

GRAYMONT ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER



Student Spotlight

There's a new club buzzing around Graymont! During recess, a group of students has formed the "Cicada Club", spending their time searching for, collecting, and learning about cicadas around the playground. We love seeing our students turn recess into an opportunity to explore, be curious, and have fun together!



UPCOMING EVENTS

* **Labor Day** ★ ★ ★
September 7 ★
No School

* **School Picture Day**
September 14
 Dress in your best for school pictures! More info will come home soon.

* **PTO Dinner with Code Blue**
September 25
Support Graymont PTO and enjoy a great meal! All proceeds from the dinner fundraiser help support our students and activities.

* **3rd-6th Ag Expo Field Trip**
September 29
Held at 4-H Park in Pontiac 

Get to Know Mrs. Minnaert

Jodi Minnaert started as superintendent and principal at Graymont on July 1, 2026.

For those who I haven't had the chance to get to know yet, I wanted to share a little about myself and my journey in education.

While I am new to this role, Graymont is not new to me. My connection to the district began years ago when my family lived here and my daughter attended Graymont. During that time, I became involved with the school and served on the Rooks Creek School Board. Years later, I had the opportunity to return to Graymont professionally as a special education teacher. My connection to Graymont has taken many different forms over the years, and I am excited to continue that connection in this new role.

My Background

I grew up in Wisconsin on a farm and attended a small school, so there are many things about the Graymont community that feel familiar to me. Growing up, I was very involved in 4-H and FFA, and those experiences played an important role in shaping who I am today. They taught me the value of hard work, responsibility, leadership, community involvement, and helping others.

My career in education actually began by teaching high school agriculture. Eventually, my career took me in different directions within education, including special education and school administration. Before returning to Graymont, I served as the principal at St. Paul School in Odell.

Although my roles have changed over the years, I think my upbringing and educational experiences have stayed with me. I understand the value of a small community where people know one another, look out for each other, and aren't afraid to pitch in when something needs to be done.

A Little About My Family

Outside of school, my family keeps me busy! My husband, Kale, and I have three kids—Scout, Remle, and Sunny. Like most families, much of our time revolves around our kids, their activities, and everything that comes along with raising a busy family. Being a parent has also given me another perspective on education and an appreciation for the trust families place in their child's school each day.

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Get to Know...Continued

Why I Enjoy a Small School

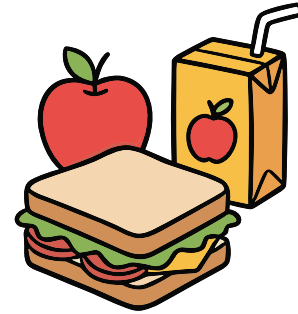
One of the things I enjoy most about working in a small school is that we truly get to know our students. Having attended a small school myself, I know there is something special about being in a place where students aren't simply names on a class list.

I want our students to know that the adults in this building care about them—not just how they perform academically, but who they are as people. I also want to support our teachers and staff in the work they do each day and make sure they have what they need to help our students be successful. I want Graymont to be a place where families feel comfortable reaching out, asking questions, sharing concerns, and celebrating successes with us.

You will see me wearing a lot of different hats throughout the school day. I may be in the office one minute, helping in a classroom the next, talking with students at lunch or recess, working with teachers, or handling the many behind-the-scenes responsibilities that come with running a school district. That's one of the things I enjoy about being part of a small school! Most importantly, I want our families to know that my door is open.

Communication and relationships are important to me, and I hope we can continue building a strong partnership between our school and our families. I am looking forward to a great year at Graymont and getting to know each of our students and families even better along the way!

-Jodi Minnaert



Free & Reduced Price Meal Applications

We encourage all families to complete the Free & Reduced-Price Meal Application—even if you aren't sure you qualify! Qualifying can help your family with meal costs and can also help Graymont receive important state and federal funding for programs, classroom resources, technology, and student support.

All information is completely confidential, and you may qualify even if you don't expect to!

The application can be found on the last page of this newsletter. Return to the office or Mrs. Minnaert. Questions? Please ask!

PTO Events

9/2 6pm Meeting

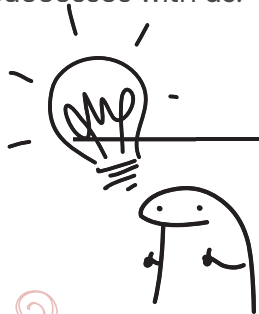
9/11 Drink Drive Ending

9/25 Code Blue Dinner

10/7 6pm Meeting

Get Involved!

Want to get more involved? PTO is a great way to support our students and school! Whether you can volunteer at an event, help with a fundraiser, or attend a meeting, every little bit helps. We are still looking for volunteer hosts for Family Board Game Night, Pastries with VIP's and the Spring Dinner. We'd love to have you join us!



4th graders getting creative while designing their own personalized name signs in art class!



ART

Latex-Free School Reminder

Just a reminder that Graymont Elementary is a latex-free school due to a student allergy. Please do not send any items containing latex to school.

Be mindful when packing lunches and snacks. Bananas and kiwi should not be sent to school due to their connection to latex allergies.

Thank you for helping us keep our school safe for all students!



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TRANSPORTATION



Pickup & Drop-Off Safety

Please drive slowly and use extra caution during morning drop-off and afternoon pickup. Be mindful when parking and pulling out, and watch carefully for students and families walking through the area. A few extra seconds can help keep everyone safe!

Bus Behavior Expectations

Help us keep the bus ride safe for everyone! Students should stay seated, keep the aisle clear, use appropriate voices, keep hands and feet to themselves, and follow the bus driver's directions. Safe and respectful choices help everyone have a great ride to and from school!

Not Riding the Bus Today?

Please contact Lori if your child:

- Is absent or sick
- Is going somewhere different before or after school

Keeping us updated helps make sure every student gets where they need to go safely!



Supporting each other on and off the field—that's what being a great teammate is all about! ⚾

News Crew



Keep an eye out for our student journalists! Students will be writing articles about activities, events, and other happenings around Graymont. Look for their stories in this and upcoming newsletters!

“You're off to great places,
today is your day, your
mountain is waiting, so get on
your way.”
— Dr. Seuss



Students were able to enjoy the cooler weather and have class outside with Mrs. G!