

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 an MWHS student, two daughters at Hilltop and one starting at GMS! 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 advisory program helps students connect with other students and their teachers. Throughout the year, advisory 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 support classes, 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,

Christy Keeley-Zachow, Principal
(952) 491-8300
keeleyc@westonka.k12.mn.us



www.westonka.k12.mn.us/grandview | P: 952.491.8300 | F: 952.491.8303

grandview middle school



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
- 90% of Grandview's licensed staff hold a master's degree or higher
- Block scheduling provides 80 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: Destination Imagination, Continental Math, Math Masters, Word Master Open, Geography Bee, Spelling Bee, yearbook and archery

grandview middle school



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
- Advisory 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:
 - "White Hawks Brag" 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



2018 test scores

Among Best in State & Neighborhood for 16th Consecutive Year*

District Overall

#12 in state in math
#15 in state in reading

	Math	Reading
Wayzata	80	79
Minnetonka	80	81
Westonka	78	76
Waconia	74	71
Orono	72	74
Statewide Average	58	60

Grade 5

#2 in state in math
#8 in state in reading
#13 in state in science

	Math	Reading	Science
Westonka	82	83	78
Orono	77	86	76
Wayzata	76	86	78
Waconia	75	82	75
Minnetonka	72	84	80
Statewide Average	55	67	58

Grade 6

#2 in state in math

	Math	Reading
Westonka	86	75
Minnetonka	83	89
Wayzata	74	84
Waconia	71	77
Orono	69	77
Statewide Average	54	65

Grade 7

#8 in state in math
#13 in state in reading

	Math	Reading
Minnetonka	86	88
Wayzata	82	81
Westonka	78	74
Waconia	77	66
Orono	69	70
Statewide Average	57	58

**Rankings reflect 2018 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 Skyward 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 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. In some situations if a student does poorly, another attempt is allowed. Typically students do not retake these as they impact the grade very little and are intended as practice.

What grades are used? Thanks to Westonka grading reform, Grandview and both primary schools now have a more similar grading scale with 4 levels (prior to these changes, the primary had 3 levels and we had 5). Middle school grades are also tied to percentages and are viewable immediately in Family Access. Typically having grades viewable right away can be a bit overwhelming for kids and parents, especially if the student has a low score early on. Don't worry! There are lots of opportunities over time to improve grades!

PRIMARY GRADES	MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES
BEG Beginning Standard	D The student has not met the grade level expectation. Skill scores are less than 70%.
APR Approaching Standard	C The student is approaching grade level expectations. He/she may meet some standards but not others. Skill scores range from 70%-80%
MET Meets Standard	B The student has met grade level expectations with occasional errors. Skill scores range from 80%-90%
EXT Extends Standard	A The student has met grade level expectations and can apply skills and content beyond grade level standard. The student makes very few errors on grade level content. Skill scores range from 90%-100%.

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 after school Mondays-Thursdays 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.

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.

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 G13

Accelerated Math: Mr. Runke G12

Language Arts and Advanced LA: Mrs. Hoogeveen G20

Social Studies: Mrs. Bonier G14

GATES: Mrs. Frenette 104

Math: Mr. Coleman 120 and Mrs. Harstad 121

SPED: SPED Staff G11

Choir: Mrs. Marsh, Choir room

Band: Mr. Whaley Cafeteria

Welcome to Grandview!





SAMPLE 5th Grade Registration

Student Name: _____ School: _____ Teacher: _____

We've indicated the math and language arts courses recommended for your child next year with an "X." Students who met 3 of the 4 criteria were recommended for advanced/accelerated classes. Students who narrowly missed advanced recommendation but could be successful may also have been recommended. If you decide to choose another option, please make an 'X' by the class you'd prefer and strike through the recommended class. Recommendations are based on previous performance, assessment data, and additional GATES testing for those who opted to do so. Your child's performance on those assessments is also included for your information. Please return this form to your child's 4th grade teacher as soon as possible.

Your Math Recommendation

Small Group Math 5 (SPED only)
Supported Mathematics 5
Math 5
Accelerated Math 5

Assessment & Your score

Fall Math FAST percentile=
Winter Math NWEA Percentile=
Number Sense Timed Test___/75 =
CoGat Screener Percentile=

Your LA Recommendation

Small Group LA 5 (SPED only)
Supported Language Arts 5
Language Arts 5
Advanced Language Arts 5

Assessment & Your score

Fall Reading FAST Percentile=
Winter Reading FAST Percentile=
Writing Assessment___/4=
CoGat Screener Percentile=

Other Required Classes

X Morning Meeting

XScience & Social Studies

Specials

*Meet every other day for 80
for 1 Quarter*

X Tech 5
X Art
X PSS

Music-Band/Physical Ed

Meet every other day for 40 minutes

x Physical Education

Select 1

__Choir __Band

Select 1

__STEM OR
__Advanced STEM 5

Parent Signature: _____

Your signature above gives permission for enrollment in these courses, including classes designed for extra support. Some support classes are funded through ADSIS grant dollars.

Westonka Grades 5-12 Math Progression

