



SEPTEMBER 2022

The Griswold Times

GRISWOLD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

Dear Griswold Public Schools:

At the start of each new school year, we join together in the joy of resetting, renewing, and reimagining to embrace and celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of our talented students. Our students remain our focus in all that we do. Our Board of Education, faculty and staff, and I are committed to highlighting all the great strides our students make to move **Griswold forward**. In this edition of "*The Griswold Times*," you will notice how our students achieve and succeed academically, in extracurricular activities, and after graduating from Griswold High School; be sure to check out the "Alumni Feature."

We remain very proud of our students, their individual talents, and our commitment to educating for excellence. A special thanks to you all for making the start of the 2022-23 school year a promising one. Be sure to visit our website often to stay informed about all the great things happening at Griswold Public Schools.

Sincerely yours,

Sean P. McKenna
Superintendent of Schools

DISTRICT NEWS

9/11 MEMORIAL CEREMONY

The Griswold community held a beautiful ceremony on Sunday, September 11 at the 9/11 memorial on the GPS Campus.

The Griswold High School Chamber Choir and Wind Ensemble performed, Olivia Riley led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Liam Gervais and Devyn Pelillo performed taps.

Thank you to all who were part of it and attended!



COVID-19 INFORMATION

GPS has updated the [COVID-19 Information & Communications resource webpage](#) for the new school year. This informational page includes a daily tracking spreadsheet that is updated by our school nurses; CDC resources, including a quarantine/isolation calculator that may be helpful; and links to local testing and vaccination information for interested parties.

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SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON

GPS has updated our ["Safe Return to In-Person" plan](#); the slide presentation is posted to our website.

Let's Get Social:



Griswold Public Schools



@griswoldschools



griswoldpublicschools.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

GHS Esports Recruiter Visit

Monday, October 3, 2:45pm, GHS Auditorium (for students & families)

GHS College & Career Fair

Tuesday, October 4, 1:30-3pm
(Junior & Senior Students Only)

GMS Wear it Pink Day

Thursday, October 6
\$1 Donation Appreciated for the American Cancer Society

GMS Step It UP! Fundraiser Prize Day

Thursday, October 6

NO SCHOOL: Staff PD Day

Friday, October 7

NO SCHOOL: Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples' Day

Monday, October 10

GES Photo Day

Tuesday, October 11

Griswold Board of Edu. Meeting

Tuesday, October 11, 6pm
GMS Cafeteria

PSATs for 9th, 10th & 11th Graders

Wednesday, October 12
Shortened Day for GHS Students

GMS PTO Meeting

Wednesday, October 12, 2:30pm

GMS Step It UP! Fundraiser Day of Awesomeness

Friday, October 14

DPAC Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 7pm, [Virtual](#)

GMS Mashantucket Pequot Museum Visit for 5th Grade

Friday, October 21

GMS 5th & 6th Grade Fun Night

Friday, October 21, 5pm

GHS Music Program Mattress Fundraiser

Saturday, October 22, 10am-5pm
GHS Cafeteria

Griswold Board of Edu. Meeting

Monday, October 24, 6pm
GMS Cafeteria

GHS Spirit Week

October 24-28

GMS Red Ribbon Spirit Week

October 24-28

GMS Red Ribbon Rally

Friday, October 28

Homecoming Pep Rally, Parade, and Football Game

Friday, October 28

Homecoming Dance

Saturday, October 29

GMS Picture Retakes

Tuesday, November 1

GMS 7th & 8th Grade Fun Night

Friday, November 4, 5pm

GMS Scholastic Book Fair

Week of November 7-10

NO SCHOOL: Staff PD Day

Tuesday, November 8

HALF DAY: Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 9 & 10

GMS Veterans Day Assembly

November 10, 9:30am

NO SCHOOL: Veterans Day

Friday, November 11

GHS Fall Drama: *Play On!*

November 11 & 12

Griswold Board of Edu. Meeting

Monday, November 14, 6pm
GMS Cafeteria

GHS Madrigal Dinner

Saturday, November 19, GHS Cafe

GHS Powder Puff Football Game

Monday, November 21

Mr. GHS

Tuesday, November 22

HALF DAY: Thanksgiving Break

November 23

NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Break

November 24 & 25

Griswold Board of Edu. Meeting

Monday, November 28, 6pm
GMS Cafeteria

NOW HIRING:

GPS is hiring for the following positions (as of 9/28/22):

- Reading Specialist (GHS)
- School Psychologist (GAHS)
- School Social Worker (GAHS)
- Special Education Secretary, Full-time
- Wolverine Forward Before & After School Program Instructors
- Coaches: Girls Varsity Basketball, Indoor and Outdoor Track Assistant Coaches, Freshmen Girls Volleyball
- Paraeducators (Full- & Part-Time)
- Custodian, Full-time 2nd Shift
- Substitutes: Custodians, as well as Teachers, Paraeducators, Cafe Service Providers, Health Assistants, and Nurses

Find all open positions at

applitrack.com/griswold/onlineapp/

2023 GALAPAGOS TRIP

GHS Science Teacher Mrs. Tiffany Devlin-Perry and GHS Spanish Teacher Mrs. Holly Adriano-Ryan are still accepting enrollment for the upcoming Galapagos trip! All Griswold High School students, alumni, and families are welcome to sign up. The trip will be from July 7-15, 2023. If interested, please email tdevlinperry@griswoldpublicschools.org for additional information and prices. We only have six spots remaining!

ATHLETICS

FALL SPORTS MEDIA DAY

Griswold Booster Club chair, Melissa Wooten, and GPS Community Relations & Special Projects Coordinator, Kayla Hedman, organized Fall Sports Media Days for our high school fall athletes. Each athlete had their photo taken in front of the green screen for use by the Booster Club, and more!

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ESPORTS

The Griswold Valorant Green team was victorious against their opponent school on September 21 during a pre-season match! Watch the Griswold Esports team compete live on [Twitch](#). Learn more [here](#).

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GRISWOLD BOOSTER CLUB ATHLETES OF THE WEEK:

September 5-9

Sophia Wooten '26, Soccer - Scored 2 goals against Wheeler in the home opener.

Dylan Freyer '23, Soccer - shutout Montville at goal in his first game back at GHS, returning from Cheshire Academy.

September 12-16

Kuranda Ruggiero '23, Volleyball - 77 assists, 20 digs, and 11 kills in 9 sets to lead Griswold to sweep East Lyme, Fitch, and Wheeler.

Michael Strain '23, Cross Country - Michael ran his fastest 5k ever (16:34) at Harkness Park against The Woodstock Academy and Waterford. He earned 2nd place in the race as a whole and was the first to finish for Griswold.

September 19-23

Kiyle Montigny '25 (Wheeler High School), GHS/WHS Football - 5 Touchdowns, 92 yards rushing, 38 yards receiving against Weaver.

Abby Matheson '25, Volleyball - 6 kills, 16 digs, and 4 aces in the Lyman game (Lyman is the defending Class S champion).

Follow [Griswold Booster Club on Facebook](#) for more Griswold sports info!

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EARLY COMMITMENTS

Members of the Griswold High School Class of 2023 have made commitments to play NCAA athletics.

Kuranda Ruggiero has been offered and committed to Army West Point to play Division I Volleyball. Come out to see her play with the Wolverines this fall!

Dylan Freyer has committed to Ohio Northern University to play Division III Lacrosse.

Congratulations to both student-athletes and their families.



ATHLETICS (CONTINUED)



RULES AT GHS FOOTBALL GAMES

GPS distributed the following reminders to parents and guardians about home games at Griswold High School:

Friday night football & cheer games at Griswold High School are fun and exciting times for our entire community. In the best interest of all of our Griswold students and their safety, it is important that all adhere to the following pieces of important information.

- Please remember that all adults and students are required to pay admission upon entry to the game (\$5.00). All spectators will receive a stamp indicating payment.
- GHS administration and event security reserve the right to remove or refuse entry to any spectator who is in violation of Griswold High School rules and policies.
- Students and spectators are to stay off the hills surrounding the field and the woods. These areas will be blocked off by fencing. This is for safety purposes, and also to allow for people to use the concession stand freely.
- No one should go under the bleachers at any time.
- No students are to enter any building on campus.
- Throwing footballs, chasing one another, wrestling, and rolling down the hills is not permitted at any time.
- Griswold High School is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- Please remember that all school rules apply to sporting events.
- **Students in grades K-7 should be accompanied by an adult at all times during the game.**
- If an incident or emergency occurs, a school administrator or security staff must be notified at the game immediately.

STUDENT SECTION

Students have been packing the stands at all of our home games this season! Each week, they have picked a theme and shown their school spirit.

October 5-10 will be Neon Week. Stay tuned for future themes by following the Griswold Booster Club on Facebook and Instagram.

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2022 HOMECOMING

Mark your calendars for the Griswold High School Homecoming Football Game vs. Bacon Academy (Colchester) on Friday, October 28 at 6:30pm!

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GSPN: GRISWOLD SPORTS NETWORK LIVE STREAMS

Subscribe to the [Griswold Sports Network's \(GSPN\) YouTube Channel](#) to watch live streamed home games.

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ATHLETIC CALENDAR

Visit eccathletics.org/griswold for the GHS and GMS Fall Sports schedules for Volleyball, Soccer, Cross Country, Football and Cheerleading.

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For more information about Griswold Athletics, visit the [GHS Athletics web page](#).



GHS NEWS

GHS OPEN HOUSE

We had a very successful open house on Wednesday, September 28! Hundreds of current and prospective families visited Griswold High School and met with teachers and staff, enjoyed music performances, attended a FAFSA workshop put on by our School Counselors, and learned about elective courses and extracurricular activities. [Check out the highlight reel on Instagram!](#) Thanks for joining us!

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FEED GRIZ WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE

One very important part of our GHS Capstone Experience is Community Service. Every GHS student is required to complete at least 10 hours of community service per year for a total of 40 service hours by graduation.

There is a new bulletin board showcase outside of the GHS Cafeteria titled "Feed Griz!" that includes a visual breakdown of community service completed by grade this school year. One coin = one hour.

Helping others and your community is something that should make one feel amazing; and it also helps to have experiences that might inform a career choice in the future! Please contact Community Service Coordinator Jaselyn Caviness at jcaviness@griswoldpublicschools.org with any questions.

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PRINCIPAL PALONEN'S WEEKLY MEMOS

Are you receiving Principal Palonen's weekly memos via email on Fridays? If not, please contact the GHS Main Office at 860-376-7640.

COMING UP

COLLEGE ESPORTS RECRUITER VISITS GHS

Attention all gamers and families! Every thought about going to college on an esports scholarship? A college esports recruiter will be at GHS on Monday, October 3 at 2:45pm in the Auditorium to discuss college and esports scholarship opportunities. This presentation is open to all interested students and families.

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COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR

Griswold High School is hosting its annual College and Career Fair Tuesday, October 4 from 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the courtyards in front of GHS (rain location is the café & gym). During school hours, juniors and seniors will be called down to explore the fair.

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PSAT TESTING

On Wednesday, October 12, all 9th, 10th & 11th grade students will take the PSAT. This will be a half-day for students with dismissal at noon.

PSATs are not only excellent practice for the SAT, but also connect students to scholarships, including the National Merit Scholarship Program. If your child opts into our free Student Search Service, scholarship providers will invite them to apply. It also provides insight into a SAT study plan or which Advanced Placement Program (AP) courses your child may be ready for.

This is a "Post-Secondary Planning Day" for seniors. Seniors are not expected in school, and are encouraged to optimize the day to make college visits, perform job shadows, or work on college applications, essays, and requesting letters of recommendation.

AWARDS & HONORS

Celebrating Achievement & Success

Congratulations to 5 of our Griswold Wolverines who earned academic honors from the College Board's National Recognition Programs!

- Aislinn Green: National Rural and Small Town Award
- Amanda Wrobel: National Rural and Small Town Award
- Emma Retan: National Rural and Small Town Award, National Indigenous Award
- Kuranda Ruggiero: National Rural and Small Town Award
- Maya Perea: National Hispanic Recognition Award

Each of these students earned this recognition by excelling on their PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, or AP Exams and in their classrooms. Students who may be eligible have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and have excelled on the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10, or earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams; attend school in a rural area or small town, and/or are African American or Black, Hispanic American or Latinx, or Indigenous. Eligible students are invited to apply during their sophomore or junior year, and are awarded at the beginning of the next school year. Our five students were just a handful of the 62,000 students recognized nation-wide.

These academic honors can be included on college and scholarship applications.

They were recognized at the BOE meeting on 9/12.

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We are excited to share that we have three student teachers this year: Chris Delillo, Social Studies with Mr. Demars; Phil Michener, Math with Mr. Cooke; and Ryder Fitch, Science with Ms. Kingston.

GMS NEWS

MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT MUSEUM OUTREACH PROGRAM

An educator from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum visited the Griswold Middle School Learning Commons on Friday, September 23 and taught three sessions for students in grade five to align with their class lessons about Indigenous Peoples.

Students were shown objects that illustrated Pequot lives and activities in a 16th century coastal village and learned how the arrival of Europeans brought dramatic change. They learned how beaver pelts were one of the biggest trade items, and wampum was a popular currency at the time. Students made their own wampum bracelets that told stories, and learned to play a traditional tribal game, hubbub.

The Museum will return October 21 for another three sessions. This program was made possible by funding acquired through the American Library Association's Humanities Grant. The grant also allowed the middle school learning commons to acquire new books and virtual reality goggles.

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GMS CELEBRATED PEACE DAY!

Students, faculty and staff recognized the International Day of Peace on Wednesday, September 21 by decorating pinwheels and installing them on the front lawn. This year, the United Nations focused World Peace Day around the theme "End Racism. Build Peace." CREWs discussed how each of us can participate in building peace in our world by helping to build peace in our own communities.

**CREW (Caring, Respectful, Empowered Wolverines) is GMS's Social-Emotional Learning program for all students. CREW meets weekly throughout the school year to build relationships and create a supportive school community.*

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GET INVOLVED

GMS Parent Coalition: The coalition will meet once a month with a different topic and time for discussion. This is meant to be a way for school administration and parents to become informed about the community and issues that face middle school students, such as anxiety, vaping, bullying, social media, and more.

GMS Parent Teacher Organization (PTO): The PTO works to support the students and teachers/staff of GMS. They meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. in the GMS Office (or attend virtually). Learn more about the [GMS PTO here](#).

The PTO is organizing parent volunteers to help with the Step It UP! Fundraiser's Day of Awesomeness and upcoming Fun Nights for all grades. They also plan other fundraising events, contribute to class field trips, playground and enrichment materials, provide treats for staff, and so much more! The PTO is hosting a Holiday Bazaar and Basket Raffle on Saturday, December 3 from 9am-4pm. They are seeking vendors; email Sheri for sheristg@hotmail.com for more information.

A big goal of the entire GMS community is to raise funds to build a new, age-appropriate Fitness Challenge Course on the playground. The PTO has already updated 4-square courts and provided new equipment.

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GMS NOW

Get daily updates from Griswold Middle School on the [GMS NOW Blog!](#)



GMS PTO PRESENTS OUR 1ST ANNUAL
HOLIDAY BAZAAR & BASKET RAFFLE
DECEMBER 3RD, 2022
9 AM - 4 PM
GRISWOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL
211 SLATER AVE GRISWOLD, CT.

PHOTO OPS WITH SANTA
SHOPPING
VENDORS
BASKETS
RAFFLES
CONCESSIONS
CRAFTS
LOCAL ARTISANS

In the case of inclement weather, we would reschedule for - Sunday, December 4th, 2022

VENDOR INFO
\$35/VENDOR
PLUS A DONATION OF A BASKET

MUST BE PAID TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT - WE ACCEPT VENMO @GRISWOLDMS-PTO, CHECK (GMS PTO) OR CASH

EACH SPOT IS 2.5X8FT-. WE HAVE A LIMITED SUPPLY OF TABLES OR YOU MAY SUPPLY YOUR OWN TABLE OF THE SAME SIZE

We do our best to not allow duplicate vendors!

SET UP WILL BEGIN SATURDAY, 12/3/22 AT 8AM.

INTERESTED IN BEING A VENDOR?
EMAIL SHERI @ SHERISTG@HOTMAIL.COM

GES NEWS

Great things are happening at Griswold Elementary School!

PRESCHOOL

The GPS website's preschool section is updated! [Check it out for more information.](#)

Griswold preschoolers are learning and practicing ways to show respect to their peers and teachers by being kind. They are also participating in a lesson, "All About Me: Me and My School," and taking walks around the inside of the building to see where the office, nurse, gymnasium, library, and cafeteria are located, and took a guided walk outside around the GPS campus.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is doing really well demonstrating respect in all areas of our school. We are so proud of their growth in the past month!

1ST GRADE

First grade has been working hard to learn all about respect. Students are beginning Illustrative Math. First Grade will be getting a visit from the local fire department on October 12 to enrich their understanding of people who work in our community.

2ND GRADE

Second grade classes are finishing up Foundations, and moving into reviewing glued sounds. They are working with data and picture graphs in math.

3RD GRADE

Third graders are beginning to learn multiplication in math and have started working on weather in science. In reading, they are working on character traits, both personality and physical. They recently took a Community Walk to better focus on the SEL component of respect in the community and support Social Studies standards.

4TH GRADE

The fourth grade has completed benchmark testing and have started to settle into a routine to focus on both academics and SEL. In SEL, they are working on defining the difference between beliefs, values and opinions and exploring ways in which they can respect others' opinions. In ELA, students have been working on elements of plots, specifically looking for clues that can develop the exposition of a plot. In math, students are working to find factor pairs and using those pairs to determine whether a number is prime or composite. Students are also continuing to build their fact fluency with 2's, 3's and 5's. In SS, students are learning about New England and its landforms and landmarks that can be found in each northeastern state. In science, students are working on what happens to a rock when it detaches and falls down a mountain, and discussing root and ice wedging. They recently did a "sugar shaker experiment" to reinforce these skills.

EXPLORATORY

Students in Health are learning about the zones of regulation, and self-awareness. We are working on easy ways to think and talk about how they feel on the inside while learning to understand and sort into the four color zones. Over time, they will be introduced to strategies to better help meet daily expectations, while building upon GES character traits and managing feelings in each color zone.



Preschool and Grade 3 took Community Walks on Wed. 9/28.

WOLVERINES FORWARD NEWS

Wolverines Forward (WF) is a quality, affordable Before & After School Program for students in grades K-8. **Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is now open.** [Please click here to register.](#) Students will be added to the program roster on a first come, first served basis. Please contact jcaviness@griswoldpublicschools.org with any questions.

ALUMNI FEATURE: AYLA TAYLOR-ROBICHAUD '21

by Kayla Hedman '10, Community Relations & Special Projects Coordinator

There is nothing like a college visit in the fall. Crisp air, college hoodies, students in good spirits before midterms, and potentially a bonus opportunity for leaf peeping! I, having only toured two or three colleges before choosing my alma mater, always experience a sense of “what if” and much-delayed FOMO (fear of missing out) when I tour a school. I’m always envious of the young adults following their dreams and trying to find their purpose. It’s cliché to say, but it’s beautiful to think that they have their whole lives ahead of them.

In mid-September, I had the opportunity to visit Brown University in Providence, RI, and get acquainted with Griswold alumna Ayla Taylor-Robichaud '21. Ayla is one of a handful of recent Griswold High School graduates that are taking Ivy League universities by storm. Ayla is in her second year studying Biophysics, with the intention of pursuing medical school post-graduation. She always wanted to go to Brown, so she applied early decision with the help of the GHS School Counseling department.

Upon my arrival to campus, I parked in front of the Van Wickles Gates. This was the first time, and not the last, that I would hear about superstitions across Brown’s campus. Ayla noted that students only cross through the main gates once at Convocation, and once at Graduation. Allegedly, if you cross through the big gates between the start and finish of your undergraduate, *you will not graduate*. Also, if you step on the Pembroke College seal on the steps of the former women’s college, *you will not graduate*. See a trend?

On our walk to get falafel wraps on Thayer Street, and then trek across campus to the athletic facilities, Ayla and I reminisced on our upbringings in Griswold. We had many commonalities: we’re both the first born of two daughters, explored our interests through enrichment class projects, shared stories about teachers we had in common, and realized we’re both Yankees fans like our moms.

During Ayla’s time at Griswold, not only was she a stellar student, but she was also a three-season varsity athlete who ran cross country and indoor/outdoor track all four years. Ayla was also a violinist in the school orchestra and the Thames Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra. To experience a new challenge, she [helped launch the GHS Model United Nations club](#). She noted that GHS’s tight-knit community allowed her to really get to know faculty and staff, and also allowed her to have flexibility and support to create her own schedule that incorporated advanced classes in-person and online.

Now in her second year at Brown, Ayla is finding more ways to explore her interests. She’s engaged in extracurricular activities such as ultimate frisbee, and is enrolled in a string band class where she plays fiddle. Ayla also continues to be active in community service. In her time at Griswold, she volunteered at Day Kimbal Hospital before the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic. She currently volunteers at a free clinic in downtown Providence.

On a campus that seems to have beautiful green spaces, patios, and libraries everywhere you turn, I asked where she likes to study. “Outside, if it’s nice out.” Brown’s campus is bustling with over 6,000 undergraduate students, and we passed by a few groups touring campus. Ayla informed me that in October, there are also ghost tours on campus that examine many of the old buildings at Brown that are allegedly haunted. “It’s not uncommon to see a man dressed as the Grim Reaper strolling around campus this time of year,” she laughed, as she also informed me about Brown’s midnight organ concert on Halloween ([check out this cool video here](#)).

Ayla encourages current and prospective GHS students to get involved and take advantage of the fact that Griswold is a small school. You have the opportunity to get to build relationships with teachers and staff, as well as pursue your interests to get a good idea of how you want your future to look.

Since not everyone has their heart set on a college like Ayla did with Brown, it’s important to take advantage of opportunities to talk with school counselors about what’s right for you and maybe take a few tours this fall.

[Hear more from Ayla in our first “Alumni Stories” video on the Griswold Public Schools’ YouTube Channel.](#)

If you are a GPS alumni and would like to be interviewed for a highlight in “The Griswold Times” or a future video, please contact khedman@griswoldpublicschools.org.



Ayla Taylor-Robichaud '21 at Brown University.
Watch the video here: youtu.be/ZTuWLwH87NI





GRISWOLD FORWARD

OUR MISSION

Griswold Public Schools educates for excellence by ensuring our students are connected, by nurturing individual student talents, and by fostering a future-focused mindset.

OUR VISION

Graduates of Griswold Public Schools journey into the future as engaged citizens, effective communicators, critical thinkers, and resilient problem solvers.

DISTRICT GOALS

District Goal #1: Social and Emotional Learning

Griswold Public Schools commits to the advancement of social and emotional competencies in inclusive and equitable learning environments so that all of our students can grow and thrive.

District Goal #2: Blended and Personalized Learning

Griswold Public Schools will focus on promoting the implementation and expansion of Blended and Personalized Learning in all PreK-12 learning environments.

District Goal #3: Research-Based Instruction

Griswold Public Schools will explore and implement research-based instruction to improve outcomes for all Griswold students.