



Griswold Public Schools

Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER

2017

The community of the 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 Family & Friends:

November is a fast-paced, short month with many events. First and foremost, a reminder that there is no school for students on Tuesday, November 7th—professional development; and on Friday, November 10th—Veterans Day. There's also the Thanksgiving Day Holiday recess with early dismissal on Wednesday, November 22nd, and no school on November 23rd and November 24th.

If you have not registered for our systems notifications via school-messenger, please visit our district web site or call our Technology Department at 860-376-7660.

Our District Partnership Advisory Council meets this month on November 8th, at 7pm, in the GMS media center. We will feature our new administrators, GES Assistant Principal, Ms. Love, and GMS Assistant Principal, Mr. Vamvakides, at this gathering.

I would like to wish all students, families, and friends a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. Do enjoy this invaluable time together this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Sean P. McKenna
Superintendent

IMPORTANT DATES

11/05/17	Daylight savings time ends.
11/07/17	Election Day/Professional Development for teachers No school
11/08/17	District Partnership Advisory Council meeting, 7pm, GMS Media Center
11/10/17	Veterans Day—no school
11/13/17-11/17/17	American Education Week
11/13/17	BOE meeting, 6pm, GMS Media Center
11/20/17-11/24/17	National Family Week
11/22/17	Early Dismissal (Thanksgiving)
11/22/17-11/26/17	Thanksgiving & Thanksgiving break—no school
11/27/17	BOE meeting, 6pm, GMS Media Center



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.



GES NOVEMBER NEWS

Dear Families:

We want to thank you all for such successful Parent Teacher Conference turn-out. Our strong partnership with our families contributes greatly to the success of every child and therefore, the success of our school. With autumn upon us, and winter around the corner, the weather turns colder very quickly. Please note that proper attire is necessary for outside play. It may be beneficial to dress your child in layers. Please review all of the information included in this newsletter and should any questions or concerns arise during the school year, we invite you to contact us at Griswold Elementary School.

- We offer you the ability to make on-line payments to your child's meal account at **PayPams.com**. Benefits include: payment for child's meals via Internet or telephone from the convenience of your home or office 24/7; scheduling automatic payments based on account balance; receiving e-mail notifications of meal account balance; and payment with credit card or electronic checks for school meals from one convenient location. If you have any questions, contact the GPS Food Service Director at 860-376-7685. If sending in lunch money with your child, please make sure the bag is labeled with your child's name and amount enclosed.
- The GES PTO meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm.
- The School Family Community Partnership (SFCP) meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 3:30 pm.
- Specific dates for meetings and other GES events can be found on our website, www.griswoldpublicschools.org.

Important Dates:

- 11/7: PD Day for Staff - No Students
- 11/10: Veteran's Day - No School
- 11/14: PTO Meeting 6:00 pm
- 11/17: Kindergarten Muffin Morning 8:00am
- 11/21: GES Picture Retake Day
- 11/22: Early Dismissal 1:10pm
- 11/23 & 11/24: Thanksgiving Break - No School
- 11/29: School Family Community Partnership Meeting 3:30 pm

Mr. Joe Bordeau
Principal

GMS NOVEMBER NEWS

Dear Families:

GMS recently held our annual spirit week and Red Ribbon Rally. It was a great event which concluded with Kristen Butremovic being honored for producing her 20th rally. GMS was also excited to have guest speaker, Mike Panus, talk about making good decisions and committing to being drug and alcohol free.

Our next big event at GMS is the upcoming Veteran's Day Assembly on 11/9. Veterans and current enlisted members of our military who are related to anyone at GMS will be honored that day. We host a nice breakfast in the cafeteria followed by a great ceremony in our gymnasium. It's always a pleasure honoring those who have risked their lives for our country.

On 11/17, we will also be having our annual "Walk Your Can a Mile" event where our students bring in canned goods which will be donated to a local food pantry. The whole school will be walking around campus to get donations and also to build a sense of community.

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on 11/15 and 11/16 this year. Both of those days will be half days for students. On 11/15, conferences will be from 12:30-2:30 pm. On 11/16, conferences will be from 12:30-2:30 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm. We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible.

Lastly, Thanksgiving is rapidly approaching and we here at GMS are so thankful for our students and families, our staff, and community. Please enjoy the upcoming holiday and reach out to us if you ever need anything.

Important Dates:

- 11/2: PTO Meeting
- 11/7: PD Day for Staff -- No Students
- 11/9: Veteran's Day Assembly
- 11/9: Grade 7/8 Dance
- 11/10: No School -- Veteran's Day
- 11/15: ½ Day - 12:30-2:30 PT Conferences
- 11/16: ½ Day - 12:30-2:30/6:00-8:00 PT Conferences
- 11/17: Walk Your Can a Mile
- 11/22: ½ Day
- 11/23 & 11/24: Thanksgiving Break—No School

Mr. Glenn LaBossiere
Principal

GHS NOVEMBER NEWS

The start of November met GHS right in the middle of Spirit Week. The students were celebrating GHS with a Pixar Movie theme! The Homecoming football game vs. Stonington and the Homecoming Dance were the culminating events to a fun-filled week.

It's hard to believe the first quarter will end and the second quarter will begin on November 9th. Please review your child's progress, and make plans to visit with teachers during parent teacher conferences on November 15th and 16th. These will be half days for our students. You should have already received information for conferences. Please contact the main office if you need more information.

Mrs. Maynard's Bake Shop will be busy this month baking pies for our local Veterans for Thanksgiving. We thank the students for their service to our community -- and thank our Veterans for their service to our country!

The week of Thanksgiving brings excitement for our students with many events. The community is welcome to join us for our PowderPuff football game, Mr. GHS, the pasta dinner supporting our football team at the Jacques Cartier Club, the Turkey Dip supporting our Booster Club, and the big Thanksgiving football game (home vs. Plainfield).

Some important dates during this busy month:

11/7: PD Day for Staff -- No Students

11/10: No School -- Veteran's Day

11/15 & 11/16: ½ Days -- PT Conferences

11/22: ½ Day

11/23 & 11/24: Thanksgiving break

All of us here at Griswold wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving. During this holiday season, please let us know if we can support you. We are thankful to have such a wonderful and supportive community...have a great month!!

Erin Palonen
Principal



UPDATES FROM THE SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

As the winter approaches we want to remind families about school cancellations and delays and their impact on Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings. If school is cancelled, PPT meetings are "cancelled" and rescheduled. The Special Education Office will contact you with new possible dates and times. If there is a delayed opening or early dismissal, any meeting scheduled during the window when school is not in session is "cancelled" and rescheduled. For example, if your meeting is scheduled for 9:15 at the high school and there is a delay which moves the start of school until 9:35, your meeting would not be held as scheduled. Please remember that offices are also delayed or dismissed during weather events.



News from the Technology Department

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT RECEIVING NOTIFICATIONS FROM YOUR SCHOOL

This year, Griswold Public Schools switched to a new notification system. This means that parents and guardians need to agree or OPT-IN to receive text messages from the system. With the start of the cold weather coming, we want to remind parents and guardians that you have the opportunity to receive emails, text messages and calls to your home number or your cell number whenever there is a closing, delay or early dismissal for your child's school. If you already are receiving these messages, then there is no need to do anything. If you would like to start receiving these messages, then please let your school's main office know what type of contact/communication you would like to receive.

Once you have given the schools your number, if you would like to receive the text messages you can just send "Y" or "Yes" to 67587 Opt-In from your mobile phone.

There are instructions [here in this link](#) if you have any further questions or would like to read more.

Also, as always, if there is a weather event or other emergency that causes the school to have an important announcement you can always check our website <http://www.griswold.k12.ct.us/>

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MONTHLY COFFEE AND CHAT WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

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.

DATE	TIME
Thursday, November 2 nd , 2017	9:00 am – 10:00 am
<i>No session in December</i>	<i>No session in December</i>
Thursday, January 18 th , 2018	9:00 am – 10:00 am
Wednesday, February 21 st , 2018	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Thursday, March 15 th , 2018	9:00 am – 10:00 am
Wednesday, April 11 th , 2018	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Thursday, May 17 th , 2018	9:00 am – 10:00 am



GRISWOLD PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT PARTNER ADVISORY COUNCIL

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, 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

**GRISWOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT
GRISWOLD, CT**

2017/18

SCHOOL CALENDAR

GBE approved 1/17/17

Orientation Days Revised 6/7/17

ORIENTATION DAYS

- ⊖ August 24: Preschool Orientation
- ⊖ August 24: Kindergarten Orientation
- ⊖ August 25: 5th Grade Orientation
- ⊖ August 23: Freshman Orientation

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

August 30

HOLIDAYS & VACATIONS

- ⊖ September 4: Labor Day
- ⊖ October 9: Columbus Day
- ⊖ November 10: Veterans Day
- ⊖ November 23 & 24: Thanksgiving Break
- ⊖ December 23-29: Holiday Recess
- ⊖ January 1: New Year's Day
- ⊖ January 15: Martin Luther King Day
- ⊖ February 19: President's Day
- ⊖ February 20: Winter Recess
- ⊖ March 30: Good Friday
- ⊖ April 16-20: Spring Recess
- ⊖ May 28: Memorial Day

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ⊖ August 28 & 29, 2017 (No Students)
- ⊖ October 6, 2017 (No Students)
- ⊖ November 7, 2017 (No Students)
- ⊖ January 12, 2018 (1/2 day w/students)
- ⊖ February 16, 2018 (1/2 day w/students)
- ⊖ March 9, 2018 (No Students)
- ⊖ April 13, 2018 (1/2 day w/students)
- ⊖ May 25, 2018 (1/2 day w/students)
- ⊖ June 14, 2018 (No Students)

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

- ⊖ June 13, 2018: Early Dismissal

CONFERENCE DAYS

- ⊖ GES - October 18 & 19 and March 14 & 15/Early Dismissal for GES (K-4)
- ⊖ GES - PK AM - January 17/No school for AM Students
- ⊖ GES - PK PM - January 18/No school for PM Students
- ⊖ GMS and GHS - November 15 & 16 and March 7 & 8/Early Dismissals

CALENDAR BREAKDOWN (188 days)

Student Days 182
Staff Professional Development Days 6

KEY: / = Half Day = No School
// = Last Day of School, Half Day
□ = Staff Prof. Development/No Students

*Snow days will be made up in this order:
June 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22*

School Hours

High School 7:30 – 2:19
Middle School 7:30 – 2:19
Elementary School 8:40 – 3:10

August/September 2017

22/22

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2017

20/42

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2017

18/60

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2017

16/76

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 2018

21/97

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

GHS Mid-Year Exams: January 17, 18, 19, & 22, 2018 (1/2 Days for GHS students)

February 2018

18/115

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

March 2018

20/135

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2018

16/151

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2018

22/173

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June 2018

9/182

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

GHS Final Exams: The last week of school and depends on weather and graduation date. (1/2 days for GHS students)