

GRAND RIVER ACADEMY



Newsletter



November Calendar

1st Daylight Savings time ends, set your clock back an hour

12th Parent/Teacher Conferences 4 p.m.

21st Conferences 4 p.m.- 8 p.m.

23rd -27th Thanksgiving Break



A Note from the Principal

We are already 11 weeks into school. The time flies by. The quick passing of time means that we all have to be diligent in making sure students are on track in k-12 (for k-5) or Odysseyware (6-12) because the end of the semester will be here before we

know it. It is easy to fall behind, and once your student starts to fall behind it can be like a snowball.

Some things you can do to help your student:

1. Sit down and discuss their progress with your student. Where are they in their classes? Are they on pace? Do they have at least passing grades? Is there a way they can improve their grade if they're not happy with it?
2. Communicate. Reach out to your student's teacher when you need help. Remind older students that they can use the help feature in Odysseyware to seek assistance. Please encourage them to ask for help whenever they need it. Check email frequently as this is one of the primary ways we communicate.
3. Make a schedule of when they will work on schooling. Try and stick to the schedule as the consistency will help your student be more successful.
4. Set aside a distraction-free space for your student to work. This space should be free of cell phone, television, etc...
5. Have your student take notes while completing their lessons. Note taking will help to solidify the concepts and knowledge they are learning. They can also use them as references during quizzes and tests.
6. Attend onsite. Onsite attendance has several benefits. One is that students get to know their teachers and have an opportunity to form a relationship with them. They are more likely to reach out for help and work on their assignments if they know their teachers. Another benefit is they get the instruction they wouldn't usually

get. This is aimed at helping them be more successful in their online courses.

7. Help your student stay motivated to learn. If your student isn't motivated, try positive reinforcements like spending time with them doing something they like to do if they complete their online courses for the day/week, depending on the student's age. You could offer to have friends over for a video "game night" with snacks or go see a movie together. Those are just some ideas.
8. Attend parent-teacher conferences
9. **Take advantage of breaks to help your student to catch up. Thanksgiving Break is coming up, and that's an excellent time to make up late work.**

I want to take the time to thank you for the coaching of your student that you are doing at home. You are a vital link in your child's education. We see students once a week, maybe more if they come in for tutoring. You pick up the load at home the rest of the time. Thank you for being the coach your child needs to be a successful student. Thanks again for all you do.

Advisory

Advisory is a class that we have had in place for a while in high school and middle school. Since the school district has developed a Social and Emotional Framework, we use this to guide our teaching. Every teacher has students for advisory. The purpose of advisory is to ensure that every student is connected to at least one adult at the school. This is to increase students' feelings of belonging at our school.

Advisory is guided by the district's Social and Emotional framework. This framework

outlines the social and emotional skills that students need to learn to be successful in school and life. One skill might be demonstrating "ways to express understanding of those who hold a different opinion." It could be exploring "possible career and volunteer opportunities based on their identified strengths and interests." Advisory is for students to learn those social and emotional skills they will need in life.

Our elementary students benefit from the Social and Emotional framework also. MS. Karla works with her learners throughout the day on important concepts related to the framework for elementary.

If you have any questions about advisory, don't hesitate to contact your student's advisory teacher or me.

COVID Precautions

We take the health and safety of your children very seriously. With the COVID 19 pandemic occurring we've had to make shifts in the ways we traditionally do things.

Some of the precautions we have in place are masks required to be worn by all adults and students in grades 6-12. Students in grades k-5 wear masks whenever they leave their classroom and go into our halls or when the teacher deems it prudent to use masks, such as in small groups. We encourage students to distance from one another.

Middle school and elementary have been eating outdoors because it has been so beautiful. This limits crowding in the gym where high school has been eating.

When the weather gets cold we will have middle school students eat in their classroom and we will stagger elementary and high school lunches so they aren't in the gym at the same time.

Teachers have been wiping down their desks and chairs after every class. Sanitizer is used a couple of times of day as well. Door knobs, light switches and other "high touch" surfaces are sanitized several times a day. Chromebooks are also sanitized after every student who uses them.

We have also encouraged the use of handwashing/sanitizer for all adults and students in the building.

If you have questions about our COVID procedures, there is a video on our website to explain all the precautions we are taking. You can also contact me if you have questions.

Thank you for sharing your student with us!

Steve States

The Lunch Lizard Is Free Until the End of December!

Grand River Academy has a closed campus for lunch (which means all students remain at Grand River throughout the lunch period). The exception, at this time, is for our juniors and seniors. They may leave campus to purchase food if they are not late to the next class. All students can bring lunch from home.

The district has arranged for the Lunch Lizard food truck to stop by on our onsite school days. They will

offer lunch on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays.

The menu can be accessed at [D51 School Menus](#), then select "Bookcliff Middle School" or "BES" to see the food options for us as well. Once on the calendar, use the "lunch" tab located near the top. (Breakfast is not available at our location.)

****NEW****

Effective 09/02/2020

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending the Free Meals for Kids program through the end of December 2020, or until available funding runs out. This means that all students in District 51 can access safe, healthy school lunches at no charge to the student's account. This will be available at the Lunch Lizard.

Parking and Pickup

As you know, parking is difficult to find around Grand River Academy. That can make drop off and pick up challenging. There is parking on all four sides of the building (14th, Gunnison, 13th, and Chipeta). There is also a 10-minute "loading zone" in front of the building.

Please park off the street when picking up or dropping your students off. Stopping in the middle of the road or double parking causes congestion on an already congested 14th street. It is also unsafe as students have to maneuver through parked cars and onto 14th street to get to awaiting vehicles.

Thank you for helping us make pick up and drop off safe and efficient.

Weekly Schedule

Elementary

K-2nd grades- Tuesday 8:30am-2:30pm

3rd-5th grades- Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm

k-5th grades- Thursday 8:30am-2:30pm
(optional day)

Middle School

*6th grade- Tuesday 8:30am-2:30pm

*7th grade – Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm

*8th grade- Thursday 8:30am-2:30pm

High School

9th grade- Tuesday 8:30am-2:30pm

10th grade- Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm

11th grade/12th grade- Thursday 8:30am-2:30pm

*6th, 7th, and 8th grade have "Stay & Play" from 2:30pm-3:00pm on their scheduled day.

Updating Information

Please be sure to update your email and phone information should either or both change. We send most communication through email and/or text. If you're not receiving emails and/or text from the school, please contact the school with your updated information.

Learning Lab

Did you know that we have a place for students to go who need help or need a place to work. Our learning lab has Mrs. Havens who is an excellent support to students who may be struggling or just need a little extra help. The lab also provides a space for student who may need to catch up. Students can come to the lab anytime school is open (Monday-Friday 8:30-2:30. Students can make an appointment or just show up to work and receive help. This is a valuable resource we hope your students will use.

Yearbooks for Sale

You and your student want to remember the days when they were in school. A yearbook is a perfect way to capture memories. Go to <http://gra.picaboo.com/> to order yours. Hardcover are 32.00 and the softcover is \$22.00. **Hurry though. The early bird sale ends October 30th.**



See it.
Report it.
Stop it.

Anonymously Report Concerns 24/7:

safe²tell
colorado

1-877-542-7233
safe2tellco.org

Apple Store & Google Play