Grant Community High School

District Newsletter

November 2026

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Student of the Month

Neelah Johnson



Neelah Johnson, the daughter of Torious and Alison Johnson of Round Lake, is a dedicated senior at Grant Community High School whose high school journey demonstrates strong academic achievement, thoughtful student leadership, and an exceptional dedication to environmental conservation and community care. Neelah maintains a 4.45 GPA and has been named to the GCHS Honor Roll across her freshman, sophomore, and junior years. She has completed AP courses in Environmental Science and Language and is currently enrolled in AP Literature, AP Government, Dual Credit Biology, and Dual Credit Child Development. Neelah is a multi-year National Honor Society (NHS) member and three-time NLCC Scholar Athlete award winner; she was also recognized as a Future Business Leader of America (FBLA) State Qualifier in Agribusiness during her junior year.

Neelah's extracurricular activities highlight both her leadership skills and her commitment to fostering a welcoming school environment. She was selected as a Big Dawg Mentor to guide freshmen through their transition into high school and was chosen as one of 30 Grant students to participate in the 2026 NLCC Student Leadership Conference. As a four-year tennis player, Neelah competed on Varsity during her junior and senior years after earning JV MVP honors as a sophomore. Through her active participation across Class Councils, she has helped organize Prom, sorted books for Bernie's Book Bank, and helped gather over 2,200 pairs of shoes for charity alongside several of her peers. Additionally, as an active member of the Environmental Club and competitor in Enviro-thon, she has actively advocated for sustainability and school beautification projects.

Community service and meaningful employment are central to Neelah's work outside the classroom. She currently works for the Special Recreation Association of Central Lake County (SRACLC), assisting individuals with special needs and disabilities across various activities and serving as a first base coach for their softball team; a role that has reinforced her passion for inclusion, adaptability, and encouragement. Her volunteer work includes assisting with an annual Thanksgiving Pie Drive, which packages and distributes over 300 pies to nearly 1,000 local seniors, as well as serving through Feed My Starving Children, Northern Illinois Food Bank mobile distributions, and Grant Boosters concessions. Following graduation, Neelah plans to attend a four-year university such as UIUC, UW-Madison, GVSU, or NIU to major in Environmental Science with a minor in Early Childhood Development or Business, aiming for a career in environmental conservation, sustainability, or ecosystem management.

As the November Student of the Month, Neelah intends to use the platform to show her peers that you do not need to be the loudest voice, top of the class, or president of every club to make a meaningful impact. She views the honor as a reminder that Grant Community High School is full of unique trailblazers and hopes to inspire every student to realize that simple, consistent acts of leadership and service can create a strong sense of belonging across the entire school community.

Board of Education

Kathy Kusiak, President
John Jared, Vice President
Shelly Booth, Secretary
Ivy Fleming
Laurie Hembrey
Ed Lescher
Bob Yanik

Excellence in Education

First Quarter Recipient - Dawn Kalk

Dawn Kalk is a highly deserving candidate for the Excellence in Education Award. Her dedication to student advocacy, empathy, collaboration, and integrity is evident in the meaningful support she provides to students, their families, and colleagues throughout the school community. As a school social worker, Dawn goes above and beyond to ensure that students feel heard, understood, and supported. She creates a safe and welcoming space where students can express themselves, share their concerns, and seek guidance with confidence.



Principal Schoell (right) presents Mrs. Kalk (left) with the Excellence in Education Award.

Empathy is at the heart of Dawn's approach. She treats every student with respect, patience, and understanding, fostering an environment of acceptance and trust. Her kind and approachable demeanor puts students at ease and allows them to feel valued without fear of judgment. Through her genuine care and commitment, Dawn helps students navigate challenges while ensuring their individual needs remain a priority.

Beyond her work with students, Dawn exemplifies professionalism and collaboration. She works diligently with teachers, counselors, administrators, and outside resources to ensure students receive the support they need. Dawn is also a trusted and valued colleague who is always willing to share ideas, offer thoughtful feedback, and support the professional growth of others. Her involvement on multiple GCHS committees further demonstrates her commitment to strengthening the school community and contributing to its collective success.

What truly sets Dawn apart is her unwavering commitment to advocating for others and building meaningful relationships. She leads with compassion, integrity, and a genuine desire to make a difference in the lives of those around her. Her dedication to student well-being, collaborative spirit, and exemplary approach to school social work make her an invaluable member of the Grant Community High School community and a truly deserving recipient of the Excellence in Education Award.



The Social Studies Department is excited to award the October Golden Globe Award to Aubrey Altergott!

Aubrey has quickly made an impression through her curiosity, critical thinking, and enthusiasm for learning in Global Insights. Her teacher, Mr. Schmadeke, shared that she has "jumped right into the Global Insights curriculum with the passion of a student who not only wants to understand current events but also wants to use that understanding to help plan for her future."

Aubrey has demonstrated strong evaluative and analytical skills while exploring topics ranging from artificial intelligence to complex geopolitical and economic issues. Her creativity, initiative, and leadership also shine in other classes, giving her teacher an even fuller picture of the student she is.

Congratulations, Aubrey! Keep up the great work!



Members of the Social Studies Department present Aubrey with the Golden Globe Award.

Principal's Corner



October was filled with exciting events, activities, and growth! Following our theme of "Leave Your Print," October was filled with work towards achieving student goals. This month, our students across all grade levels took the PreACT test in preparation for Spring testing. These scores will provide indicators for our students about their progress as well as how they might want to plan for spring testing. The ACT and PreACT tests offered during the spring are crucial for our students as they are establishing their academic opportunities for the future. As a school, we continue to offer a strong curriculum which includes many Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses. Our Dual Credit courses are offered through the College of Lake County for college credit. These courses are available across the curriculum and are offered at no cost to students. Dual Credit courses offer a great opportunity to get ahead with college coursework, but most require qualifying ACT scores or further testing to gain admission to the College of Lake County. As we work with our students to open as many doors as possible, please talk to your student about the importance of these tests and how being at school, working hard, and investing their time can pay off as they plan for their future. To further support our students, we have made ACT preparation available to all students through Edgenuity, and they may access the course content at any time. For junior students looking for a more structured approach, we have partnered with Learning Linx, Inc., which will be offering paid tutoring after school and over the weekends for registered students. Please look for more information about this opportunity in this newsletter. Our goal is to put our students in the best position possible for success at Grant Community High School and in their transition to college or professional life beyond high school.

To continue to enhance and build upon our strong start to the year academically, we will be hosting our second College and Career Readiness Activity Schedule on November 10th. During this activity, students will review the criteria for earning the Distinguished Bulldog and Bulldog Scholar recognitions. Additionally, students will review their goals that they set during our first activity schedule earlier this year, while using those goals to shape their course selections for next school year. Freshmen students will complete their four-year plan, sophomores and juniors will make course selections, and senior students will participate in an on-campus College and Career Fair featuring over 30 colleges, universities, and local employers. All students will also have the opportunity to update their completion of volunteer hours and other career-ready indicators, which count towards Distinguished Bulldog and Bulldog Scholar recognitions. We look forward to helping each of our students build their "Pathway to Decision Day." Decision Day is a celebration day for senior students where they celebrate their college and career commitments. I am personally excited to learn about our students' hopes and dreams and encourage conversations with students to help them shape their goals and find out what they did during our activity schedule on November 10.

On November 11, we will be honoring the veterans in our community through our Veterans Day event. Last year, we welcomed veteran alumni, staff members, family members, and community members to participate in panel discussions with our Social Studies students. We are looking forward to welcoming our local veterans back to school this year to share their service experiences with our students and reflect on the meaning of service within our community. We are thankful for the service of each veteran in our Bulldog community and extend our thanks to each of you in advance of Veterans Day.

I look forward to our events in the coming month and am excited to see what November holds for our Bulldog Community.

Go Bulldogs!

Mr. Blair Schoell
Principal



ONLINE AUCTION

GCHS FOUNDATION

FUNDING FUTURES, ONE BID AT A TIME

The GCHS Foundation's online auction begins November 1 and will feature a variety of exciting items and experiences. Whether you're looking for something fun for yourself, a great gift, or a unique way to support our Bulldogs, you'll have plenty of opportunities to bid.

Your participation helps support the GCHS Foundation and its efforts to enhance opportunities for students at Grant Community High School.

START	END	DOWNLOAD HANDBID TODAY!
Sunday, November 1 @ 12:00 PM	Saturday, November 7 @ 5:00 PM	

Here's a sneak peek at some of the items up for grabs this year: a Weber 4-Burner Griddle, Cubs and White Sox tickets, local restaurant gift cards, hair and nail certificates, driveway sealcoating, VIP student parking for 2027–2028, graduation tickets and parking, prom tickets, GCHS fall play tickets, and more!

MORE INFO

www.grantbulldogs.org
https://events.handbid.com/lp/gchs-foundation-online-auction-2026

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.

November 4 - AP & Dual Credit Night

This is an informational evening for parents whose students might consider AP or Dual Credit courses. We will have a keynote speaker, Amanda Harmer, who is the new Program Manager for College Readiness and Dual Credit at the College of Lake County. Also, each AP or Dual Credit course will provide a short presentation for parents. Parents may choose to attend three sessions in person that evening.

For all sessions, the doors open at 6:00 PM for registration. Parents should park in the student lot and enter through Door 9. Sessions begin at 6:30 PM.

National School Psychology Week

November 9-13, 2026

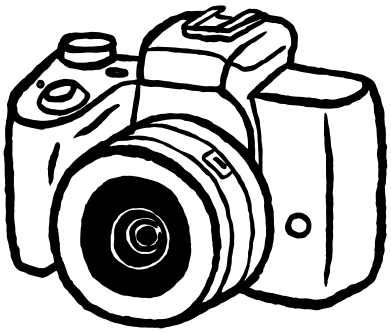
National School Psychology Week (NSPW) is the perfect time to recognize and show appreciation for school psychologists, who support students' learning and mental and behavioral health, promote positive and inclusive school climates, serve on school safety and crisis teams, and collaborate with families, teachers, and administrators to improve student outcomes. This year's theme, "Inspire Connection," highlights how school psychologists build meaningful relationships that support students, strengthen collaboration, and transform school communities. We are lucky enough to have three psychologists on our team: Ms. Hoy, Dr. Petrova, and Ms. Zalapi.

School psychologists are members of our Red Teams, which support students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach. Every day, school psychologists create and maintain connections that make a difference in the lives of children and youth. They support students in building skills, confidence, and a sense of belonging. They partner with educators and families to better understand and respond to students' needs. And they help schools by aligning efforts, improving supports across systems, and creating environments where all students can succeed.



Picture Day & Ordering Information

GCHS Picture Days were held on September 29 and October 1. If your student was unable to have their photo taken, Picture Day Retakes are scheduled for November 5. After picture day, you'll be able to view your images, order packages, and select your image for your yearbook. We ask that all students select their yearbook photo ASAP. If a photo is not selected, a photo will be selected for them. All orders will be delivered to your home. After pictures have been taken, you can search for them at vipis.com. Enter your student's information and your email to receive an email when your photos are ready to view. If you need further assistance, contact VIP at support@vipis.com.



Bulldogs Selected for ILMEA District 7 Festival

This fall, 20 choir students and four band students submitted audition videos to the Illinois Music Educators Association District 7 Music Festival. After this rigorous audition process, we are proud to report that Grant will have one band student and 12 choir students representing us at the Festival! This is a history-making moment for us, as we've never before had so many students qualify for this event! Our ILMEA District 7 Band representative is Teagan Lord on French Horn. Our ILMEA District 7 Choir representatives in the SATB Chorus are Joaquin Argueta, Avery Brook, Natalia Cabrero, Kaitlyn Carpenter, Jeremiah Muntu, Derrick Rios, and Elaina Schiller. Our SSAA Chorus reps are Lily Contreras, Sophia Fandel, Payton Pruski, Evelyn Vasey, and SJ Weber. These music students have earned the opportunity to perform with some of the best musicians in our district, and work with college-level conductors. Congratulations to you all, and good luck at the Festival on Saturday, November 7, at New Trier High School in Winnetka!



Grant Thespians Prepare to Take the Stage

Get ready for an unforgettable night of non-stop comedy as Grant Theatre proudly presents The Play That Goes Wrong. 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. This year, Grant Theatre is doing something new: we have SO many AMAZING Bulldog Thespians that we are having TWO separate casts. And we are running TWO additional performances! Tickets go on sale November 1st. Performance dates and times are listed below. So, mark your calendars, gather your friends, and secure your seats for a night of epic theatrical fun you won't want to miss!

- Thursday, November 12th, 7 pm
- Friday, November 13th, 7 pm
- Saturday, November 14th, 2 pm
- Saturday, November 14th, 7 pm
- Sunday, November 15th, 2 pm

Follow us on Instagram: @grant_theatre
Follow us on YouTube: @GrantTheatre1936



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 - Claira Sharani

A few reasons why art draws me in are that I grew up around it; throughout my entire life, I have been around art. As a result, I grew up being influenced by artistic talents. I also enjoy the community throughout art; everyone is always supportive of each other and is super kind at Grant. I love creating art because of all of the different artistic styles and how expressive it can be; no matter what the art looks like, it always tells a story. In the past year and a half that I have been at Grant Community High School, I have gotten as involved as I can in the arts provided; I have taken Intro to Art, Drawing 1, and Painting 1.

My goals throughout high school are to be able to take Drawing and Painting 2, Ceramics, as well as AP Art. Taking Grant's art has taught me so much more than I thought it would; I have learned more techniques and drawing styles. It has also given me the opportunities to try out new art styles and use different mediums; I have learned a lot. Taking Grant art has had a very positive impact on my artistic ability and will continue to do so.

I highly recommend other students throughout Grant Community High School to take art, whether or not you are interested in it; there is always something that is fun to do. To enjoy art does not have to mean that you need to be perfect, because art can be as abstract or as exact as you like it. Grant High School also provides a very wide range of different classes you can take, whether or not you want to work with clay, acrylics, oil paints, pastels, graphite, and many others; there is something for everyone. While being in the arts for only about a year I have really enjoyed it and I think many others will enjoy it just as much as me, the community is great.

My plans after high school are not concrete, as I do wish to continue doing art. I do not know what the future might hold for me. As I learn what I want to do later on in college, I will still continue to practise and create art throughout my life. By doing simple sketches of things you see around you or full drawings of your own, I want to continue to show my artistic talents to the people around me. Art is something that I will continue to do my entire life; it's a great way to express myself and my feelings.

Cheer Spaghetti Dinner

The Grant Cheerleading Annual Spaghetti Dinner was a huge success! The program would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all of its donors and sponsors for their generous support. Your contribution helped make this event a tremendous success, and they couldn't have achieved it without Bulldogs like you!



GCHS Baking Club
Moretti's - Fox Lake
Fratellos Hot Dogs
Evolution Nail Spa
Mandy Peczkowski
Venture Athletics
Fanella's Pizza & Pub
Central Clothing Company
Carrie Joray
Kenosha King Fish
Peters Gourmet Market
Ice Barrington
Shoreline Graphics
Portillo's - Gurnee
The Meadows Apartments - Lakemoor
Von Bargen Family
Advanced Dermatology
DC Cobbs - McHenry
Sweet Melissa's
Califf Family
Gentile Family
Lewis Family

Burmeister Family
Green St. Collective
Werner Engraving
Ryan Noda
Stade's Farm & Market
Provost Family
Carr Family
Koutsianelos Family
Moll Family
McNellis Family
Inman/Shipley Family
Gonzalez/Perez Family
Coker Family
Ironside Family
Fred's Service - Fox Lake
El Puerto Mexican Restaurant
Perricone's
Olive Garden - McHenry
Chicago White Sox
Grandma's Wine Bar & Deli
Harley Davidson - Kenosha
Good Family Tattoo
Delany Esthetics

Bea Freeman
Thorntons - Fox Lake
Fox Lake Family Restaurant
The Reidell Group Landscaping
Dipstick Oil - Fox Lake
Loaded Energy & Nutrition - Spring Grove
Grand Avenue Hair Club
Ray Chevrolet
Captain's Quarters
Studio 17 - Gabby Ruiz
Abdelhak Family
Marquez Family
Montalvo/Gomez Family
Relken Family
Hurtado Family
Fly Over Chicago
Teamsters Union Local 301
Morales Family
Mijos - Fox Lake
Galati's Italian Restaurant - Lake Villa
Raising Cane's
GCHS Kitchen Staff
GCHS Maintenance Staff

College & Career Center

The College & Career Center has several important opportunities and resources available for students and families this year. Be sure to check out the latest College & Career Center Newsletter for information about FAFSA, College of Lake County (CLC), application workshops, Tech Campus opportunities, and upcoming field trips.

We are excited to announce that our next College and Career Readiness Activity Schedule is quickly approaching on November 10. We look forward to building on the goals set during our August activity schedule, monitoring student progress towards those goals, and helping students across all grade levels prepare for next year. The focus during this activity schedule will be on course selection for next year for our current freshman through junior students.

During the November 10th Activity Schedule, all freshman, sophomore, and junior students will select their future courses in Qmlativ for the 2027-2028 school year. Students will work on their four-year course plans to map out courses throughout their high school career. All students will update relevant volunteer, workplace, and internship experiences in the Experience Tracker area of the SchooLinks platform. Seniors will be participating in a College and Career Fair where they can meet with a variety of admissions reps and career speakers to learn about pathways after high school.

Following the November 10th Activity Schedule, junior students will begin one-on-one appointments with their school counselor to review their course recommendations and selections. Freshman and sophomore students will begin one-on-one appointments with their school counselor when we return from winter break in January, continuing into February.

Girls Volleyball Raises Money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation

The Girls Volleyball program and the Bulldog community came together for another successful Pink Out, raising $3,198 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Thanks to the generosity of fans, families, and supporters, the event celebrated both the spirit of giving and the power of community.



Dawg Pound cheers on Varsity at the Pink Out.

The Bulldogs also had plenty to celebrate on the court, with the freshman and sophomore teams earning victories. Varsity battled Lakes in an exciting three-set match featuring several impressive rallies, capping off a memorable night of competition.



Varsity celebrates after winning an intense rally against Lakes.

A special thank you goes to the Athletic Department, the Hobson family for their work organizing the raffle, and everyone who donated, wore pink, cheered from the stands, or helped make the event a success. Pink Out continues to be a special tradition for the Grant community, bringing people together to support an important cause. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's event such a success!

School Board Member Appreciation



GCHS Board Members
Standing (left to right): John Jared, Bob Yanik, Laurie Hembrey, & Kathy Kusiak
Sitting (left to right): Ivy Fleming, Ed Lescher, & Shelly Booth

November 15 will mark the official statewide observance of School Board Members Day in Illinois. This honorary day is an opportunity for the district and community to show support for our Board of Education and their commitment to the students of GCHS.

School board members serve the public as unpaid volunteers for the benefit of the students and community residents. They are the front-line advocates who provide a local voice and vision for the District and seek to create meaningful educational opportunities for every child.

Board members dedicate a significant amount of their own personal time to the District. They attend monthly meetings, committee meetings, participate in professional development activities, attend a variety of school functions, and work to ensure students have access to the educational resources they need to succeed. This dedication often takes them away from time that could be spent with their own family.

Successful communities have high-quality public schools that are a source of local pride among residents. The leadership and vision exemplified by board members directly impact not only the school district, but also the lives of nearly every resident in one way or another. November 15 has been designated as School Board Members Day in Illinois. Leadership for our community and our schools begins with the tireless work of the local board of education. Please recognize the efforts of our local school board members on this honorary day.

Thank you!

Kathy Kusiak
President

John Jared
Vice President

Shelly Booth
Secretary

Ivy Fleming

Laurie Hembrey

Ed Lescher

Bob Yanik

Advanced Placement Exam Registration

AP exams are an important part of all AP courses. This is a standardized test created by the College Board that is administered across the nation and serves as a benchmark for recognizing your student's ability. Although participation in the exam is optional, we do encourage all students to take the exam. With a successful score of 3 or better, college credit or advanced placement may be earned at various colleges through this examination. The examination fee is much less than the college tuition for taking this same course.

There is a fee associated with this exam. The total cost for taking each AP exam is $99.00. The College Board and the State of Illinois also offer programs to subsidize fees for students who receive free or reduced lunch. If this is the case, the exam fee is $63.00 per exam. Scholarships for students in need are available through the Educational Foundation. We will certainly work with individual students and families to make sure every qualified student is able to take Advanced Placement exams.

Students must have a College Board account created and be enrolled in the AP Classroom for that course in order to take the exam. Parents should go to Skyward's Qmlative Family Access to use our RevTrak system to pay for the exam(s).



Important Deadlines for AP Exam Registrations for Year-Long or Semester One Courses:

- November 11, 2026: Students taking the exams must pay a minimum $40.00 Pre-Registration Fee per test.
- November 12, 2026: AP teachers will verify with all students that exam registration is accurate in the system and pre-registration fees have been paid.
- November 13, 2026: AP Exam registration is finalized. Any exam registrations that do not have the $40.00 Pre-Registration Fee paid by then will be canceled.
- November 14, 2026: Late registration fees or test cancellation fees go into effect. If students sign up for a year-long or first semester course AP exam on this date or after, an additional $40.00 late fee will be incurred. If a student decides to cancel an exam on this date or after, the student forfeits the $40.00 Pre-Registration Fee.
- March 12, 2027: All exams must have the balance paid or the exam will be canceled, and the student will forfeit the $40.00 Pre-Registration Fee.
- Second semester AP courses will have a different set of deadlines and will be notified at the beginning of the second semester.

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

Keep It RED

We've made it to November, and although it feels like we just started the new school year, we are just weeks away from finishing the first semester.

We are happy to announce that we have celebrated another round of Bulldog Pride winners, Bulldog Buck winners, and staff members for their RED behaviors! Whether they are helping fellow Bulldogs, putting in the extra effort to keep their grades up, or helping various members of the community, these Bulldogs are great examples of what makes up a Grant Bulldog.

During October, we provided an activity to TEAM rooms focused on anti-bullying. Our Expect Respect lesson incorporates the SWAT and SBL method introduced several years ago. During the Expect Respect lesson, students are taken through a scenario in which a student is being harassed and goes to a teacher for help. While talking to her teacher, this student is encouraged to stand up for herself by following the SWAT method. If someone is bothering you, you should ask the person to STOP. If the behavior doesn't stop, you should then WALK AWAY from that person. If the person follows you and continues the behavior, that is when you should TALK and tell a trusted adult.

If you find yourself in a similar situation and another person is telling you to STOP, you should use the SBL method. The SBL method focuses on STOPPING the behavior, taking a minute to BREATHE, and LEAVING the situation if necessary. In case students run into similar situations, we have placed posters throughout the school that outline these methods for reference. We found these acronyms very helpful and look forward to seeing how our Bulldogs utilize these methods.



August-September Bulldog Pride & Bulldog Buck Winners



Bulldog Buck Winners



Bulldog Buck Winners

Bulldog Happenings



Cheer volunteers at Walk & Roll to Cure for the FSHD Society

Our **Cheer Program** has been making a difference in the community by supporting individuals and families facing health challenges.

As part of their community service efforts, Grant Cheer volunteered at the FSHD Society's annual Walk & Roll to Cure event, helping advance the organization's efforts to raise awareness and support those affected by facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD). The program also collected items and assembled comfort bags for patients with cancer. These bags offer a thoughtful gesture of care and encouragement to individuals navigating a difficult time.

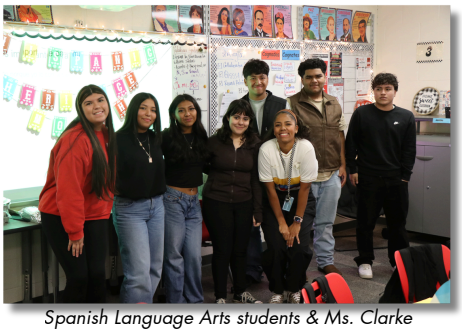


Comfort bag creation station

Through these service projects, Grant Cheer continues to demonstrate the importance of compassion, generosity, and giving back to the community beyond the sidelines.

Bulldog Happenings

Students in **Spanish Language Arts** recently presented dishes that hold special meaning to their families and heritage. In addition to creating presentations about their chosen dishes, students brought in samples for their classmates to try, giving everyone an opportunity to experience a variety of foods and learn about the traditions behind them.



Spanish Language Arts students & Ms. Clarke

The activity allowed students to share a piece of their family and cultural backgrounds with their classmates while learning about the different traditions represented in their classroom. By combining presentations with food samples, students were able to explore cultural connections in a memorable way while also celebrating the stories and experiences that make each family unique.



Student presents information about family dish.

The **Lake County Technology Campus** released its **September Students of the Month** list, and we are excited to share that seven Bulldogs were selected!

Evangeline Marsala - Automotive Service I
Ryleigh Marshall-Kwasny - Medical Assisting
Patricia Rangel - Culinary Arts I
Alexa Avalos - Medical Assisting
Brianna Andrade - Certified Nursing Assisting
Madeline Levandowski - Cosmetology II
Saul Prieto - Cybersecurity

Lake County TECH Campus

Congratulations to our Bulldogs - keep up the great work!

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.

THE DAWG HOUSE
GCHS PODCAST

FOLLOW ON SPOTIFY OR YOUTUBE FOR STORIES ABOUT OUR BULLDOG COMMUNITY



ACT PREP PROGRAM

Prepare for your future today.

Program Details:

- Focused content review for English, Math, Reading, & Science
- Small-group instruction (17 students per group)
- All classes will take place at Grant and will run for 10 weeks
- $185 registration for the complete program
- All materials are included
- Register online starting Monday, November 2

REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 2 & CLOSES DECEMBER 18

Class Schedule:

- Starting January 12
  - Tuesdays from 6:00-7:30 PM
- Starting January 14
  - Thursdays from 6:00-7:30 PM
- Starting January 16
  - Saturdays from 10:00-11:30 AM
  - Saturdays from 12:00-1:30 PM

LEARNING LINX, INC.
Educational & Therapeutic Support
ACADEMIC • SPEECH • OT • ADHD

Learning Linx, Inc.'s ACT Test Preparation Program includes Officially Licensed ACT Content. Learning Linx, Inc. is a licensed participant in the NTPA ACT Affiliate Tutor Program.

WE CAN MAKE OUR EXPECTATIONS CLEAR.

As a parent, you set the tone. And being clear about your expectations regarding underage alcohol and cannabis use is one of the most powerful things you can do.

Research backs this up: teens who know their parents disapprove of alcohol and cannabis are less likely to use them.

Sounds simple, right? Not always. A lot of parents assume their teen knows how they feel, while never actually saying it out loud. Don't make that assumption.

Think about the last time you talked with your teen about alcohol and cannabis. How direct were you?

- ☐ **I said it clearly and specifically**
- ☐ **I hinted at it but didn't say it outright**
- ☐ **I assumed they already knew**
- ☐ **I haven't brought it up yet**

Wherever you landed, consider it a starting point for your next conversation.

Knowing what to say can be tough, so here are a few ways to open the conversation. Pick one that sounds most like you, or use it to inspire your own introduction:

- **"I want to be straight with you; I don't want you using substances like alcohol or cannabis. That's not something I'm okay with."**
- **"I know this might feel awkward, but I want you to know exactly where I stand on alcohol and cannabis."**
- **"I don't say this to lecture you. I say it because I care about you and I want you to hear it from me."**

The most effective conversation is the one you'll actually have. Keep it honest, keep it direct, and don't be afraid to come back to it from time to time.

Source: https://bit.ly/3QwZfxX

We Can CHAT

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CALENDAR

November

Nov. 1	GCHS Foundation Online Auction Begins
Nov. 2	ACT Prep Program Registration Opens
Nov. 4	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
	Parent University: AP & Dual Credit Night
Nov. 5	Picture Retakes
Nov. 7	Last Day of GCHS Foundation Online Auction
	ILMEA District 7 Musical Festival - New Trier High School
Nov. 9	National School Psychology Week Begins
Nov. 10	SchooLinks Activity Schedule
Nov. 11	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
	Veterans Day Event
	AP Exam Pre-Registration Fee Due
Nov. 12	Board of Education Meeting
	Opening Night: The Play That Goes Wrong, 7:00 PM
Nov. 13	The Play That Goes Wrong, 7:00 PM
Nov. 14	The Play That Goes Wrong, 2:00 & 7:00 PM
Nov. 15	School Board Member Appreciation Day
	The Play That Goes Wrong, 2:00 PM
Nov. 16	Progress Report
Nov. 18	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Recess, No School

December

Dec. 1	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
	Parent University: Mental Health Awareness
Dec. 8	Winter Band Concert
Dec. 9	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Dec. 10	Winter Choir Concert
Dec. 16-18	First Semester Final Exams
Dec. 17	Board of Education Meeting
Dec. 21-31	Winter Break

January

Jan. 1	Winter Break
Jan. 4	School Resumes, Second Semester Begins
Jan. 6	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Jan. 13	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Jan. 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School
Jan. 20	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
	8th Grade Enrollment Night
Jan. 21	8th Grade Enrollment Night
	Board of Education Meeting
Jan. 27	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 AM Flex Time Start
Jan. 29	Seal of Biliteracy Testing - Spring Administration