specific apprenticeship programs in Industrial Technology, Automation-Robotics-Mechatronics, Precision Machining, Criminal Justice and Business/IT. Transportation provided from Grayslake Campus to employer sites.

Employer Site Visits

June 2027

Grayslake Campus

Select one employer for an in-depth tour and learn about specific apprenticeship options. Meet with employers, current and former apprentices about career pathway opportunities. Transportation is provided from Grayslake Campus to College of Lake County Apprenticeship employer sites.

*** Limited space for all programs.
Participants are eligible to earn a stipend.**

**For registration and more information,
please contact us!**

(847) 543-2059
cjpc.apprenticeships@clcollinois.edu



GCHS & VERDANT



BEAT THE TEST

ACT

Fall Crash Courses

Looking to sharpen your ACT skills before test day?

Join Verdant College Prep & Tutoring for ACT crash courses designed to help you hone your content knowledge, skills, and test-taking strategies before the October 17 national testing date! Courses will take place virtually over Zoom and are primarily geared toward seniors, though students in other grade levels are welcome to participate.

Courses are offered à la carte, so you can choose the subjects that work best for you. Each crash course is \$36, and students only need to sign up for one course per subject.

COURSE SCHEDULE



REGISTRATION FORM



Seal of Biliteracy

The next administration of language proficiency testing for the State Seal of Biliteracy is on Friday, October 2, 2026. The Seal of Biliteracy is a recognition for students who demonstrate proficiency in English and one or more other languages. When earned, the Seal of Biliteracy will appear on the student's official transcript and diploma. Students who earn the Seal of Biliteracy are also allowed to earn early college credit. All public colleges and universities in the State of Illinois have criteria for how this credit is awarded. Students should reference the college or university website for their criteria about how the specific institution recognizes the Seal of Biliteracy for college credit.

To qualify for the State Seal of Biliteracy, a Grant student must accomplish one of the following to demonstrate proficiency in English:

- Earn a minimum of 18 or above on the ELA with writing portion of the ACT
- Earn a minimum score of 4.8 on the ACCESS test
- Earn a score of 4 or 5 on the AP English and Language Composition Exam
- Earn a minimum score of 1-5 on the AAPPL English Test

To demonstrate proficiency in another language, each student must also meet one of the following criteria:

- Earn a minimum score of 1-5 on the AAPPL test in the chosen language
- Earn a score of 4 or 5 on an AP Language and Culture Exam (Spanish, French, Chinese, German, Italian, Japanese)



Upcoming AAPPL Testing:

Date: Friday, October 2, 2026

Location: Lecture Hall

Start Time: 7:40 AM

Students wishing to earn the Seal of Biliteracy are encouraged to discuss the opportunity with their counselor and/or language teacher. The AAPPL test fee is \$20. To review fees and pay for your test, visit [RevTrak](#). To register for the test, please also complete the [Seal of Biliteracy Language Proficiency Exam Registration](#) as soon as possible. Language registration deadlines vary and are located on the registration form.

Auto-Replenishing Your Student's Food Service Account

The old Skyward as well as the new Qmlativ allow parents/guardians to set up an auto-replenishment for students' food service accounts. Here is how to set that up:

1. Log in to your Skyward/Qmlativ account.
2. Click the Food Service tab.
3. In the top right-hand corner, click Make a Payment.
4. You will be directed to RevTrak. Please log in
5. Select the option to Set Up Auto-Replenishment/Manage Auto Replenish.
6. Make sure Auto-Replenishment is toggled to enabled
7. Enter your payment information and choose your preferred payment method.
8. Then save your information, and you are all set!

We have also determined that if you previously had auto-replenishment set up on your student's food service account, you will need to re-enter your payment information and select your preferred payment option following the conversion to Qmlativ. The previous auto-replenishment information did not transfer over with the system conversion. Please be sure to update this information to ensure funds continue to be automatically added to your student account as needed.

Writer's
Expo



LEAVE
YOUR
PRINT

in the

Write Space

GCHS
LIBRARY

Drop in

MONDAY-FRIDAY PDS 2-11

FOR STUDENTS WHO ACCESS THE LIBRARY DURING STUDY HALL, LUNCH, AND RED ZONE

AFTER SCHOOL TO 4:00 P.M.

FOR ALL STUDENTS

& Join us for

Words

& Writing

Whimsy

Crafts



Mondays

AFTER SCHOOL TO 4:00 P.M.



ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

Spaghetti



ONLY
\$5

OCTOBER 8
4:00-8:00 PM
SEE A CHEERLEADER FOR TICKETS!

RAFFLE PRIZES, GIFT CARDS, 50/50
CASH RAFFLE, & NOTHING BUNDT CAKE



GCHS CHEER PROGRAM

GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG



The Play That Goes Wrong

Get ready for an unforgettable night of non-stop comedy as Grant Theatre proudly presents *The Play That Goes Wrong* (High School Edition)! Originally written by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields of the Mischief Theatre Company, this hilarious show follows an ill-fated theatre group as they attempt to stage a classic 1920s murder mystery, only to encounter a series of catastrophic mishaps. A true global phenomenon, the original production has been thrilling audiences in London since 2012—where it won Best

New Comedy at the 2015 Laurence Olivier Awards—before launching five UK tours, a hit Broadway run from 2017 to 2019, and a successful off-Broadway continuation.

Part Monty Python, part Sherlock Holmes, this Olivier Award-winning whodunit has everything you never wanted in a show: an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, collapsing sets, missing props, and actors who trip over everything from the scenery to their own lines. Behind the scenes, our frantic student tech crew fights to keep the set standing, while on stage, the accident-prone thespians battle against all odds, medical advice, and the laws of physics to reach their final curtain call. The scenery may shatter, and dignity will certainly be lost, but our amazingly talented cast is determined to push through the madness for an evening of pure, unadulterated disaster that is guaranteed to leave you aching with laughter!

Come out and support our hard-working Grant Theatre Family as they attempt to survive the chaos. Tickets go on sale November 1st—Opening night is Thursday, November 12th, 7pm. So, mark your calendars, gather your friends, and secure your seats for a night of epic theatrical fun you won't want to miss!

Follow our Instagram: @grant_theatre

Follow our YouTube Channel: @GrantTheatre1936

Partnering for Teen Safety

Grant Community High School is proud to continue its partnership with the Lake County Health Department to protect students from the risks of drug and alcohol use. Together, we provide resources and empower teens to make healthy, informed choices.

Parents play a critical role in prevention. Research shows it's more effective to have 60 one-minute conversations with your child than one long 60-minute talk. The goal of this year's campaign is to help students understand the importance of identifying a trusted adult they can turn to for support, guidance, and honest conversations—helping reduce their risk of substance use and other risky behaviors. We're also inviting students to join our Youth Advisory Council—a chance to share their voices, create impactful campaigns, and develop leadership skills. Interested students should be on the lookout for a sign-up link on their TEAM Schoology page.

Thank you for partnering with us to keep our school community safe and healthy!

For more information, please contact the following people.

Amanda Bilbrey - Health Educator (abilbrey@grantbulldogs.org)

Tisha Eisenmenger - Drug and Alcohol Counselor (teisenmenger@grantbulldogs.org)

Paul Bravo - Lake County Health Department (PBravo2@lakecountyil.gov)



🐾 Keep It RED 🐾

It may be a new year, but the message remains the same: Bulldogs Keep It RED! At the start of every school year, we roll out several lessons that teach our Bulldogs what it means to Keep It RED, how they can earn/redeem Bulldog Bucks, and what student behaviors are expected. At Grant, we have built a culture around being respectful, engaged, and dependable (RED). We expect our students to display those three characteristics in all areas of the school and while representing Grant. These expectations go further than our building and will most likely follow you throughout your entire life. To aid in the understanding and development of these attributes, our PBIS Committee has implemented strategies and programs that make Grant a great place for students to thrive.

In addition to these lessons, we are in the middle of our Be On Time Challenge. This challenge pushes students to exhibit RED behaviors by showing up to their classes on time. By showing up to class on time, they are respectful of academic time, can be fully engaged in the curriculum, and are seen as dependable students to all. For this challenge, we are offering an ice cream party to the grade level with the lowest number of tardies, as well as Bulldog Cup Points. Along with the grade level prize, all students with zero tardies will be entered into a raffle to win Homecoming tickets. This challenge is running through September 4, so keep an eye out for an announcement soon regarding our winners!

Throughout the year, we will highlight students and staff who are Keeping It RED through our X account, [@KeepingItRED](https://twitter.com/KeepingItRED). Make sure to follow us for updates!



RED Zone

BULLDOG REWARDS

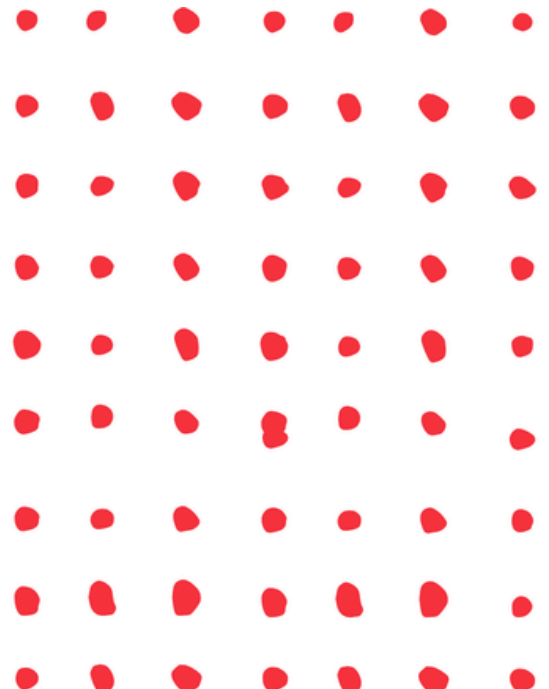
How do I switch out my study hall for access to the RED Zone?

- Stay academically on-track for graduation
- Be in attendance for at least 90% of school days
- Have three or fewer behavioral incidents (detentions, referrals to the Dean's Office, etc.)

What rewards are part of the RED Zone?

- More time to utilize academic resource labs
- Use the library for a quiet study or collaborative group work area
- Enjoy the new Bulldog Cafe located in the Auditorium lobby

Student grades, attendance records, and behavioral referrals are checked every quarter for an up-to-date list of **senior students** who qualify for the RED Zone.



Process for Reporting Sexual Assault

On-Campus Reports

If a student reports an instance of a sexual assault that occurred on campus, parents are immediately notified, as well as the police/authorities and our Student Services Team (SST). While our SST members legally cannot discuss specific details about the accusation, they work to support the student involved and address the trauma associated with the accusation. Police take on the role of notifying the advocacy center for the victim to set up an interview to protect the integrity of the investigation. In Illinois, when there is an allegation of child sexual abuse or severe physical abuse, children are referred to a local Child Advocacy Center (CAC). There, an interview is conducted in a child-friendly environment by a trained professional who knows the right questions to ask in a way that does not re-traumatize the child. If the alleged sexual assault occurred on campus or at a school-sponsored event, the District would consult and coordinate with local law enforcement. The District's own internal investigation can not interfere with an ongoing criminal investigation. If the authorities can prove misconduct took place on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event, consequences are issued at a school level and in accordance with District 124 policies and procedures. GCHS always has and will continue to adhere to all court orders and any legal rulings affecting the students involved.

Off-Campus Reports

When students report instances of sexual assault occurring off campus, the police/authorities are notified immediately, and an interview is set up with the advocacy center. In Illinois, when there is an allegation of child sexual abuse or severe physical abuse, children are referred to a local Child Advocacy Center (CAC). There, an interview is conducted in a child-friendly environment by a trained professional who knows the right questions to ask in a way that does not re-traumatize the child. When reports of sexual violence are made, our SST members are available to support students, connect students with community resources, and provide supports and options for students to consider while the criminal investigation is ongoing, including a modified school day, modified schedule, etc. All students do have equal access to public education, and all individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty. The District will strictly adhere to court orders and any legal rulings affecting the students involved.

Additional Resources for Students

To help bridge the gap of trust and support for our students, we have a standing partnership with the Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center (ZCenter). ZCenter seeks to provide quality, comprehensive, client-centered services to survivors of sexual assault and abuse. Students needing additional support outside of SST can reach out to their Red Team members for more information or visit zcenter.org to connect with a Zacharias member. In addition, we are always willing to change schedules, provide tutoring, set up safe routes, allow students to leave class early, etc., and to provide other support to the student while cases are pending.

Law Enforcement Non-Emergency Lines:

Fox Lake Police Department: 847-587-3100

Lakemoor Police Department: 815-385-4111

Round Lake Heights Police Department: 847-546-9704

Spring Grove Police Department: 815-338-2145

Lake County Sheriff's Office, serves unincorporated areas: Business Hours: 847-377-4000

Non-Business Hours: 847-377-4188

Lake Villa Police Department: 847-356-6106

Round Lake Police Department: 847-546-8112

Round Lake Beach Police Department: 847-270-9111

1 While the investigative process is consistent in every situation, consequences may differ depending on the outcome of each individual investigation.

Grant Community High School District 124 is committed to providing an educational environment free of verbal, physical, or other conduct or communications constituting harassment based on sex as defined and otherwise prohibited by state and federal law. As stated in School Board Policy 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited) and School Board Policy 2:265 (Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure), students are encouraged to report claims or incidences of bullying, intimidation, harassment, sexual harassment, or any other prohibited conduct to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Principal, Assistant Principals, Deans, a Complaint Manager, or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. GCHS also complies with Erin's Law (Illinois Public Act 097-1147) by providing sexual abuse prevention education for all students enrolled in Health classes.



C A L E N D A R

September

Sept. 2	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Sept. 7	Labor Day, No School
Sept. 8	First Generation Bulldogs Meeting
Sept. 9	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Parent University: College 101 & Financial Aid
Sept. 11	Progress Report
Sept. 16	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Sept. 23	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Homecoming Block Party & Flag Football Game Seal of Biliteracy Fall Administration Registration Deadline
Sept. 24	Board of Education Meeting Hall of Fame Induction
Sept. 25	Homecoming Football Game
Sept. 26	Homecoming Parade & Dance
Sept. 29	Picture Day
Sept. 30	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start

October

Oct. 1	Picture Day
Oct. 2	Seal of Biliteracy Testing - Fall Administration
Oct. 7	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Oct. 8	Cheer Spaghetti Dinner
Oct. 9	Institute Day, No Student Attendance
Oct. 12	Columbus Day, No School
Oct. 13	PreACT Testing
Oct. 14	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start Parent University: Collaborative Conversations on Career Paths
Oct. 15	Progress Report Board of Education Meeting Fall Choir Concert
Oct. 17	National ACT Testing at GCHS
Oct. 21	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start NMSQT Testing
Oct. 22	Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences, 5:00-8:00 PM
Oct. 23	Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences, 8:00-11:00 AM No Student Attendance
Oct. 28	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start



Grant Community High School District 124



2026 CALENDAR 2027

Aug. 5 Freshmen Orientation
 Aug. 10, 11 Institute Days, No Student Attendance
 Aug. 12 1st Day of Student Attendance
 Aug. 19, 26 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Aug. 25 Back to School Night
 Sept. 7 Labor Day, Legal School Holiday
 Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Sept. 11 Progress Report
 Sept. 25 Homecoming
 Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28 School Improvement Meetings, 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Oct. 9 Institute Day, No Student Attendance
 Oct. 12 Columbus Day, Legal School Holiday
 Oct. 13 PreACT Testing
 Oct. 15 Progress Report
 Oct. 22 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:00 to 8:00 pm
 Oct. 23 Parent/Teacher Conf., 8:00am-Noon, No Student Attend.
 Nov. 4, 11, 18 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Nov. 16 Progress Report
 Nov. 25, 26, 27 Thanksgiving Recess, No School
 Dec. 2, 9 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Dec. 16, 17, 18 Semester Exams
 Dec. 21 - Jan 1 Winter Break

Jan. 4 School Resumes, 2nd Semester Begins
 Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, Legal School Holiday
 Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Feb. 4 Progress Report
 Feb. 12 Institute Day, No Student Attendance
 Feb. 15 Presidents' Day Observed, No School
 Mar. 3, 10, 17, 31 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Mar. 11 Progress Report
 Mar. 22 - 26 Spring Break
 Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 Apr. 6 ACT Testing
 Apr. 21 Progress Report
 Apr. 30 Prom, 1:35pm Early Release
 May 5 & 12 School Improvement 9:25am Flex Time Start
 May 11, 12 Senior Final Exams
 May 14 Graduation Practice, 1:35pm Early Release
 May 16 Graduation
 May 18, 19, 20 Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior Final Exams
 May 21, 24, 25, 26, 27 Emergency Days, if necessary
 May 31 Memorial Day

◇ Freshmen Orientation

★ First Day of School ○ Parent/Teacher Conf. ✕ No Student Attendance △ Flex Time Start-9:25am □ End of Semester ☼ Graduation

August '26	September '26	October '26	November '26	December '26
Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa
1	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30	27 28 29 30 31
30 31				
January '27	February '27	March '27	April '27	May '27
Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa
1	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3	1
2	7 8 9 10 11 12	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	9 10 11 12 13 14 15
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	27 28	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 27 28 29
24 25 26 27 28 29 30				30 31
31				

Calendar is subject to revision
Updated: 1/12/2026

