



JUNE 2022

The Griswold Times

GRISWOLD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

Dear Griswold Public Schools:

Happy summer to all! We hope that this June newsletter finds you all in good spirits, in relaxation and rejuvenation mode, and in all the joys that come along with summer fun.

Our Summer Learning program is in full-swing. Whether your student is an attendee or not, be sure to keep up with all the great learning taking place in our offerings on the [Summer Learning highlights page](#).

Our website continues to be the hub of all information, even during the summer months. Please be sure to stop by often.

Here's wishing you and your families a Happy July 4th weekend and continued summer fun.

Sincerely yours,

Sean P. McKenna
Superintendent of Schools

DISTRICT NEWS

Superintendent McKenna Presents Nationally

Superintendent of Schools Sean McKenna is honored to present to The School Superintendent's Association (AASA) at their annual conference in Washington D.C. on June 29. He will be presenting about *Griswold Forward*, and the steps GPS has taken to work towards our goals.

School Budget Development

The Town Referendum was held on June 7, 2022, and the Board of Education budget successfully passed. Thank you to everyone for your support. Find more information about the [2022-2023 School Budget here](#).

CT Summer Reading & Math Challenges

It's that time of year again to encourage students to participate in CONNECTICUT READS, the 2022 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge! [Learn more here](#).

Students are also encouraged to partake in the 2022 Commissioner's Summer Math Challenge, where schools compete against each other. The program identifies the schools with the highest percentage of participating enrollment and the highest number of badges earned by participating students. [Learn more here](#).

Let's Get Social:

 Griswold Public Schools

  @griswoldschools

 griswoldpublicschools.org

HONORS & AWARDS

Congratulations to the Griswold Public Schools Outstanding Employee of the 4th Quarter, Kyle Gunderman! Kyle serves as the district's Technology Infrastructure Manager, but has also been a large part of the success of the high school's advanced-technology Nexus Lab and Esports Team, for which he co-coaches, and he has been steadily growing the presence of the [Griswold Sports Network \(GSPN\) YouTube Channel](#) that has live streamed sports games and other campus events for the last five years. This summer, Kyle is leading a video streaming enrichment course for students in grades 9-12 as part of the GPS Summer Learning program. Kyle is also a Griswold High School alumnus, and has dedicated his time to many programs across campus throughout the years.

Congratulations to the GPS Paraeducator of the Year, Jennifer Fibrance from GES!

Congratulations to the GPS Teacher of the Year, GHS social studies teacher Hannah McNeil.

All were recognized at the Board of Education meeting on Monday, June 13.



Kyle Gunderman, Outstanding Employee of the 4th Quarter, pictured with Board of Education Chairperson Mary Beth Malin, Director of Technology Jill Curioso, and Superintendent Sean McKenna



GHS Social Studies Teacher Ms. Hannah McNeil was surprised as Griswold Public School's Teacher of the Year on June 13. Pictured here is GHS Associate Principal Marceline Dillon, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation Glenn LaBossiere, Griswold Board of Education Chairperson Mary Beth Malin, Ms. Hannah McNeil, Superintendent Sean McKenna, and GHS Principal Erin Palonen.

Welcome **Deborah Martin** to Griswold Public Schools as the new **Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services**, effective July 1st, 2022.

Ms. Martin is currently the Business Manager for North Stonington Public Schools, where she has been in that role since 2017. Prior to North Stonington, Ms. Martin has held different positions in the respective business departments of Sterling Public Schools, Norwich Public Schools, and Plainfield Public Schools. Before entering the school finance field, Ms. Martin served for several years at People's Bank as a Human Resources Executive Assistant. Ms. Martin's knowledge of and experience with business and school finance are quite strong. Please join us in welcoming Deb Martin to Griswold Public Schools!

Thank you to our current Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, Alisha Stripling; we wish you luck in your new role at Stonington Public Schools.



Jennifer Fibrance, Paraeducator of the Year, pictured with GPS & GES administrators and members of the Pupil Services team.



Hannah McNeil received recognition from the Connecticut General Assembly from State Senator Heather Somers and State Representative Brian Lanoue on June 14.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Learning Session 1

June 20-30, M-Th, 8-11am

School Offices Closed

Monday, July 4

Summer Learning Session 2

July 11-21, M-Th, 8-11am

Wolverine Volleyball Camp

July 11-14, M-Th, 9am-12pm

GMS Summer Fun Night for Grades 6-8

Thursday, August 11

[Follow the GMS PTO on Facebook for more information](#)

GHS Students taking part in Eastern Connecticut Performing Arts Association's Broadway Stars on Stage event at Mohegan Sun

August 12-14

[More info & register here](#)

First Day of 2022-2023 School Year

August 30

NO SCHOOL: Labor Day

Monday, September 5

GMS PTO Meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 2:30pm

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Summer Office Hours:

During the summer vacation period (Friday, June 17 through Friday, August 19), our office hours are different from the normal school year hours when school is in session. We recommend that all visitors call offices ahead of time to schedule appointments/visits. Please know that on rare occasions, these hours will need to be slightly modified. Should that happen, the office will post the adjusted hours to the front entrance.

GES 7:30am-3:30pm

GMS 7:00am-3:00pm

GHS 6:30am-3:00pm

Central Office 7:30am-3:30pm

NOW HIRING:

GPS is hiring for the following positions (as of 6/28/22):

- Teachers: Special Education (GES), Mathematics (GMS)
- Wolverine Forward Before & After School Program Instructors and Tutors
- Paraeducators (Part-Time)
- Custodian, 2nd Shift
- Print Shop Coordinator (Part-Time)
- Substitutes: Custodians, as well as Teachers, Paraeducators, Cafe Service Providers, Health Assistants, and Nurses once school resumes this fall

Find all open positions at applitrack.com/griswold/onlineapp/

Students ages 14+: [Working papers](#) for students ages 14-17 seeking summer employment are available in the Griswold High School Main Office.

FUNDRAISERS:

Fire Relief: The Dombkowski family suffered a devastating fire at their home on Edmund Road the morning of June 13 due to the lightening storm. Please consider donating to the [Fire Relief for the Dombkowski family GoFundMe](#). The fire spread and they suffered a total loss of their home which consisted of a main home: the home of Jason, Danielle, their 3 children, Helena, Finn (2022 GHS Graduate) and Gretta (just completed her sophomore year at GHS) and their dog Poppy, and a carriage house, which was home to Jason's parents, Ed and Beverly. Everyone made it out and is safe, but any contributions would be so much appreciated as they figure out how to get back on their feet.

#nicksride: Students in Ms. Bromley's sports management class at GHS hosted a successful "Ballin' for a Benefit" basketball tournament ([video here](#)) earlier this month and raised \$1,000 towards a wheelchair accessible vehicle for Nick Guile, a member of the class of 2022. There are two GoFundMe campaigns to continue raising money for Nick's family: [1 by his family](#), and one by GHS teacher Brian Browne, who is challenging people to donate to [this GoFundMe](#) for the chance to win "The World's Oldest PB&J Sandwich" from 1994 - at least 10 year's older than Nick himself!



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IN THE NEWS:

Griswold High School students raise \$1,087 to benefit Ukraine refugees
GHS sophomore Kianna Ego worked with social studies teacher Hannah McNeil to develop a fundraiser for World Central Kitchen, an organization that is providing hot meals for Ukrainian refugees across 21 cities in eastern Europe. Kianna and the Student Leadership Council sold 250 "Stand with Ukraine" bracelets and collected donations throughout April. [Learn more at TheDay.com.](#)

ATHLETICS



Subscribe to the [Griswold Sports Network's YouTube Channel](#).

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Fall Sports registrations are now available on [FamilyID.com](#). If you already have an account with FamilyID, simply log in and search for Griswold Athletics. If you do not yet have an account, create a new FamilyID account. Select the appropriate school (GMS or GHS) and sport, then complete the registration process. The school nurse will need a paper copy of the student's most recent physical. A valid physical exam is good for 13 months. No athlete will be permitted to participate without a completed registration and a valid physical on file with the school nurse. If you have any questions, please contact GPS Athletic Director Stephen Cravinho at 860-376-7636.

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GHS EASTERN CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE AWARD WINNERS:

Girls Lacrosse

- First Team, Kuranda Ruggiero
- Sportsmanship, Emily Aviles
- Scholar-Athlete, Adrian Walders

Boys Track

- First Team, Anthony Gaeta & Dan Sims
- Sportsmanship, Tyler Farwell
- Scholar-Athlete, Jacob McDonald

Girls Track

- First Team, Taylor Bialowas
- Sportsmanship, Madilyn Wooten
- Scholar-Athlete, Sydney Hart

Softball

- First Team & Scholar-Athlete, Lucia Ceccarelli
- Sportsmanship, Sonja Matheson

Baseball

- First Team, Sean Garvin
- First Team & Sportsmanship, KinKade Rubino
- Honorable Mention, Evan Gilgenbach
- Scholar-Athlete, Nolan Webster

Golf

- Scholar-Athlete, Ryan Fasula
- Sportsmanship, Brayden Lee

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Congratulations to the Griswold Booster Club's 2022 Scholarship winners, Zachary Confer and Sydney Dameron. Follow the [Griswold Boosters Club on Facebook](#) for more sports news!

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Congratulations to 8th grader, Jeremiah Smith, who leapt 19 feet 6 inches to cinch the Long Jump Champion title at the CT Middle School Track & Field Championship!

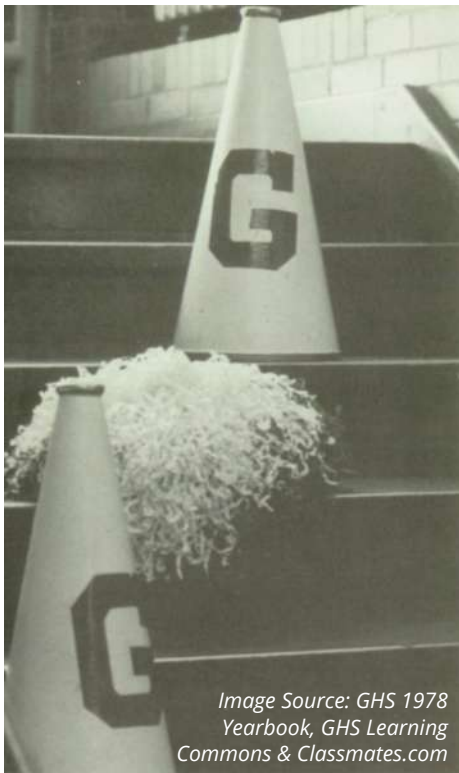


Image Source: GHS 1978 Yearbook, GHS Learning Commons & Classmates.com

GAHS NEWS **Griswold Alternative School: A New Era**

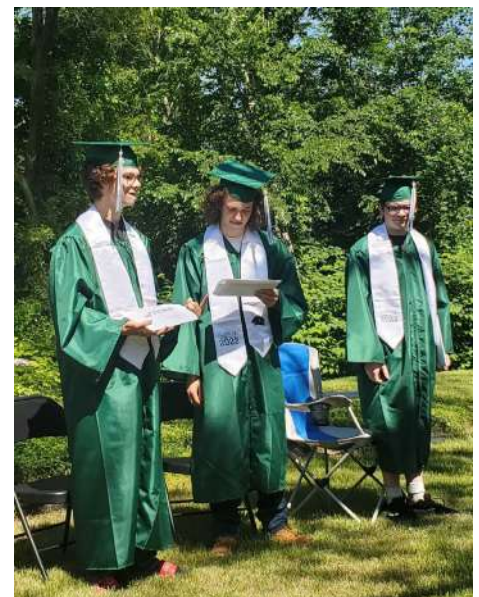
Among the many GPS initiatives underway is the eventual move of our Griswold Alternative School from its current location on 201 to the site of the existing Senior Center in Jewett City. The Town of Griswold and Griswold Board of Education formed an Alternative Space Needs Committee a few years ago to begin planning this major move. The goal is to have the Alternative School closer to the GPS campus, and be able to serve middle school students in addition to high schoolers.

Planning includes renovations to the Senior Center to make the interior space more compatible for educational specifications. The project is slated to begin once the Town's new Senior Center is completed.

Griswold continues to move *forward* with a new era for our Alternative School!

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Congratulations to Griswold Alternative High School graduates Glenn Credit, Matthew Smith, and Kenneth Willey. The Alternative School had an independent graduation ceremony on the morning of Tuesday, June 14.



GHS NEWS

Congratulations, graduates!

Congratulations to the Griswold High School Class of 2022, who graduated on June 15. This class' leadership in the classroom, on the field and stage, during assemblies and activity periods, and in other facets of life at GHS during the past two years of the pandemic has been unprecedented. The Class of 2022 is to be missed!

Check out all the great media from their special day:

- [Live Stream of the Commencement Ceremony on June 15 \(Facebook Live\)](#)
- [Photos from the Norwich Bulletin](#)
- [Video of senior members of the Chamber Choir singing the National Anthem \(Norwich Bulletin\)](#)
- [List of the 120 GHS 2022 graduates in The Day](#)
- [Graduation highlights reel on the @griswoldschools Instagram](#)

- The Board of Education appointed
- **Arthur Howe** as the **new Associate Principal of Griswold High School**, effective July 1, 2022. Mr. Howe started his career in public education as a Business Teacher at Griswold High School from 1999-2003. He then moved on to Stonington High School to serve as a Business Teacher, and later as Business Teacher/Interdisciplinary Coordinator from 2003-2022. During this tenure at Stonington Public Schools, Mr. Howe sought out opportunities to broaden his administrative experiences, including temporarily serving as Dean of Students as the district merged two middle schools in 2018.
- **Thank you to Marceline Dillon** for her seven years as Associate Principal at Griswold High School; we wish her luck in her new role as Assistant Principal at Tyl Middle School in Montville.

Senior Gifts

GHS Social Studies teacher Mr. Craig collects bobble heads of some of the most famous people of history—some of his students had a custom Mr. Craig bobble head made for him!

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The 2022 senior class couldn't leave without redecorating the area in front of the GHS Main Office and Principal Palonen's office as their senior prank on June 2. At graduation, Mrs. Palonen referenced the sticky notes and confetti she was still cleaning out of her office, weeks later.

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The Construction 1 class made a bench in memory of class of 2022 member Damien Corcoran to live in a garden outside of the GHS Main Office. Students who worked on this project are: Lead Carpenter, Pine Pendleton, Robert MacGranor, Courtland Herman, Joe Radecki, Jaiden Perry, Logan Lambert, Josh Hidgkins, AJ Hamel, Audrey Giroux, Ryan Gasparino, and John Dougan.



AWARDS & HONORS

Food Truck Wars

Mrs. Wooten's Marketing Class held a Food Truck Wars competition. Congratulations to Freshman Cooper Wilson, for being named champion!



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Congratulations to Isaiah Johnson for representing GHS at CT HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership). At CT HOBY, nearly 200 high school sophomores from across the state build their leadership potential through an inspiring three-day Leadership Seminar based on three leadership perspectives: Personal, Group, and Societal. During the HOBY Leadership Seminar, many dynamic leaders—all volunteers from the fields of business, education, government, and other professions—will address aspects of our changing world and the challenges future leaders will confront.

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GHS Social Studies teachers Doug Craig and Hannah McNeil were selected to participate in scoring AP exams nationally. This is a tremendous opportunity and accomplishment!

Thank you to the GHS PTO, who supplied popsicles on the cafeteria patio June 8 for an end-of-year celebration.

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Hannah McNeil and the Social Studies Department hosted Vietnam Veterans to speak to the Junior class in June. This is a significant educational opportunity that our students are able to experience every year thanks to our local Veterans and our Social Studies Department!

GMS NEWS

END OF YEAR FUN

Griswold Middle School had a very busy end-of-year! From field trips to field day, block parties to assemblies, awards nights to 8th grade promotion, and everything in between! Congratulations to all of our 8th graders that were promoted. Thank you for your leadership at GMS over the last few years. Best of luck in high school!

The GMS Student Council (advised by Karen Scholl and Shae Crosby) created a fun survey for the CREWs* to vote for GMS Teacher Superlatives. Categories included Most Likely to Travel the World, Most Likely to Star on Top Chef, Most Likely to be in a Rock Band, Best Readers, Healthiest Teacher, Nicest Car, etc. Teacher Superlatives were announced at the end-of-year Town hall assembly on June 1. Students loved it!

Students also awarded "Best Intern Ever" to Mrs. Melanie Kuhn for her excellence this school year.

**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.*



MUSIC NEWS

Students in the 8th grade Band, Orchestra, and Chorus had a great day performing for Griswold Elementary School 4th graders, enjoying a picnic, and a game of kickball on June 2!



Griswold Public Schools' String Festival took place on June 1. Orchestra director Mr. Mike Albaine shocked everyone, including some of his students, by rapping Eminem's song, *Lose Yourself*, accompanied by the middle and high school string orchestra (grades 6-12). [Watch the video on GPS's Facebook page here.](#)



PTO News:

Thank you to the GMS PTO for supplying cupcakes [decorated as a certain emoji...] for staff on June 9.

This summer, the PTO is hosting the first-ever Summer Fun Night on Thursday, August 11 for students in grades 6-8.

The PTO continues to raise money for a new fitness playground behind the middle school. This summer, they are supplying materials to repaint games on the blacktop and install a Gaga Ball court before school opens in the fall.

[More GMS News can be found online on the GMS Now blog!](#)



GES NEWS

STARS AWARDS from Health (STARS = S= staying on track, T= Trying Your Best, A= Active Listening, R= Respect, S = Sportsmanship). Classes that received the most Stars this year are: Grade 4 Mrs. Arieta, Grade 3 Mrs. Cook, Grade 2 Mrs. Knolhoff, Grade 1 Mrs. Staley, and Grade K Mrs. Kramarewicz. Each class received a party by Mrs. Rose Otten-Paggioli!

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Field Day was a huge success on June 10! Each grade rotated through activity stations all around the school. Thank you to all our volunteers.

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4th grade students had a busy quarter!

In science class, they built Rube Goldberg machines to test out chain reaction designs. Working with cardboard, scissors, tape, and other materials, students worked with partners to prepare a chain reaction machine they could present to their classmates.

In Language Arts, 4th graders created their own Google Sites to present research projects to their peers.

As GES said goodbye to their 4th graders as they prepare to move on to middle school in the fall, the 4th graders did a final walk-through the halls of GES and were cheered on by former teachers and the students who have looked up to them as leaders in the school. Congratulations, 4th graders!

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PTO News:

The GES PTO supplied a Luau Lunch for teachers on June 8 for an end of the year celebration.



WOLVERINES FORWARD NEWS

Wolverines Forward (WF) is a Before & After School Program for students in grades K-8 that started in the fall of 2021.

This spring, students were enjoying the outdoors for sports, scavenger hunts, nature crafts, and gardening. On June 3, WF students and their families enjoyed a Family Fun Night social at a Norwich Sea Unicorns game. Thank you to all the students, families, and staff that made the first year of the Wolverines Forward Before & After School Program such a success!

Wolverines Forward is now hiring for instructors and tutors for the 2022-2023 school year. Learn more at applitrack.com/griswold/onlineapp.

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year will be open Mid-July; an email will go out to all GES and GMS families when it is live. The registration form will be found [on our website under Parent Resources](#). Students will be added to the program roster on a first come, first served basis.



[Learn more about Wolverines Forward on their Google Site.](#)



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.