

from the principal

Dear parents,

My name is Christy Keeley-Zachow, and I am the principal at Grandview Middle School. I have worked in Westonka Schools since 1999, both in the high school and the middle school. In addition, I have a son who is a GMS student, two daughters at Shirley Hills Primary and one who will start PK next year. Having experienced all levels of Westonka Schools both as an employee and a parent, I can honestly say that your children are in very good hands in Westonka. I could not be more proud of our teachers, our staff, our students and our families.

Small school advantages. Our small school advantages are something we pride ourselves on at Grandview. We serve approximately 600 students in grades 5-7, and our number one priority is always connecting with each and every student. Upon entering middle school, all new students are invited to take part in our WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) program. WEB is a transitioning program to help 5th grade students get familiar with Grandview, make new friends and gain extra support from 7th-grade student leaders. We also have student hosts and groups for new students to help with their transition.

Grandview's Morning Meeting program helps students connect with other students and their teachers. Throughout the year, Morning Meeting is also used to provide enrichment opportunities and intervention opportunities for students. Your child will conference with his/her advisor, who will share not only grades and test scores, but also your child's dreams and plans for the future, study habits and goals. To put it simply, kids do not "fall through the cracks" at Grandview.

Big school opportunities. While having the benefits of being a small school, Grandview also provides kids with big school opportunities. We have accelerated and advanced programming in math, reading, art and STEM. We have exploratory opportunities with our STEM, Post Secondary Skills and Technology classes, and our students are able to take choir or band and art every year. In addition, for the struggling learner, we have systematic intervention opportunities such as guided study, math and reading intervention, after school homework club and summer programming. For learners looking for added challenges, we offer Future Cities, Advanced STEM and Future Problem Solving Courses. Other opportunities for the high-achieving student are available, such as Math Masters, Geography Bee, Spelling Bee, Creativity Festival and Continental Math.

We are also proud of our advancements to prepare students for the 21st century. We have integrated 21st century skills such as problem solving, collaboration and communication into all of our classes and have developed specific courses focused on these skills. We utilize the Ramp Up to Readiness program, which was developed by the University of Minnesota to help students learn the skills needed to be successful in high school, college and beyond. Every classroom has a SMARTBoard, and all students are given Chromebooks to enable more enriched and personalized learning.

Real-life success stories. All of these things, along with strong partnerships with parents and a highly educated and talented staff, have led to great success for our students on local and state tests as well as state and national competitions. Our average 7th grade NWEA score is beyond the 10th grade level. Our MCAs have consistently been among the best in the state. We have had tremendous success at state choir, band, Future Cities and Future Problem Solving competitions. The list is long and distinguished, and we are very proud of our accomplishments!

If you would like to learn more about Grandview Middle School, please check out our website, visit us at 1881 Commerce Boulevard or call (952) 491-8300. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,

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The talented and caring staff at Grandview Middle School is committed to meeting your child's individual needs, abilities and interests. Positive teacher-to-student and student-to-student relationships support emotional and social development and are essential to successful learning. Through a partnership with families, our students will succeed in school and into the future, prepared with the skills needed to be college ready.

Overview

- Grandview Middle School serves approximately 600 students in grades 5-7
- Over 90% of Grandview's licensed staff hold a master's degree or higher
- Block scheduling provides 85 minutes of math and language arts instruction daily

Academic Excellence

- Grandview students consistently rank among the best in the state on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments
- By grade 7, an average Grandview student performs over the 10th-grade level on NWEA tests
- Reward School recognition (Top 15% of Title I schools in Minnesota)

Technology Integration

- Westonka's edge21 technology plan personalizes learning and embeds 21st century skills like creativity, critical thinking, collaboration & problem solving
- Each student has a Chromebook to use at school and at home, and all classrooms have SMARTBoards and sound amplification systems
- Grandview utilizes "Smart PE"—a way of transforming gym class using wearable sensors

Enrichment & Extension

- Grandview students have been national qualifiers in the Future Cities and Future Problem Solving competitions
- Enrichment offerings include: Knowledge Master Open, Continental Math, Math Masters, Geography Bee, Spelling Bee, yearbook, archery, SIBA Invention Competition, IE Challenge, STEM Video Challenge and after school Spanish

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21st Century Curriculum

- Grandview participates in the University of Minnesota's Ramp-Up to Readiness program for high school, college and career preparation
- STEM, art, choir, band, Post Secondary Skills and technology are offered in all three grades
- Advanced math and language arts courses
- Before, during and after school academic support is available

School Climate & Connectedness

- The Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) program helps students with the transition to middle school
- Morning Meeting and bullying prevention curriculum promotes a positive school climate
- Students build connections through a variety of activities and programs
 - "School Survivor" team-building activities
 - "Mix It Up" time at lunch
 - School service and fundraising projects
 - Sixth-grade Courage Retreat
- The Grandview Parent Teacher Organization meets every other month
- Parent/student annual surveys foster continual improvement

Student Celebrations

- Grandview celebrates student achievements and positive behavior several times throughout the year. Recognitions include:
 - "Caught in the Act" positive behavior incentives
 - White Hawks PRIDE Character Awards
 - "Reward Days" to celebrate success
 - Student Celebration Assemblies
 - "Good News" postcards

Community Education

- Westonka Community Education offers recreation and enrichment opportunities for students in all grades
- Offerings include sports teams, Spanish classes, music lessons and more



2016 test scores

Among Best in State & Neighborhood for 14th Consecutive Year*

District Overall

#1 in state in reading
#4 in state in math

	Reading	Math
Westonka	82	82
Wayzata	80	82
Minnetonka	78	81
Orono	78	76
Waconia	72	77
Statewide Average	60	59

Grade 5

#1 in state in math
#6 in state in reading

	Reading	Math	Science
Minnetonka	88	76	85
Wayzata	86	82	82
Orono	86	80	81
Westonka	86	83	75
Waconia	81	72	76
Statewide Average	68	59	62

Grade 6

#2 in state in reading
#9 in state in math

	Reading	Math
Westonka	86	76
Wayzata	81	78
Minnetonka	79	79
Orono	77	67
Waconia	75	73
Statewide Average	62	56

Grade 7

#1 in state in reading
#2 in state in math

	Reading	Math
Westonka	88	89
Wayzata	80	82
Orono	80	73
Minnetonka	74	81
Waconia	65	74
Statewide Average	57	56

**Rankings reflect 2016 MCA III statewide results from school districts testing at least 100 students in the grade level. Results show percentage of students scoring "proficient" and above.*



5th Grade FAQ's and Parent Tips!

How do I check their progress? Many parents like this change in middle school as we use an online Gradebook in Family Access and therefore you can check your child's progress 24/7! You can also set up notifications to get updates sent to you. Family Access is where we post grades. This is where you will also see if there is any work your child hasn't turned in.

What is due tomorrow? What is coming up this week?

Teacher calendars can be found in Schoology. This is not the gradebook but rather where the calendar of assignments is located and where they can also find additional copies and rubrics. Often students will even submit work in Schoology. Your best resource for navigating Schoology is your child. He/she will learn how to find everything in Schoology. There are also tutorials available for parents on our web page. Students should check the calendar in Schoology daily.

What makes up their grade?

80% of their grade is Summative Assessments. These are larger assignments, projects, papers, tests etc. If a child does poorly, retakes are always available, but will require some relearning tasks first. Students must score a 70% or better on summative assessments or else are required to retake the assessment. Scores below 70% are marked 'Missing' until the retake is taken. Students who score above 70% but want to improve are also allowed to retake summative assessments.

20% of their grade is Formative Assessments which includes practice activities such as weekly paragraphs, smaller quizzes and homework.

What is your grading scale? Please remember that our scale is different from a primary scale. You are transitioning from 3 options to 10. Typically this can be a bit overwhelming for kids and parents right away, especially if the student has a low score early on. Don't worry! There are lots of opportunities over time to improve grades!

94-100% - A	90-93% - A-	87-89% - B+	83-86% - B	80-82% - B-
77-79% - C+	73-76% - C	70-72% - C-	67-69% - D+	0-66% - D

How do I manage the Chromebook? Again, kids are the best resource for this. First quarter teachers work with them to bookmark frequently visited pages and get them familiar with useful apps. Also note that when students log into their Google accounts on their chromebook, they still get the benefit of our school filtering software, even at home. Below are some of the best tips parents have shared on how to manage it all:

- Charge the Chromebook in the same place every night and NOT in their room. It can be a potential distraction.
- Have your child use their Chromebook in a place where they can be monitored by an adult. Even with great filtering software, kids can still tend to get off-task if not reminded often to stay on-task. Pretty soon a 20 minute assignment is taking two hours.
- Even though the device is a school device, it is OK for parents to limit their child's use of it. Saying no to devices during dinner or after certain hours is a great habit!
- Purchase insurance! Accidents happen and it is nice to be covered when they do.

How much homework can I expect? This will vary but typically there is homework daily in math and just a few days a week in other classes. However, teachers work hard to give students time in class to get started and sometimes even complete work. If a child continually says he/she is done with homework, a quick check of the Schoology calendar and the gradebook will help monitor that. Every child is different as far as how much monitoring and reminding they need and you will know your child best. If your child seems to be spending excessive amounts of time on homework, please contact the teacher.

What if he/she needs homework help? If a student falls behind or needs to take a test, usually it is best for them to connect with the teacher first and arrange a plan. The good news is that so much of what we do is available on Schoology so if a child needs to be gone for some reason, it is possible to keep up with the class. In addition, Homework Club is also offered Mondays-Thursdays (2:35-4:10) free of charge and many students attend regularly in order to complete missing work, take tests or just stay on top of daily work. An Activity Bus is available, but they must sign up for that during Morning Meeting.

My child was in GATES. How does that work here? Just as other aspects of the middle school structure evolve, so does programming for our gifted students. Here students have the opportunity to challenge themselves with several advanced class options as well as co-curricular opportunities. Advanced Language Arts and Accelerated Mathematics courses are available in grades 5-7. In addition, students have enriched course opportunities during their specialist time which can be found in Course Offerings. In 5th grade this option is Advanced STEM, in 6th grade Future Problem Solving and in 7th grade Future Cities. In addition, Mrs. Frenette, Hilltop GATES teacher works with parents to help ensure a smooth transition. If at any time you feel like your child needs more of a challenge, Mrs. Frenette is here to help!

Visits tonight: If you have specific questions about curriculum in these courses, or if you just want to say hello, please stop in! Teachers are available until 8pm!

Science: Mrs. Knudsen and Mr. Warming G13
Accelerated Math: Mr. Runke G12
Language Arts and Advanced LA: Mrs. Hoogeveen G20
Language Arts and Advanced LA: Mrs. Kaminski G21
Choir: Mrs. Newell, Choir room

Social Studies: Mrs. Bonier G14
Math: Mr. Coleman 120 and Mrs. Harstad 121
GATES: Mrs. Frenette 121
SPED: SPED Staff G11
Band: Mr. Whaley Cafeteria

Welcome to Grandview!

