



Griswold Public Schools

Monthly Newsletter

September 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 Superintendent...

Dear Family & Friends,

Our 2016-2017 school year is off to a great start! The Griswold Public Schools team has been working hard all summer long, from our teachers and administrators to our custodians and secretarial support staff.

We are excited about this new school year, and we can all agree that it has been great to see the students this week, from our Pre-K students who are attending school for the first time to our seniors who are college and career planning for the future. We are committed to empowering all students to become compassionate, confident, creative, and resourceful members of society.

Please visit our websites often, as we will update our district and school web sites on a regular basis.

I wish all students, families, faculty, staff and community members a successful, rewarding school year.

Sincerely,

Sean P. McKenna
Superintendent



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: smckenna@griswoldpublicschools.org

Important District Dates to Know...

September 7th—GES: Preschool Parent Information Night, 6-7pm

September 7th—GHS: PAC Meeting, 7pm

September 8th—International Literacy Day

September 8th—GMS 5th & 7th Grade Open House, 6pm

September 12th—BOE Meeting, 6pm

September 13th—GES Gr. 1 Open House, 6pm; Gr. 2 Open House, 7pm

September 14th—GES Gr. 3 Open House, 6pm; Gr 4 Open House, 7:00 pm.

September 15th—GMS 6th & 8th Grade Open House, 6pm

September 16th—United States Constitution Day

September 20th—GES: PTO Meeting, 5:30 pm

September 22nd—GHS Open House, 5:00 pm

September 26th—BOE Meeting, 6pm


September 29th—GHS: Principal Information Night, 6:00pm

DISTRICT MISSION

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

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



Informational Notes

GES SEPTEMBER NEWS

It has been an exciting start to the 2016-2017 school year!

We continue to be impressed with level of commitment to student learning and the ability to meet student needs by all members of the Griswold community. We look forward to meeting many parents during our Open House evenings on September 13th and 14th. Our strong partnership with you, the families, contributes greatly to the success of every student and therefore, the success of our school. We invite you to contact us at Griswold Elementary School if you have any questions. A few reminders,

Dismissal Procedure

- 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.

School Organizations

- The GES PTO meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00.
- The School Family Community Partnership (SFCP) meet on the last Wednesday of the month at 3:30.
- Specific dates of meetings for the both the PTO and SFCP can be found on our website, www.griswoldpublicschools.org.

GHS September News

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year! Griswold High School is off to an incredible start thanks to dedicated teachers, supportive families, and motivated students! Fall sports are in full swing, and students are starting to think about different activities in which to get involved. Some important dates to remember for September: our first Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting will be held in the library on Wednesday, 09/07, Open House for parents on Thursday, 09/22 and Principal's Information Night on Thursday, 09/29. Griswold High School will also host a College Fair for students during the school day on 09/30. We are excited to host over 40 college and trade representatives for our students to explore! Any questions? Feel free to contact us at 860-376-7640.

Griswold Athletics update:

Please check out all the latest with our Griswold Public School athletes on our web pages. Game times and locations are organized by individual sports teams. Come support our Wolverines!!!

GMS September News

Griswold Middle School is so excited to have our students back with us! We are focused on *Character Counts at GMS!* We've kicked off our 2016-2017 Advisory/Character Counts Program with the theme, Team Building. Students will engage in learning activities that focus on the importance of our community working together to help all members be successful and valued. Student Success Planning Days (SSP) are scheduled for grades 6-8 where students will participate in goal setting, career exploration, learning styles, community and more. As we gear up for an exciting and productive year, all of our students will be completing our reading and math benchmarks so that our teachers can determine strengths and areas that need to be targeted. We look forward to seeing parents during our *Back to School Nights*. Join us in the GMS at 6 pm to begin our special evenings. Please mark your calendars: Grades 5 & 7, September 8th and Grades 6 & 8, September 15th. In addition all parents can expect to receive contact from at least one of their child's teachers within the first month of school in an effort to create open communication between families and our school. We value our GMS parent involvement as we work together during this busy and constructive fall season.

Special Education Notes....

Student Services

Welcome back parents and families! Please take a moment to review the Student Services website linked under departments on the Griswold Public Schools webpage. There you will find information about our programs as well as Special Education updates as they occur throughout the year. If you haven't already, please familiarize yourself with "A Parent's Guide to Special Education". I look forward to working collaboratively with each of you, please do not hesitate to contact the Special Education office at 860-376-7650 if I can be of any assistance.



UPDATES FROM OUR TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR



The Summer Days from the Technology Department!:

The Technology Department has had a busy summer. This is typically the busiest time of the year for us. Besides our normal upgrades and maintenance, this year we went GOOGLE. What does that mean, you may ask? It means we joined Google for Education. It allows all of our students and staff to have a google account to share and collaborate with their peers and teachers. It also means that students in Griswold Public Schools will be able to work on their documents and homework anywhere they have an internet connection. This is an exciting time for Griswold. Parents should talk with their kids and make sure that they have activated their accounts.

On another note, if any parent has forgotten their plus portal password, please check your email. We have emailed all parents their log on information in case they forgot or if they are new to our district.

Any question please email
JCurioso@griswoldpublicschools.org



STATE OF CT EQUITY & EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

In summer 2015, the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education recommitted to their ongoing efforts to pursue both excellence and equity for all Connecticut's students. A team of professionals representing all six of Connecticut's regional educational service centers was convened and asked to design a plan for the Department of Education and the State Board of Education's practice over the next five years that would achieve this goal. The vision for this plan was that when completed, it would represent the Board's commitment to Connecticut's citizens and communities to support local public school districts' efforts to provide a great education in an outstanding school for every child in our state. It would compel all of us to act together to ensure that every student—regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, family wealth, zip code, or disability status—is prepared to succeed in lifelong learning and work beyond school.

As a planning process, Ensuring Equity and Excellence for All Connecticut Students, was designed to engage a wide range of stakeholders, including the public and the State Board of Education's Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee, in an exploration of these issues to gain insight and perspective regarding their aspirations, challenges, and concerns pertaining to education in Connecticut. The feedback received during this process helped inform and provide direction in the development of this five-year comprehensive plan.

See more at:

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/site/default.asp>



“Griswold Reads” is a newly established book discussion partnership between the Griswold Public Schools and The Slater Library. During the school year, we will host a book discussion series on select, mass-market titles that explore relevant topics pertaining to public education while casting a wide net on reader interest. The book discussions will be held at the Slater Library, and the library will have a few copies of each title for circulation. Griswold Public Schools educators will partake and lead the discussions, which will be an hour long and are open to the public. The book discussions begin promptly at 5:30pm. We hope you can join us!

BOOK DISCUSSION DATE	BOOK TITLE
Thursday, September 29th	<i>David & Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits and the Art of Battling Giants</i> By Malcolm Gladwell GPS Facilitators: Sean McKenna & Sue Rourke
Thursday, October 27th	<i>Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls</i> By Rachel Simmons GPS Facilitator: Marceline Macrino
Thursday, November 17th	<i>Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of</i>

	<p><i>Boys</i></p> <p>By Dan Kindlon & Michael Thompson</p> <p>GPS Facilitators: Sean McKenna & Christopher Champlin</p>
Thursday, February 23rd	<p><i>Mindset: The New Psychology of Success</i></p> <p>By Carol Dweck</p> <p>GPS Facilitator: Michele Raynor & Michele Demicco</p>
Thursday, March 30th	<p><i>The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business</i></p> <p>By Charles Duhigg</p> <p>GPS Facilitator: Sean McKenna</p>
Thursday, April 27th	<p><i>The Collapse of Parenting: How We Hurt Our Kids When We Treat Them Like Grown-Ups</i></p> <p>By Leonard Sax</p> <p>GPS Facilitator: Erin Palonen</p>



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