"AT THE BOARD"
Regular Meeting: November 17, 2026

GRANITE CITY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #9

BOARD OF EDUCATION

✦ Pastor Derrell Brame with Central Christian Church offered the invocation.

- **School Board Member Appreciation Day**
  On School Board Member Appreciation Day, we want to express our deepest gratitude to the members of our school board. Thank you for supporting our schools and championing our educators. Your commitment to ensuring our classrooms have the resources, support, and vision they need allows us to bring out the best in our students. We appreciate everything you do for our district!

- GCSD9 BOE approved the **October 27, 2026** Regular Board Meeting minutes.

- BOE approved the following Consent Agenda Items:

  - **Bill List**
    October 17, 2026 – November 11, 2026 {available upon request}

  - **Approval of Paid and unpaid leaves and extensions - Garret**
    - paid and unpaid leaves

Name	Position	Building	Dates
Brooke Deckard	Paraprofessional	Wilson	10/26/2026 - 01/08/2027
Jamie Mihu	Teacher	Grigsby	12/08/2026 - 12/18/2026
Diane Moad	Teacher	Frohardt	12/08/2026 - 02/02/2027
Penny Tingley	Paraprofessional	GCHS	10/13/2026 - 01/06/2027

  - **FOIA Requests**
    We received three (3) requests under the Freedom of Information Act during the period October 20, 2026 through November 9, 2026.

  - **Actions of the Region 1 Board**
    The Region I administration is requesting Ratification of the following Actions of the Region I Board from their meeting held on November 4, 2026.
    RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS- PERSONNEL
    Contractual Occupational Therapy services with Integra Therapy Services
    NEW BUSINESS
    Approval of the Madison County Region I Audit

- **Donations**

- **United States Steel Corporation – GCHS Boys Basketball Program**

  On behalf of the Board of Education, District Administration, and Granite City High School Athletics, thank you to the United States Steel Corporation for their generous support of the GCHS Boys Basketball program. Your donation of the team's new shooting shirts, which our student-athletes will proudly wear with the U.S. Steel logo displayed on the back. Along with providing pre-game snacks and drinks, it makes a powerful impact on our team. Community partners like U.S. Steel help fuel our Warriors both on and off the court, and we are deeply grateful for your continued dedication to our student-athletes and school community.

- **Relleke Farms – GCHS and CJHS**

  On behalf of the Board of Education and Administration, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Relleke family and Relleke Farms for their continued generosity and support of students at Granite City High School and Coolidge Junior High School.

  This fall, students from GCHS Renaissance, Student Council, Foreign Language Club, Science Club, Speech and Debate, Dance, Cheer, and various Coolidge clubs volunteered their time at Relleke Farms. Students took on a variety of responsibilities, including ticket sales, working in the haunted maze, assisting with the petting zoo, and helping with other fall activities.

  In return for their hard work, Relleke Farms generously donated funds to the participating clubs or allowed them to keep the proceeds from their activities. These contributions will directly benefit our students and school community by supporting programs such as Thanksgiving baskets for families in need, holiday shopping opportunities for students who could use a little extra support, and schoolwide celebrations including the Personal Choice Awards and Academic Picnic.

  Relleke Farms does so much more than provide a fun fall experience for our community. They give our students opportunities to develop responsibility, teamwork, and a strong sense of service while helping our clubs raise funds that make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

  We are incredibly grateful to the Relleke family for their generosity, partnership, and continued investment in the students of Granite City. Thank you for being such an important part of our school community!

- **NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 Employments: - Garrett

- BOE approved the following employments

  **Pending completion of required paperwork and verification of previous employment*

Name	Position	Building
Amy Finazzo	Elementary Teacher	Prather
Donald Gunter	Elementary Teacher	Mitchell
Lillian Harris	Special Education Teacher	Grigsby
Marcie Sweet	Elementary Principal	Mitchell

- BOE approved the following 2026-2027 extracurricular assignments.
  **Pending completion of required paperwork and verification of previous employment*

Name	Position	Building
Kailey Bischoff	Pep Club Sponsor	GCHS
Justin Morton	Head Wrestling Coach	CJHS

- BOE approved the following certified and classified substitutes:
  **Pending completion of required paperwork and verification of previous employment*

Name	Certified / Classified
Michelle Conkovich	Certified
Mya Gill	Classified
Tatiana Huerta	Certified
Cindy Tovar Rodriguez	Classified

9.2 TAX LEVY RESOLUTION FOR THE 2026 TAXES COLLECTED IN 2027 - Suhre

- BOE approved the 2026 Tax Levy Resolution projecting a lower tax rate of $3.7531 and authorized the required Truth in Taxation notice, setting the public hearing for December 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

9.3 6th Hour Assignment Spring Semester 2027 – Lake ESSC - Keel

- BOE approved the following 6th Hour Assignments for the Spring Semester at Lake - ESSC

  Teacher – Candice Parker

9.4 GCHS – EF Educational Tour 2027 - Keel

- BOE approved the distribution of EF travel information at Granite City High School for an upcoming 2027 student tour to Italy and Greece led by Hannah Fishburn. An informational parent meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2026.

10 REPORTS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

- GCHS Guiding Coalition – Presentation (attached)

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES;

- GCSD9 BOE approved the Minutes of the Executive Session from, **October 27, 2026**.

13. SETTING OF THE AGENDA

December 8, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Professional Learning Communities at GCHS

- Members of the high school wanted to ensure that the time given to staff on Wednesdays was used intelligently and with purpose.

- Professional Learning Communities, through Solution Tree, gave the best opportunity for our students to achieve a higher level of learning.





Small group in December of 2025

- Created the Guiding Coalition, staff members that volunteered to lead the school through this process
- Updated the GCHS Mission Statement

Granite City High School will instill and inspire knowledge, empathy, and perseverance in all students.

Larger group in June of 2026



- Introduced the PLC process to staff at the start of school
- Walked small groups through the process
  - Understanding PLCs
  - Developing Norms
  - Build Consensus on the Future
- Developed the high school vision statement

Vision Statement

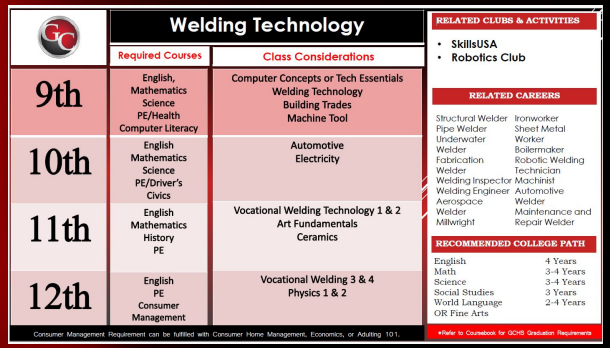
Granite City High School is a welcoming, connected community where students want to attend, learning is valued, and every student is supported to succeed.

Students take ownership of their education, persevere through challenges, seek help when needed, and leave GCHS with the knowledge, empathy, and confidence for their future.

Staff unite around a common purpose, collaborate to meet the needs of all students, embrace continuous growth, and lead by example through their professionalism, supportive relationships, and commitment to student success.

PLCs in the Future

- Guest speaker in January
- Work in Departments
  - Essential Standards and Common Assessments
  - Career Pathways



Welding Technology

	Required Courses	Class Considerations
9th	English, Mathematics Science PE/Health Computer Literacy	Computer Concepts or Tech Essentials Welding Technology Building Trades Machine Tool
10th	English Mathematics Science PE/Driver's Civics	Automotive Electricity
11th	English Mathematics History PE	Vocational Welding Technology 1 & 2 Art Fundamentals Ceramics
12th	English PE Consumer Management	Vocational Welding 3 & 4 Physics 1 & 2

Consumer Management Requirement can be fulfilled with Consumer Home Management, Economics, or Adulting 101.

RELATED CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

- SkillsUSA
- Robotics Club

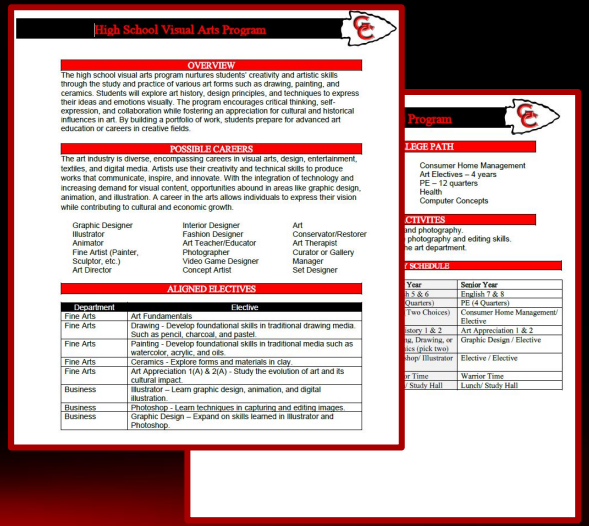
RELATED CAREERS

Structural Welder	Ironworker
Pipe Welder	Sheet Metal
Underwater Welder	Worker
Fabrication Welder	Boilermaker
Welding Inspector	Robotic Welding Technician
Welding Engineer	Machinist
Aerospace Welder	Automotive Welder
Millwright	Maintenance and Repair Welder

RECOMMENDED COLLEGE PATH

English	4 Years
Math	3-4 Years
Science	3-4 Years
Social Studies	3 Years
World Language OR Fine Arts	2-4 Years

*Refer to Coursebook for GCHS Graduation Requirements



High School Visual Arts Program

OVERVIEW

The high school visual arts program nurtures students' creativity and artistic skills through the study and practice of various art forms such as drawing, painting, and ceramics. Students will explore art history, design principles, and techniques to express their ideas and emotions visually. The program encourages critical thinking, self-expression, and collaboration while fostering an appreciation for cultural and historical influences in art. By building a portfolio of work, students prepare for advanced art education or careers in creative fields.

POSSIBLE CAREERS

The art industry is diverse, encompassing careers in visual arts, design, entertainment, textiles, and digital media. Artists use their creativity and technical skills to produce works that communicate, inspire, and innovate. With the integration of technology and increasing demand for visual content, opportunities abound in areas like graphic design, animation, and illustration. A career in the arts allows individuals to express their vision while contributing to cultural and economic growth.

Graphic Designer	Interior Designer	Art Conservator/Restorer
Illustrator	Fashion Designer	Art Therapist
Animator	Art Teacher/Educator	Curator or Gallery Manager
Fine Artist (Painter, Sculptor, etc.)	Photographer	Set Designer
Art Director	Video Game Designer	
	Concept Artist	

ALIGNED ELECTIVES

Department	Elective
Fine Arts	Art Fundamentals
Fine Arts	Drawing - Develop foundational skills in traditional drawing media. Such as pencil, charcoal, and pastel.
Fine Arts	Painting - Develop foundational skills in traditional media such as watercolor, acrylic, and oils.
Fine Arts	Ceramics - Explore forms and materials in clay.
Fine Arts	Art Appreciation 1(A) & 2(A) - Study the evolution of art and its cultural impact.
Business	Illustrator – Learn graphic design, animation, and digital illustration.
Business	Photoshop - Learn techniques in capturing and editing images.
Business	Graphic Design – Expand on skills learned in Illustrator and Photoshop.

Program

LEGE PATH

Consumer Home Management
Art Electives – 4 years
PE – 12 quarters
Health
Computer Concepts

CTIVITES

nd photography.
photography and editing skills.
e art department.

SCHEDULE

Year	Senior Year
h 5 & 6	English 7 & 8
Quarters)	PE (4 Quarters)
Two Choices)	Consumer Home Management/ Elective
story 1 & 2	Art Appreciation 1 & 2
ng, Drawing, or ics (pick two)	Graphic Design / Elective
hop/ Illustrator	Elective / Elective
r Time	Warrior Time
/ Study Hall	Lunch/ Study Hall



Questions?

