



WOLVERINE NEWS

Griswold Public Schools 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:

The 2019-2020 school year has been very promising thus far. Our students are doing a wonderful job at their studies and in extra-curricular activities. Our faculty and staff continue to do an outstanding job supporting our students and caregivers.



The least said about the accumulated snow days already most recently, the better. Please be sure to visit our district and school websites frequently, as we try to do our best to provide timely information. We also keep our GPS Facebook page up-to-date with important information .

We apologize for the delay in our newsletter, and know that we plan to get back on track with a more regular publication in 2020.

We would like to wish Griswold students, families, faculty and staff a healthy, enjoyable holiday season and best wishes for a great new year.

Sincerely yours,

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!

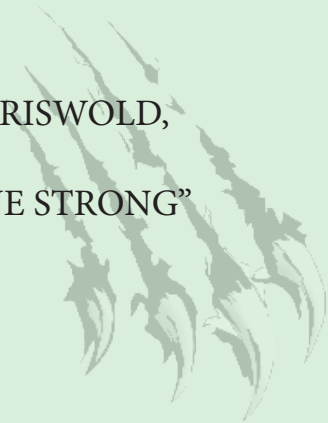
If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to communicate with your child's school or with Mr. McKenna's office directly.

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

IMPORTANT DATES for December & January

12/20	Early Dismissal
12/23	Winter Break Starts
12/24	Christmas Eve
12/25	Christmas Day
12/31	New Year's Eve
1/1/20	New Year's Day
1/1/20	School Resumes
1/13/20	BOE Meeting, 6pm, LMC, GMS
1/20/20	MLK Day--No School
1/21/20	BOE Meeting, 6pm, LMC, GMS
1/27/20	BOE Meeting, 6pm, LMC, GMS 6/24

“WE ARE GRISWOLD,
WOLVERINE STRONG”



VISION: The community of Griswold Public Schools excels at educating for excellence for all students to be college and/or career ready.

GES NEWS

Dear Families:

We want to thank you all for a successful start to the school year. The last few months have been wonderful at GES.

With winter here, 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. We have many items (gloves, hats) in our "Lost and Found" area.

We want to take a moment to share our Vision and Mission for all students here at GES.

The vision at Griswold Elementary School is to prepare our students for a life that will require them to be effective communicators, resilient problem solvers, critical thinkers, engaged citizens, and compassionate individuals. Our students will show their successes daily and will be prepared for the future.

The mission of Griswold Elementary School staff, parents, and community will be to support the academic, social, and emotional growth of students. Our instruction is relevant, reflective, and responsive to the needs of our students. Through a variety of learning experiences, our students achieve success in a safe and caring environment.

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.

A few reminders:

If you are picking up your child at dismissal time, 3:10, please park in the GHS parking lot and proceed to the main entrance of GES. Identification is required. Our procedure takes place in the GES gymnasium.

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 and via Internet or telephone from the convenience of your home or office 24/7; schedule automatic payments based on account balance; receive e-mail notifications of meal account balance; and/or pay 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 3:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

The School Family Community Partnership (SFCP) meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 3:30PM.

Specific dates of meetings and other GES Events can be found on our website, www.griswoldpublicschools.org.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a very successful year!

Mr. B and Ms. Love

GMS NEWS

Dear GMS Families,

The 2019-2020 school year has been wonderful thus far. We are happy to welcome our new Assistant Principal, Mr. Zubek.

It is important to note that we have had our annual Student Success Planning days for grades 6, 7, 8 where students rotated through six sessions with the administration 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 self-designed focus. 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 was held on October 10th while our first dance for grades 7 and 8 was held on November 4th. The PTO can always use extra help, 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.

-Mr. LaBossiere and Mr. Zubec



GHS NEWS

Dear GHS Parents & Guardians,

We have had a tremendous start to the new school year. Your children are respectful and kind, and we have all settled into our new schedules and routines. We value their education and growth, and are committed to preparing every student for a successful future. We've implemented our District's Vision of the Graduate to articulate these essential skills: Effective Communicator, Resilient Problem Solver, Critical Thinker and Engaged Citizen.

We are thrilled to welcome Ms. Michele Walworth to our team this year as our Community Service/Capstone Coordinator. Beginning with the Class of 2023 (current 9th graders), students are expected to complete at least 10 hours of community service per school year, totaling at least 40 hours in order to graduate Griswold High School. Community service helps students to enhance essential skills, aid in interests/future choices, and, above all, help others in need.

At Griswold High School, it is imperative that every student and parent are familiar with the College Board!

PSAT & SAT -- Why are they important?

The College Board has Redesigned the SAT. One of the biggest goals in this change was to make sure it's highly relevant to the future success of our students. The new test is more focused on the skills and knowledge at the heart of education. It measures: What you learn in high school and what you need to succeed in college

At GHS, students are granted the free 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. SAT Day for all 11th graders will occur on Wednesday, March 25, 2020.

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 look for Open Scholarship opportunities through the College Board.

We are very excited to have started GHS' first PTO! We have had three successful meetings, and have plans under way to fund-raise in a fun effort to support our students and staff.

Are you receiving my weekly Friday memos? It is important you are aware of all of the happenings here at your child's school. If you are not receiving my weekly Friday memo, please let us know by calling 860-376-7640.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns, or even something wonderful and positive to share! We look forward to a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Palonen & Ms. Macrino



SPECIAL EDUCATION

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.

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Special-Education/Parents_Guide_SE.pdf

Procedural Safeguards in Special Education

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), the federal law concerning the education of students with disabilities, requires schools to provide you, the parent, with a notice containing a full explanation of the procedural safeguards available under the IDEA and the IDEA regulations. A copy of this notice must be given to you one time each year. Additionally, you may request a copy of the document at any time or locate it at the following web address:

http://www.griswold.k12.ct.us/uploaded/Central_Office_Docs/SPED/p4b_Procedural_Safeguards_Notice.pdf

**GES HOLIDAY
FUN**



**GHS STUDENTS
DC TRIP**



GES MEDIA CENTER



**GMS VETERAN'S DAY
CELEBRATION**



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.

January 13
January 21 - Tuesday
January 27
February 3
February 10
February 24
March 9
March 23
April 13
April 27
May 11
May 26 - Tuesday
June 8
June 22

GHS CHAMBER CHOIR PERFORMING AT CONVOCATION





DPAC

Our District Partnership Advisory Council (DPAC) 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.

MEETINGS

February 6th	Griswold Senior Center, 7pm
March 5th	GMS, Library Media Center, 7pm
April 2nd	GMS, Library Media Center, 7pm
May 7th	GMS, Library Media Center, 7pm
May 28th	GMS, Library Media Center, &pm



Superintendent Sean McKenna, First Selectman Todd Babbitt, &
State Senator Heather Somer at a DPAC meeting

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Visit us at: griswoldpublicschools.org

