



Griswold Public Schools

Superintendent's Update

June 2016

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 Interim Superintendent...

Dear Family and Friends,

It has truly been an honor and a pleasure to serve the Griswold community as your Interim Superintendent. The support of the faculty, staff, students, parents and community has been immeasurable and the strength of this collaborative must not falter. We passed a budget with a 2.12% increase on the first attempt, and we must continue to make successful strides toward school and district growth! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I am pleased to announce that Mr. Sean McKenna will be joining us as our new permanent superintendent. He is currently working in Groton Public Schools and will be joining us on July 1, 2016. As Mr. McKenna transitions into our district, I will transition back to the Director of Curriculum and will continue to work very closely with him, the Principals and all our wonderful staff members. We have more good work to do! Please join me in welcoming Mr. McKenna to our wonderful system.

With fond regards.....

Susan Rourke



Griswold Public Schools would not be successful without the continued support of all parents and community members.

We are appreciative of you and invite your continued participation with all we do. 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: sroure@griswoldpublicschools.org

Important District Dates to Know....

- June 1st- GMS 8th Grade Awards Night 6:00pm Aud
- June 1st-Building Committee Meeting 6:00-8:00pm GES LMC
- June 1st-GES Pre-K Transition Tour 6:00-7:00pm GES Café
- June 1st-Underclass Awards 6:00-9:00pm GHS Café & Aud
- June 2nd- GES 1st grade concert 6:00, 7:00 GES Café
- June 2nd-GHS Senior Class awards and banquet, 4pm GHS Aud
- June 2nd-GMS Grade 6 Field trip
- June 3rd-GHS Senior Class Trip
- June 6th-GHS Tri-M Inductions 6:00-9:00pm GHS Aud & Café
- June 7th-GMS Grade 7 Field Trip
- June 7th-GMS Holiday Hill 8th grade trip
- June 7th- GES Kindergarten concert 6:00,7:00 GES Café
- June 8th-GMS 8th Grade Parent Meeting 6:00-7:00pm Room 2139
- June 8th-GES Responsibility Rally (in school)
- June 10th-GMS 8th Grade Promotion Dance 6:30-9:00p Café &Gym
- June 11th-GHS Graduation 10:00am GHS Gym
- June 13th GMS Grade 8 BBQ (during the school day)
- June 13th- GMS 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony 6:00pm Gym
- June 13th- Board of Education Meeting - Cancelled
- June 14th-Report Card Distributed
- June 14th- Last Day of School Early Dismissal 1:10pm
- June 16th-GHS Track Banquet 4:00-7:00 Cafe
- June 27th-Board of Education Meeting 6:00-8:00pm GMS LMC



Research has shown that parental involvement is the most important factor in a student's success in school.

The public library is a key resource. The public library is a great place for your child to develop important literacy skills and make positive associations with books, reading and learning. Libraries provide places for children to have print-rich and story-filled experiences. Research shows that the more your child is exposed to reading and literacy, the more prepared your child will be for school and for life.

Source: "Preschool 0-5: Talking Points for Public Libraries," American Library Association.





Informational Notes from Our Schools

GES Notes...

GES has finished the "Look for the Good Project". The project was the cornerstone of a nonprofit organization that helps children become positive role models in their communities. All GES students were celebrated as they participate in our school-wide Gratitude Campaign. Stop in and see all of the things we are grateful for. Every post-it represents a statement from each student.

SBAC testing for our 3rd and 4th grade students has finished. They really put forth their best effort and tried their best! We are very proud of their perseverance during this time. Again, if you have any questions about the SBAC testing feel free to contact the school. Our last day of school is on Tuesday, June 14th and dismissal is at 1:10.

GHS Notes...

Tanger Gives Back to Kids

Tanger strongly believes in giving back to kids in our communities for education. In alignment with Tanger Outlets' mission to support and enrich youth, the TangerKIDS Grants program supports and serves future generations by providing funding for special educational projects, programs, and equipment for schools in Tanger Outlet Centers' communities

Since 1996, Tanger Factory Outlet Centers has made it their mission to give back to the schools in each center's local community. Over the past 19 years, Tanger has taken great pride in their role to support the futures and educations of students. The TangerKIDS Grants Program was designed to satisfy the specific funding needs that schools have, from creating and implementing school-wide programs, to rebuilding equipment or academic materials inventories, to supporting academic club, athletic teams or band programs within the schools, as they are expressed by teachers and principals. This Year, Griswold High School Physics, c/o the Science Department, was chosen to receive a \$2000.00 grant for purchasing new digital equipment that will help bring STEM and 21st century learning and skills into the classroom. The equipment will allow students to perform a higher order level of thinking for laboratory experiments and hands on activities. Over the past few years, equipment has slowly been purchased to bring this technology to our students. With this grant, we will be able to accelerate that process with bringing almost a full inventory of lab technology to our upper class students. This technology can also be utilized by all science teachers to provide that level of next generation depth to every student here at Griswold.

Griswold Athletics update:

Baseball and softball play Tuesday 5/31 in the first round of the CIAC tournaments. Softball will be home against Plainfield. Baseball plays at Lyman Memorial. Games start at 3:30.

Track state championships begin Tuesday as well.

Check the Griswold Mobile App or ciacsports.com for schedules and updates.



GMS Notes... GMS watched May fly by! Special thanks to the students, parents and faculty for attending our fabulous events. The concerts, art show, Students of the Month and Kids of Character breakfasts had hundreds of happy attendees. We are grateful for your participation and support. Congratulations to the music students in grades 6, 7, 8 who performed beautifully in their concerts. Hats off to our GMS artists whose art projects were appreciated by all. A special thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Bocciarelli, Mr. Kinsall and Mrs. Wraichette for all of your efforts. We appreciate you. June brings a feeling of excitement as we wrap up the 4th quarter, attend field trips, Dare Graduation, award ceremonies and Grade 8 Promotion. While we will be busy with school and family activities, we invite our GMS community to take a moment to reflect on a terrific 2015-2016 school year. Together, great things are happening. Wishing you a safe and happy summer!

Special Education Notes...

The Transition Bill of Rights for Parents of Students Receiving Special Education Services:

On May 17, 2016, the State Department of Education distributed to school superintendents the [Transition Bill of Rights](#), which was approved by the State Board of Education on May 4, 2016. The CSDE developed the Bill of Rights in accordance with Public Act 15-209, which required the CSDE to draft a written transition bill of rights for parents of children receiving special education services "to guarantee that the rights of such parents and children are adequately safeguarded and protected during the provision of special education and related services."

The Bill's Contents:

The Bill of Rights, which includes twelve "rights," notifies parents and guardians of their rights regarding the transition planning process. For example, the document notifies parents and guardians of the right to:

1. Receive transition services starting at age 16;
2. Receive transition services to help children meet post-secondary goals in education, training, and academics;
3. Identify and explore services from outside agencies, such as the Department of Developmental Services, and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction, among others;
4. Request transition-only services between the ages of 18 and 21 under certain circumstances; and
5. Receive resources regarding transition services published by the CSDE, including but not limited to Building a Bridge, A Transition Manual for Students.

From the Nurse's Office...

Griswold Middle School--Griswold High School

A reminder to all parents' of 6th and 10th grade students.

All 6th and 10th grade students need a complete physical assessment and updated immunizations to enter the 7th and 11th grades in the fall of 2016. Please direct all question to the appropriate health office.

GMS 860-376-7624

GHS 860-376-7647

Griswold Elementary School

Please contact the Griswold Elementary School Nurse for specific physical assessment and immunization requirements for entry into Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten.

GES 860-376-7615



Ask questions to develop your child's higher order thinking skills.

Advanced thinking skills will help your child in school and in life. When your child builds her critical thinking skills, she will be able to analyze, critique and evaluate information that she reads or hears. Give your child some practice by asking her questions in different situations. For example, when reading together, ask: • What do you think will happen next? • Why do you think the story ended the way it did? • Why do you think the author chose to include a particular event or element in the story? When going somewhere new, ask: • How is this place different from somewhere you've been before? • Does this place remind you of somewhere we've been?

Source: C.A. Simon, "How To Encourage Higher Order Thinking," ReadWriteThink.

Promote reading alternatives to screen time

Experts recommend that children ages two to four watch no more than two hours of quality television programming a day. Instead of watching TV, encourage your child to: • Listen to an audio book. This can be a recording of you reading his favorite book or one you check out from the library. • Work on a puzzle, which builds his cognitive skills. • Read, read, read! Whether your child is looking at a book and "reading" on his own or you are reading with him, the more exposure he has to books, the better.

Source: W. Yu, "Limiting TV Time for Preschoolers," WebMD

Talking assists your child's reading

When you talk with your child, you are helping him practice his oral (spoken) language skills. And strong readers need to have strong oral language skills. Your child needs to hear lots of words at home in order to develop his language skills. Hearing lots of new words will help him learn to figure out what those words mean by the way you use them in conversation.

Source: L. Lynn, "Language-Rich Home and School Environments Are Key to Reading Success," Harvard Education Letter.



Results Are in For Nations' First Technology and Engineering Literacy Report Card: Girls Score Higher Than Boys – educationworld.com

Lately there has been a consistent push to get more females into STEM subjects, and there is some good news coming from the first Nation's Report Card in Technology and Engineering Literacy about the effectiveness of that effort: Girls scored three points higher than their male counterparts. For those unfamiliar, the first-ever tech and engineering report card was administered by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) for the first time in 2014. "In 2014, this assessment was administered to 21,500 eighth-grade students in about 840 schools across the nation. Students' opportunities to learn about and use technology and engineering happen both inside and outside the classroom. The Technology and Engineering Literacy assessment includes a survey asking about these experiences across and within the three content areas – Technology and Society, Design and Systems, and Information and Communication Technology," the report said. Besides finding that girls outperform boys in technology and engineering subjects, the report revealed some other interesting findings as well. The report found that the majority of technology or engineering-related learning came from outside the classroom. 63 percent of eighth grade students said they learned about "building things, fixing things or how things work" from their parents. Only 13 percent said they learned from teachers. Overall, 43 percent of eighth grades performed at a "proficient" level on the TEL assessment.

See more at: http://www.educationworld.com/a_news/results





Outdoor Vocabulary This Summer!

As the weather warms up, use the great outdoors to help your youngster learn new words. Try these ideas.

● **Nature ID.** Your child may be familiar with bird, tree, and flower, but does she know cardinal, magnolia, and daffodil? Expand her nature vocabulary by taking a field guide to the park. When she spots a colorful bird or an interesting plant, look it up in the guide, and read its name and description aloud.

● **Motion words.** Streams flow, squirrels scamper, and leaves rustle. Look around, and think of fun verbs to describe the action you see. Let your youngster mimic the movement and say the word—she'll discover new verbs as she gets silly! For example, she can pretend she's a worm and announce, "I'm wriggling on the grass."

● **Color match.** Carry along a box of crayons, and have your child discover color words by matching them with colors in nature. She might choose apricot for the sunset and cerulean for a pond. Help her read the label as she chooses each crayon. Can she find something to go with every crayon in the box? ♥ -from-the reading connection



Summer Crafts Ideas for Kids

- Volunteer at a nature center
- Make a photo journal or a family yearbook
- Visit the beach and collect shells.
- Make a fort out of cardboard boxes
- Visit a farmer's market.
- Stage an A to Z scavenger hunt, where you have to find something that starts with every letter.
- Pick berries.
- Have a picnic at a state park
- Write and illustrate your own book and have it published into an actual hardcover book using IlluStory
- Go for a walk and then make a collage from nature objects you find along the way

-from-care.com



Great Indoor Games and Activities

Below is a roster of activities to delight toddlers and preschoolers. All you need are a few simple, inexpensive supplies.

Family-Photo Bingo

Improve your child's memory and help him learn who's who in your family tree with this photo game. Take nine family photos and arrange them into rows of three, then give your child nine playing cards or checkers pieces to serve as bingo chips. When someone calls out "Daddy" or "Grandma," your toddler covers the photo with the card. Whoever gets three in a row wins.



Sugar-Cookie Pizzas

Even the most domestically challenged chef can pull off this sweet and simple project. Slice several thick cookies from a roll of refrigerated sugar-cookie dough. Gently flatten them a bit on a cookie sheet to widen them, bake, and cool for about 10 minutes. Next, your little Mario Batalis can decorate their pies with strawberry jam or red icing for sauce, shredded coconut for cheese, and red M&M's for pepperoni.

Grandparent Greetings

Haul out the craft supplies and set up a home Hallmark business. First your toddler creates the card with stickers, glitter, cut-out magazine photos, or whatever else he likes. Then you ask him what he wants to say to the recipient, and you write it inside. (I once received one of these from my then 2-year-old nephew that said, "Dear Aunt Isadora, I like to bite my piggy toy. Love, Jared." That was one card I never tossed.) The icing on the cake? When the weather clears up, let your child stamp the envelope and slide it into a nearby mailbox.



Signature Storytelling

This is a trick I use at bedtime to give new life to old stories. Start reading one of your child's favorite books. When you get to a critical point in the action, challenge him to take charge of the tale and add his own twist. For example, if you're reading *Cinderella* and the mean stepsisters have torn up her dress, ask your child, "What would you do if someone did that to you? Should Cinderella just run away and cry, or should she do something else?" It teaches kids to think on their toes.

Bowl-a-rama

Small, empty water bottles and a rubber ball are all you need to transform the family room into a bowling alley -- sans silly shoes, of course. Six bottles should suffice for bowling pins; if the bottles fall over too easily, fill them up with a little water or dry pasta for some extra weight.

-from-parents.com



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Visit us at: griswoldpublicschools.org