From the Office of the Superintendent...

Dear Family & Friends,

We are off to a great start to the 2017-2018 school year! Our students arrived on August 30th, the first day of school.

A special welcome back to all of our students, their families and/or caregivers, faculty and staff. Please know that the first few weeks have been a smooth transition, and we hope that this is further indication of a great school year ahead.

Our District Improvement Plan, which our administrative team finalized this summer, is available on our web site. This 3-year plan maps out a pathway to keep our efforts focused on student achievement. To honor our collaborative efforts, our theme for this school year is “Teach to Inspire.”

As always, please be sure to check our district and school web sites on a regular basis for updates and important events. Let us know what we can do to help.

Sincerely,

Sean P. McKenna
Superintendent

Griswold Public Schools would not be successful without the continued support of all parents and community members.

We appreciate your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to communicate with your child’s school or with the Superintendent’s office directly. The Superintendent can be reached by calling 860-376-7600 or email: smckenna@griswoldpublicschools.org

Research has shown that parental involvement is the most important factor in a student’s success in school.

The community of Griswold Public Schools educates for excellence by empowering students to become compassionate, confident, creative, and resourceful members of society.

DISTRICT VISION

The community of Griswold Public Schools excels at education for excellence for all students to be college and/or career ready.
Dear Griswold Elementary School Families:

Welcome to a wonderful 2017-2018 school year! Ms. Love and I are excited to begin a new year with you and your child. We will work each and every day to ensure that the community of GES students will be thoughtful, active, and competent members of the school community. Our vision focuses on student outcomes that promote:

- **Communication**, Effective oral and written communication for a variety of audiences and purposes.
- **Critical Thinking**, Problem solve through perseverance.
- **Collaboration**, Teamwork and leadership through respectful dialogue and interactions.
- **Creativity**, Innovation and risk taking through imagination.
- **Character**, Personal integrity and values through compassionate and ethical actions.

We work very closely with the home and the community to foster meaningful partnership roles for all. There are two important groups that help promote this partnership as an institutional focus: the School Family Community Partnership (SFCP) and the Griswold Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Both groups are very active and meet monthly. These two groups support our children’s learning and their family environment. Connections are also evident between the school and community groups such as Griswold Youth Services.

Teachers maintain daily contact with the families through the use of student planners, notebooks, email, and phone use and through the Griswold Public Schools’ website. Our main office maintains communication with the home through the use of the electronic Wednesday folder, which is emailed to families. We also utilize an automated phone system (School Messenger), as needed, to keep the community informed.

Our school day begins at 8:40 and ends at 3:10. Student drop-off and pick-up occur in the front of the building.

September is **Attendance Awareness Month**. We would like all students, here at school each and every day, unless of course he/she is not feeling well. We plan to work together as a staff to send this important message to all of our students to be in school. Visit [http://www.attendanceworks.org/](http://www.attendanceworks.org/) for more great resources.

We look forward to working with you and your child to make this school year excellent! If you have any questions please feel free to call the GES Office at 860-376-7610.

Joseph Bordeau
Principal
GHS SEPTEMBER NEWS
Welcome Back Students, Parents, Families and Friends. We are so thrilled to open our doors to students, and look forward to an exciting 2017-2018 school year.

Your students are our priority. This year, we will continue to focus on academic excellence, a rigorous curriculum, student growth, and building community and relationships. We are a kind, compassionate, encouraging school community focused on preparing your children for a successful life after high school. GHS’ Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is a group of parents working collaboratively with our staff to keep you informed on the many happenings at GHS. Please join us on Wednesday, 9/13 at 6:30 for our first meeting in the Library Media Center. GHS’ Open House for ALL parents/families will be held on Thursday, 9/21 from 5-7 p.m. Please join us!

All information on your student’s grades is available to you through Plus Portals. Please stay informed and reach out to teachers with any questions or concerns. In addition, please check into our website at www.griswoldpublicschools.org.

We are so thrilled to welcome this new school year. It is going to be great! Please feel free to contact us at any time with any questions at 860-376-7640.

Erin Palonen
Principal

A Parent’s Guide to Special Education in Connecticut

The State Department of Education has provided “A Parent's Guide to Special Education in Connecticut” to assist parents with understanding the special education process and role as part of the planning and placement team. The guide can be found on the Griswold Public Schools’ website under Student Services or by visiting the following link:

NOTE: To cast a wide net on different stakeholders, we will be holding these sessions in the morning or in the evening. **All sessions will be held in the Superintendent’s Office**, located in Griswold Middle School. The evening meetings are scheduled on the same evening of the District Partnership Advisory Council which meets from 7pm – 8pm in the GMS media center.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 14th, 2017</td>
<td>9:00 am – 10:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 11th, 2107</td>
<td>6:00 pm – 7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 2nd, 2017</td>
<td>9:00 am – 10:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No session in December</strong></td>
<td><strong>No session in December</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 18th, 2018</td>
<td>9:00 am – 10:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 21st, 2018</td>
<td>6:00 pm – 7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 15th, 2018</td>
<td>9:00 am – 10:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 11th, 2018</td>
<td>6:00 pm – 7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 17th, 2018</td>
<td>9:00 am – 10:00 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To strengthen our commitment to the Griswold community, we are launching our District Partnership Advisory Council this school year. All interested parties are more than welcomed to attend. This new forum offers all Griswold Community members opportunities to learn about our students, their achievements, and our collaborative work as a school district and community.

This District Partnership Advisory Council will meet in the Griswold Middle School media center from 7pm – 8pm on the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 11th
- Wednesday, November 8th
- Wednesday, February 21st
- Wednesday, March 14th
- Wednesday, April 11th
- Wednesday, May 9th
- Wednesday, May 30th (this meeting will start at 6 pm and end before 7pm)

Please join us at any of our meetings, as we look forward to your contributions and partnership with Griswold Public Schools.

Visit us at: griswoldpublicschools.org

Griswold Public Schools
211 Slater Avenue
Griswold, CT 06351
Tel: 860-376-7600  Fax: 860-376-7607