



WOLVERINE NEWS

Griswold Public Schools Monthly Newsletter

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

From the Office of the Superintendent:

Dear Families & Friends:

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year. We are thrilled to welcome back our students and families to our campus and the school year ahead. We apologize for the delay of this September newsletter; as you can see, though, we are going for a new look with our monthly newsletter.



Know that we are off to a great start! Let me take this opportunity to welcome our newest certified faculty members: Kelsey Hallock, Social Worker, GES; Addie Swanson, Long-Term Substitute, GES; Rebecca Brigner, School Psychologist, GMS; Justine Nedvidek, Special Education, GMS; Gillian Toth, Math, GMS; Charles Cole, Technology Education, GHS; Robert Doss, Long-Term Substitute Business Teacher, GHS; Logan Tonucci, Social Studies Teacher, GHS; Victoria Ywarsky, Special Education, GHS; and John Mariano, Special Education Teacher, Griswold Alternative School. We are so happy to welcome the newest members of our team.

As always, be sure to check out our web site and district Facebook page. We try to keep these sites up-to-date so we can keep you informed. Enjoy the rest of September.

Sincerely,

Sean P. McKenna
Superintendent of Schools

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Griswold Public Schools would not be successful without the continued support of all parents and community members, so thank you!

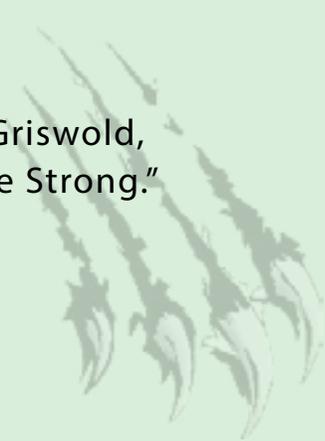
If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to communicate with your child's school or with the Mr. McKenna's office directly.

Mr. McKenna can be reached by calling 860-376-7600 or via email at smckenna@griswoldpublicschools.org.

Important Dates

- August 28: First Day of School!
- September 3: Labor Day, no school
- September 10: BOE Meeting, GMS library media center, 6pm
- September 12: Coffee & Chat with the Superintendent, Central Office, 6pm
- September 12: District Partnership Advisory Council (DPAC), 6 pm, GMS library media center
- September 17: United States Constitution Day
- September 18: IT Professionals Day
- September 22: First Day of Autumn
- September 24: BOE Meeting, GMS library media center, 6pm

"We are Griswold,
Wolverine Strong."



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GES NEWS

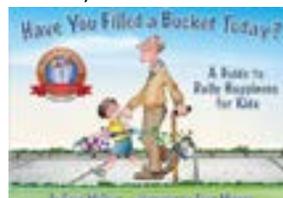
Dear GES Families:

Welcome Back to GES!

We hope your summer has been wonderful for you and your family. Our goal is for your child to have a productive and rewarding 2018-2019 school year. Because at GES, we try our best, to do our best, to be our best.

Our GES master building schedule has changed. A 6-Day Rotation Schedule has been implemented as a way to most effectively schedule each classroom's HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ART, LIBRARY, TECHNOLOGY, and MUSIC instruction. Students will now have each of their exploratories associated with a day number (Health on Day 1, P.E. on Day 2, Art on Day 3, etc.). By achieving this new schedule we will optimize instructional time for your child and allow teachers time to work together perfecting their craft. In addition, specifically in grades 3 and 4, students will receive their core instruction from two teachers. One teacher will teach Math and Science and their teaching partner will teach English Language Arts and Social Studies. The 6-Day Rotation Schedule appears on-line, or if you need of the schedule for the month, please contact the main office.

Have You Filled a Bucket Today? We have shared this book with your child to begin the school year. We see positive behavior when children are rewarded for daily kindness, appreciation, and love. It explains that we all carry an invisible bucket in which we keep our feelings about ourselves. Buckets are filled by saying and doing nice things for others. In our case, students will contribute to their classroom bucket by showing one, or more, of our character traits; HONESTY, CARE, RESPONSIBILITY, and RESPECT. We know children learn best when they feel safe and valued, when their buckets are full. So, I "Have you filled a bucket today?"



GES DATES AHEAD

- 9/14 Summer Reading Journals Due
- 9/17 All Fun Run (grades 3/4) begins
- 9/26 School Family Community Partnership (SFCP) Meeting at 3:30pm, GES LMC
- 9/28 Governor's Summer Reading Celebration
- 10/2 & 3 GES Fall Pictures
- 10/5 Staff Professional Development – No students
- 10/8 Columbus Day – No School
- 10/9 PTO Meeting at 6:00pm, GES LMC
- 10/11 Reading Challenge Kick-Off Assembly
- 10/15 GES Reading Challenge Begins
- 10/17 & 18 Conference Day – 1:10 Dismissal
- 10/18 PTO Cherrydale Fundraiser Pick-Up
- 10/24 School Family Community Partnership (SFCP) Meeting at 3:30pm, GES LMC

GMS NEWS

Dear GMS Families:

Welcome back for another great school year! We are off to a wonderful start thus far and are excited about what's to come. To date, we've hosted our Back to School Nights which were well attended. We've also had our annual Student Success Planning days for grades 6, 7, 8 where students rotated through six sessions with administrators and teachers. The goal of these sessions is to review expectations for the year and assist our students with tools and resources needed to have a successful school year. Grade 5 had a whole grade assembly where they too received this information.

Grade 8 students have already started their ExPO projects. Students are working hard with their coaches to lay the groundwork for their projects. We can't wait to see the finished products in April!

Looking ahead, we have collaborated with our tremendous PTO to plan some fun events for our students. Our first Fun Night for grades 5 and 6 will be held on October 6th while our first dance for grades 7 and 8 will be held on November 5th. The PTO can always use extra help on those nights so please reach out to them if you're interested. You can attend their monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 2:30, or email them at gpto2@griswoldpublicschools.org.

Please contact us should you ever have any questions or concerns. We're looking forward to another successful school year.

GMS DATES AHEAD

- 9/17 Fundraiser Kickoff
- 9/21 Pinwheels for Peace
- 10/4 Grades 5/6 Fun Night (5:00-7:00)
- 10/5 Staff PD day - No school for students
- 10/8 Columbus Day - No school
- 10/11 PTO Meeting (2:30)
- 10/26 Red Ribbon Rall, time and location, TBD



GHS NEWS

Welcome Back, GHS Parents, Families, and Friends:

We are off to a terrific start here at the high school. The students have acclimated beautifully to their new school year routines, and have done so with kindness and respect in our school community.

We have started a weekly parent/guardian memo this year! This memo is sent electronically via email every Friday, and can be accessed on our GHS website, as well. We value the partnership between home and school, and want to communicate as much as possible to keep you in the know of all GHS happenings!

PSAT & SAT -- Why it's important?

One of the biggest goals in changing the SAT was to make sure it is highly relevant to your child's future success. The new test is more focused on the skills and knowledge at the heart of education. It measures:

What you learn in high school

What you need to succeed in college

At GHS, students are granted the free opportunity for PSAT in the Fall in grades 9, 10, & 11. In grade 11, SAT Day happens for all juniors, free of cost and during the school day. This year, PSAT Day will happen at GHS on Wednesday, October 10th (which will be an early dismissal day at noon). SAT Day for all 11th graders will occur on Wednesday, March 27, 2019.

Please visit www.collegeboard.org for important information and resources for students and parents.

We encourage students to aim for academic excellence -- AP and ECE courses provide rigorous curriculum opportunities to obtain college credit. Please contact your child's school counselor for more information.

Please be sure you and your child are accessing grades through Plus Portals! The information is at your fingertips -- when checked regularly, you can have conversations regarding academic performance and achievement. In addition, should you have any questions, you have easy access to your child's teacher through the portal. Questions regarding Plus Portals? Please contact our School Counseling Office at 860-376-7640.

Looking forward to a wonderful school year! Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions!

Most Sincerely,

Mrs. Palonen & Ms. Macrino

GHS DATES AHEAD

- 10/3 1st Parent Advisory Council Meeting (PAC) at 6:30 p.m. in the GHS Library Media Center (all are encouraged to attend)
- 10/4 Professional Development for Staff
No School for Students
- 10/8 Columbus Day; No School
- 10/10 PSAT Day for 9, 10, 11 -- Early Dismissal at Noon; Seniors have "College/Career Planning Day"

SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Any updates from Special Education Department

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](#).



COFFEE & CHAT

With the
SUPERINTENDENT



All are welcome to join Superintendent Sean McKenna and other stakeholders at a “Coffee & Chat” session. These sessions are held at 6pm in the Superintendent’s office in Griswold Middle School. The “Coffee & Chat” sessions are held an hour before our District Partnership Advisory Council meetings on the following dates:

Wednesday, September 12th

Wednesday, October 10th

Wednesday, November 14th

Wednesday, February 13th

Wednesday, March 13th

Wednesday, April 10th

Wednesday, May 8th

Wednesday, May 22nd



1st Day at GES



GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Our Board of Education meetings are usually the second and fourth Monday of each month. When there is a long weekend with a Monday holiday, that BOE meeting would shift to a Tuesday. During the budget season, the Board of Education meets more frequently.

September 24th, 2018
October 9th (Tuesday), 2018
October 22nd, 2018
November 13th (Tuesday), 2018
November 26th, 2018
December 10th, 2018
January 14th, 2019
January 22nd (Tuesday), 2019
January 28th, 2019
February 11th, 2019
February 25th, 2019
March 11th, 2019
March 25th, 2019
April 8th, 2019
April 22nd, 2019
May 13th, 2019
May 28th (Tuesday), 2019
June 10th, 2019
June 24th, 2019



The District Partnership Advisory Council is a district-wide, community group that welcomes students, parents, caregivers, faculty and staff, and community stakeholders. Our First Selectman, Todd Babbitt, and other town officials frequently attend our meetings and we value their support. DPAC (for short) aims to build district and community connections. We will meet in the Griswold Middle School media center from 7pm to 8pm on the following dates:

Wednesday, September 12th, 2018

Wednesday, October 10th, 2018

Wednesday, November 14th, 2018

Wednesday, February 13th, 2019

Wednesday, March 13th, 2019

Wednesday, April 10th, 2019

Wednesday, May 8th, 2019

Wednesday, May 22nd, 2019

We look forward to your attendance, contributions, and partnership.

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