

# GRPS HIGHLIGHTS

SPRING 2012

## New Superintendent Delivers First State of Our Schools

### Responds to Listening Tour Input; Outlines Vision and Plan for Future

On January 4, 2012, 35+ year veteran GRPS employee and Creston High graduate Teresa Weatherall Neal was appointed interim Superintendent of Grand Rapids Public Schools. She announced her focus would be on the following seven areas:

- *Strengthening and improving academic achievement*
- *Leadership and instructional development*
- *Customer service and school culture*
- *Internal and external relationships*
- *Student attendance and behavior*
- *Retention/recruitment of talented staff*
- *Overall accountability*

Then she hit the streets with a comprehensive “listening tour” to gather feedback about what is working, what is not working, what are barriers, and what are solutions. More than 1,000 individuals participated in

Grand Rapids Public Schools Superintendent, Teresa Weatherall Neal

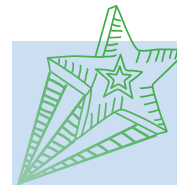
Photo: Adam Bird/Rapid Growth Media

this process that included one-on-one, small group, and large community meetings and a survey.

On Saturday, March 10, 2012 at the Ottawa Hills High School auditorium, Superintendent Neal used her first “State of Our Schools” address to respond to the listening tour and outline the vision and plan for the future. The following is an overview of the speech highlights and main points.

**Alignment of Initiatives:** Based on the GRPS Five Year Strategic Plan and the results of the “listening tour,” work aggressively to align initiatives around one, single Academic Plan that will drive the work of the district. Operations and support services will all wrap

*State of Our Schools - Continued on page 3*



## GRPS Still Accepting Applications for Centers of Innovation and Theme Schools

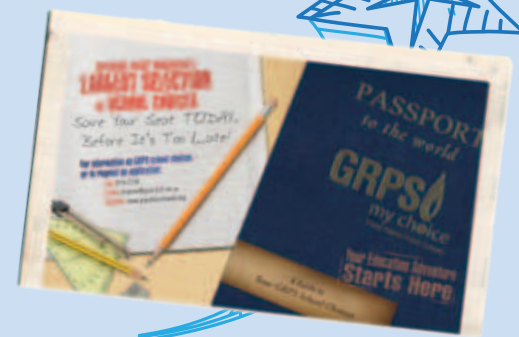
### ROUND 3 DEADLINE - MAY 31ST

GRPS Theme Schools and Centers of Innovation are among the top performing, most popular school choices in the area. They are in high demand, strong performing, and frequently have waiting lists due to the large number of parents applying for their child to attend.

Seats are filling up quickly at the GRPS Theme Schools and Centers of Innovation as the first two rounds of selections have already been made. But it is not too late for your child! All you need to do is complete a Theme School/Center of Innovation application and return it to your child's school or Student Services located at the Rev. Lyman S. Parks Administration Building at 1331 Franklin Ave. SE. The third round selection deadline is May 31st.

Applications in both English and Spanish are available at all GRPS schools, at the Student Services office, and online at [www.grpublicschools.org](http://www.grpublicschools.org).

See enclosed “Passport to the World” marketing brochure to learn more about GRPS Theme Schools and Centers of Innovation!



**For more information:**

Visit: [www.grpublicschools.org](http://www.grpublicschools.org)

Call: 616-819-2150

Email: [choices@grps.k12.mi.us](mailto:choices@grps.k12.mi.us)

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Thanks to the generosity of our advertisers, this newsletter was funded using minimal taxpayer dollars.

# GRPS Headlines Around the District



## Local Barbers Donate Haircuts to Students at Gerald R. Ford Middle

Three local, licensed barbers gave of their time and talents to provide hair cuts to over 55 Gerald R. Ford Middle School Students in December. The barbers were: Justin

Stewart, Ernie's Beauty & Barbershop; Aaron Satterfield, Head N Sole Barber-shop; and Demarcus Baty, Designers Dug Out Barber Beauty & Spa.



## Alger Students Meet Vice President Biden

Three students from Alger Middle School had the opportunity to meet Vice President Biden, when he spoke at American Seating. 6th grade students Cierra Barrera, Alan Meza, and Mikia Bullock attended the event with their teacher, Mrs. Kozak. Photo courtesy of The Grand Rapids Press.

## MLK 6th Graders Participate in Science Fair

Sixth grade students at Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy had the opportunity to present their projects on plate tectonics to their families, students, teachers, and judges at a science fair in December. The students were assisted in project development by students from City High School.



## AARP Highlights Experience Corps Tutors at GRPS

The Experience Corps was created to help older adults get involved in their communities and use their experience to help others. Currently, 2000 Experience Corps members tutor over 20,000 students throughout the country in reading. GRPS is the only school district in Michigan utilizing Experience Corps tutors. Read the AARP article at <http://www.aarp.org/giving-back/volunteering/experience-corps/>

## Reading Month Visit from Senator Hildenbrand

Senator Dave Hildenbrand visited and read to several GRPS classrooms during March is Reading Month.



## Photographers Donate Photos to All GRPS Seniors

Local photographers Terry Johnston, Katy Batdorff, Seth Thompson, Tim Motley, Michael Cook, Mitch Ranger and Ryan Pavolich teamed up with Stellafly Social Media to form GRadPICS and provide all GRPS seniors with senior photos, free of charge. The photos were then posted on the GRadPICS Facebook page for students to download and use as needed.



## Breakfast Poster Contest at SWCC

As part of the ongoing effort to promote eating breakfast to GRPS students, Alex Escamilla's 8th grade class at Southwest Community Campus created promotional posters about the benefits of breakfast.

1st place (middle poster) went to Nataly Perez and Samaria Torres. 2nd place (right poster) went to Rudy Ramos and Rodolfo Sosa. 3rd place (left poster) was awarded to Daniella Puente and Araceli Rodriguez.



## Ottawa Hills HS Teacher Wins Education Award

Sharon Satterfield, Ottawa Hills High School special education teacher, was presented with the Hattie Beverly Education Award in January at the 30th annual Giants Awards and Banquet. This award is presented to an African American educator who has made great strides in the advancement of Grand Rapids' educational systems.

## Grand Rapids Public Schools HIGHLIGHTS SPRING 2012

### Grand Rapids Board of Education 2011-2012

Senita Leneer, *President*

Dr. Tony Baker, *Vice President*

Dr. Wendy Falb, *Treasurer*

Jane Gietzen, *Secretary*

Raynard Ross

Monica Randles, M.D.

Jon O'Connor

Maureen Slade

Rev. Kenneth W. Hoskins

Teresa Weatherall Neal

*Interim Superintendent of Schools*

**Equal Opportunity Institution:** Grand Rapids Public Schools, as an Equal Opportunity Institution, complies with federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and harassment, including Title IV and Title VII (with amendments) of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974 as amended 38 USC 20-12 and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. It is the policy of the school board that no person, on the basis of race, sex, height, weight, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, disability or veteran status, shall be discriminated against in educational programs and activities, employment and admission. The District's Civil Rights Compliance Officer is Larry Johnson. Mr. Johnson may be contacted at 1331 Franklin S.E., P.O. 117, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0117 or (616) 819-2035.

**Title IX Annual Athletics Compliance Report:** Grand Rapids Public Schools is committed to securing athletic equity and provides annual Title IX reporting to the athletes and parents in an effort to bring increased attention and resources towards ensuring that gender equity as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments for 1972. Grand Rapids Public Schools annual report is available at [www.grpublicschools.org](http://www.grpublicschools.org).

To comply with the **No Child Left Behind Act** of 2001, Parents Right-To-Know, parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers.

Please contact Micky Savage, Director of Human Resources, in Human Resources via e-mail ([savagem@grps.k12.mi.us](mailto:savagem@grps.k12.mi.us)) or at (616) 819-2028.

## HIGHLIGHTS SPRING 2012

is published by

GRPS Communications Office

Grand Rapids Public Schools

1331 Franklin St. SE, P.O. Box 117

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-0117

Phone: (616) 819-2149

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[www.grpublicschools.org](http://www.grpublicschools.org)

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Design and publication support by:

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## State of Our Schools

*Continued from page 1*

around and support the goals/initiatives of the Academic Plan with the focus on consistent quality teaching and learning in every classroom.

### Parent and Community Engagement:

Setting high and clear expectations for parents and community partners; providing new and improved communications and services to help parents be informed and engaged in their child's education. This includes promoting "vital behaviors": affirmation of students, attendance, discipline/behavior, school work, help parents to be parents, and reading to students 20 minutes a day. A monthly parent newsletter will be sent home with important information and tips to support and engage parents.

**Behavior-Discipline:** Strictly enforcing the Uniform Discipline Code in a "fair, firm, and consistent" manner to ensure there is a safe, healthy, and productive school culture for teaching and learning. Superintendent Neal is recruiting 200 volunteers to be "deputized" and in school to support students and staff.

**Customer Service:** Implementing clear, consistent, and uniform customer service expectations and standards to ensure there is a positive culture.

**Facilities:** Implementing the "warm, safe, and dry" facility improvement projects, with a new "local first" policy to support locally-owned Grand Rapids businesses. Thanks to the voters and taxpayers of Grand Rapids, GRPS will be investing \$20 million over the next five years to tackle the most urgent projects including roofs, boilers, windows, etc.

**Extras:** In addition to these major initiatives, Superintendent Neal outlined her responses to the top ten issues from the "listening tour." Some actions will happen this school year while others are planned for next school year.

- Restoring school-based electives
- Developing a K-12 plan to restore/revitalize art, music and physical education.



You may watch the "State of Our Schools" address on Cable Channel 27, the district website at [www.grpublicschools.org](http://www.grpublicschools.org), or the district YouTube at [www.youtube.com/grpsmychoice](http://www.youtube.com/grpsmychoice).

- Changing the blended learning rotation
- Eliminating the "H" grade
- Implementing initiatives to address school culture/climate issues (PBIS, strict enforcement of Uniform Discipline Code, customer service, etc.)
- Appointing new leadership to oversee high school scheduling
- Appointing new leadership to oversee hiring, recruiting, retaining talented staff

### Listening Tour Results:

#### What's Working

- Institute for Learning (IFL) Instructional Reform Model
- Reading and Math Series
- Use of technology in learning
- Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) initiative

- LOOP after school program
- Wheel of Support
- Community partnerships and support
- Support of the students (Youth Advocates, security, counselors)
- Schools with uniforms

#### What's Not Working

- Elective hubs
- Blending learning rotation
- "H" grades/weighted grades
- Lack of electives
- Absence of art/music
- High School scheduling
- Inconsistent use of Uniform Discipline Code
- Human Resources: Hiring, recruiting, and retaining
- Culture
- Lack of alignment of initiatives

# Bright futures are happening

Children grow up fast and their emotional health is very important. network180 may be able to help with services and support for mental health, substance use disorders, prevention, and developmental disabilities.

Please call the network180 Access Center during normal business hours to find out if you or someone you care about is eligible for services. A simple call can make a big difference.

**Call toll free 1.800.749.7720**

790 Fuller Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, MI  
Please visit: [www.network180.org](http://www.network180.org)

network180 is a proud supporter of initiatives with the Kent School Services Network and the Community Family Partnership  
Please visit: [www.kentisd.org/kssn](http://www.kentisd.org/kssn)

Mental Health. Substance Use Disorders. Developmental Disabilities

**network180**  
Lives Redirected



## GRPS Headlines Around the District *Continued from page 2*



### Mayor Heartwell Reads to Buchanan Students

Mayor George Heartwell visited Ms. Callahan's Kindergarten class at Buchanan Elementary in January as part of the Mayor's Book Club. He read the book *Perfect Soup*, which teaches a lesson about helping others and friendship. A copy of the book was also donated to the Buchanan library.

### Kent Hills Teachers Rewarded

Walmart chose Kent Hills as this year's recipient of its Teacher Recognition Program. Each teacher at the school received \$50 to spend on classroom items. The school was nominated by a group of Kent Hills parents who work at Walmart. They stated that they, "have been very touched by everything you do for your students and would like to give a little something back." Congratulations Kent Hills!

### KEC Mayfield Student Praised for his Integrity in GR Press Column

Cory Johnson was featured in The Grand Rapids Press after he found \$21 in a used purse he bought for his grandmother and chose to give the money back instead of keeping it. His act of integrity was praised in the article.

Photo courtesy of The Grand Rapids Press.



### CARE Ballet Performs "Romeo and Juliet" for GRPS Students

The Creative Arts Repertoire Ensemble (CARE) Ballet performed "Romeo and Juliet" for GRPS students on Friday, February 3 at St. Cecilia Music Center. There were two performances for GRPS students, which gave over 1,000 students the opportunity to experience a condensed, age appropriate version of this classic ballet.

### Jesus Solis Named Supervisor of Fine Arts and Media

Jesus Solis was named Supervisor of Fine Arts and Media. Mr. Solis has been with the Grand Rapids Public Schools for more than ten years. He served as the principal of Burton Middle School for 5 years and was a consultant with the Michigan Department of Education for 11 years.



### GRPS Students Advancing to State in Solo and Ensemble Festivals

Six students from Ottawa Hills High School competed in the Michigan Schools Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) Solo and Ensemble Festival and earned an adjudicated grade of "excellent," which qualifies them to move on to the state competition, which will be held in April. Nine students from City High School's Center for Instrumental and Vocal Perfor-

mance Hub participated in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) Solo and Ensemble Festival. Seven of those students are advancing to the state competition.

### Alger Middle School Teacher Featured as FOX-17 Teacher of the Week



In January, Ms. Vanessa Allen, music teacher at Alger Middle School, was selected as a Fox 17 Teacher of the Week. Congratulations Ms. Allen!



### Folk Singer Visits Shawnee Park Preschool

Carol Johnson, a Grand Rapids folk singer who has toured internationally, visited students at Shawnee Park Preschool. She was invited to Ms. Steffee's classes as part of a grant entitled "Let's Bee Friends." Students from the hearing impaired program and two kindergarten classes also attended. Ms. Johnson did two performances for students. She played the guitar, keyboard, and banjo and sang about respect, friendship, love, cooperation, and self-esteem. The students had a great time learning her songs and singing and dancing along with Ms. Johnson.



### Black History Program

Students from the Ottawa Hills High School Performing Arts Hub presented a city-wide Black History Program on February 22. The program featured singing, African dancing, drumming, poetry, and choral speaking.



### Families in Schools of Hope Family Literacy Program Participate in MLK Day of Service

Families who participate in the Schools of Hope Family Literacy Program took part in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service at the Boys and Girls Club of Grand Rapids Youth Commonwealth. The families heard a presentation by the Red Cross on fire safety, which was prepared especially for English Language Learners. They also made sleeping mats using plastic grocery bags for earthquake victims and assembled "comfort kits" for local house fire victims.

### Sibley Students Construct Wood Duck Boxes

Thirty 4th and 5th grade students from Sibley Elementary's LOOP program worked with staff from Ducks Unlimited, the Kent County Parks Foundation, and students from Forest Hills Northern to create and install "duck boxes." A duck box provides a safe habitat and

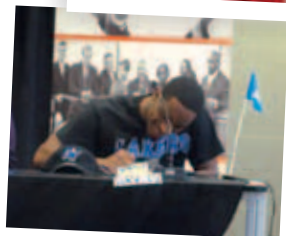
helps create a local duck population.





## Ottawa Hills Student Athletes Participate in National Signing Day

Ottawa Hills High School students Jalen Couch and Donte Carey signed letters of intent on National Signing Day. Jalen will be attending Ferris State University, where he will be playing football. Donte Carey will be attending Grand Valley State University, also to play football.



climate, involving parents, engaging technology, promoting literacy and other activities. Congratulations to the winning schools for your commitment to bringing needed resources to students. We are always inspired by the creativity and initiative of teachers and principals in the Grand Rapids Public Schools!" said Cris Kooyer, Education and Youth Program Officer.

In addition, several of the grants are being used to support the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) program.

The recipients of the grants are: Campus Early Childhood Center; Coit Creative Arts Academy; Creston High School; Harrison Park; Ken O Sha VanAuken Preschool and Diagnostic Center; Lincoln School; Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy; North Park Elementary; Ottawa Hills High School; Ridgemoor Early Childhood Center; Riverside Middle School; Shawnee Math/Science/Technology Academy; Shawnee Park Hearing Impaired; Sibley Elementary; Wellerwood Early Childhood Center; and West Leonard Early Childhood Center.

## MLK Essay Contest Winners Presented with Awards at School Board Meeting



Jamarius McBride from Riverside Middle School was awarded the grand prize in this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day Essay Contest at a February Board meeting. The annual contest is sponsored by law firm Warner Norcross & Judd. First runner up Kevin O'Neil, second runner up Andruw Sandy, and 20 students receiving honorable mentions were also recognized. Warner Norcross & Judd's Diversity Partner, Rodney Martin, was at the meeting to hand out the awards.

## GRPS Awarded 32 Good Classroom Mini-Grants

The Grand Rapids Community Foundation awarded Grand Rapids Public Schools 32 Good Classroom Mini-Grants. The individual grants ranged from \$800 to \$5,000. In total, GRPS received over \$100,000 in Mini-Grants.

"The Grand Rapids Community Foundation is delighted to support innovative projects that support student learning by creating a positive school

## Harrison Park Holds Attendance Bonanza Blast



On Count Day, Harrison Park held a special event to reward students who have had five or fewer absences since the start of school. Elementary students were treated to face painting, carnival style games, jump roping, hula hooping, a magician, and crafts. Middle school students enjoyed a DJ, henna tattoos, board games, cup stacking, and smoothies.



# NO ONE DREAMS OF BEING A DROPOUT.

The vast majority of young students believe they will earn a diploma, but in reality, 25% drop out of high school each year in the WGVSU service area alone. They will be robbed of promise, opportunity and a successful future.

The decision to leave school will also impact their communities, resulting in higher crime, unemployment and homelessness.

But it doesn't have to be that way. WGVSU Engage is part of American Graduate: Let's Make It Happen, a public media initiative to address the high school dropout crisis, made possible by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). With your support, we can help students stay on the path to graduation. And help our community address the economic and social effects of this crisis. Visit [wgvsu.org/graduate](http://wgvsu.org/graduate) to learn more about their progress and how you can help.

If every city does its part, the future will look brighter than ever.



[americangraduate.org](http://americangraduate.org)





### Helpful Websites for College Planning ACT and SAT Review:

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)  
[www.mivhs.org/courses/](http://www.mivhs.org/courses/)

### Job Search:

[www.careerbuilder.com](http://www.careerbuilder.com)  
[www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)  
[www.flipdog.com](http://www.flipdog.com)

### NCAA Clearinghouse:

[www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)

### College Search & Preparation, Financial Aid:

[www.collegeplanning.org](http://www.collegeplanning.org)  
[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)  
[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)  
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)  
[www.embark.com](http://www.embark.com)  
[www.nacac.com](http://www.nacac.com)  
[www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)  
[www.collegereview.com](http://www.collegereview.com)

## MICHIGAN COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

### Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities

Central Michigan University	989-774-3076	<a href="http://www.cmich.edu">www.cmich.edu</a>
Eastern Michigan University	734-487-3060	<a href="http://www.emu.edu">www.emu.edu</a>
Ferris State University	800-433-7747	<a href="http://www.ferris.edu">www.ferris.edu</a>
Grand Valley State University	800-748-0246	<a href="http://www.gvsu.edu">www.gvsu.edu</a>
Kendall College of Art & Design/Ferris	800-676-2787	<a href="http://www.kcad.edu">www.kcad.edu</a>
Lake Superior State University	888-800-LSSU x2231	<a href="http://www.lssu.edu">www.lssu.edu</a>
Michigan State University	517-355-8332	<a href="http://www.msu.edu">www.msu.edu</a>
Michigan Tech University	800-MTU-1885	<a href="http://www.mtu.edu">www.mtu.edu</a>
Northern Michigan University	800-682-9797	<a href="http://www.nmu.edu">www.nmu.edu</a>
Oakland University	248-370-3360	<a href="http://www.oakland.edu">www.oakland.edu</a>
Saginaw Valley State University	800-968-9500	<a href="http://www.svsu.edu">www.svsu.edu</a>
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	734-765-7433	<a href="http://www.umich.edu">www.umich.edu</a>
University of Michigan-Dearborn	313-593-5100	<a href="http://www.umd.umich.edu">www.umd.umich.edu</a>
University of Michigan-Flint	810-762-3300	<a href="http://www.umflint.edu">www.umflint.edu</a>
Wayne State University	313-577-3577	<a href="http://www.wayne.edu">www.wayne.edu</a>
Western Michigan University	269-387-2000	<a href="http://www.wmich.edu">www.wmich.edu</a>

### Public Community Colleges

Alpena Community College	989-358-7229	<a href="http://www.alpenacc.org">www.alpenacc.org</a>
Bay De Noc Community College	800-221-2001	<a href="http://www.baydenoc.cc.mi.us">www.baydenoc.cc.mi.us</a>
Charles S. Mott Community College	810-762-0315	<a href="http://www.mcc.edu">www.mcc.edu</a>
Delta College	989-686-9093	<a href="http://www.delta.edu">www.delta.edu</a>
Glen Oaks Community College	269-467-9945	<a href="http://www.glenoaks.cc.mi.us">www.glenoaks.cc.mi.us</a>
Gogebic Community College	906-932-4231 x207	<a href="http://www.gogebic.cc.mi.us">www.gogebic.cc.mi.us</a>
Grand Rapids Community College	616-234-4100	<a href="http://www.grcc.edu">www.grcc.edu</a>
Great Lakes Maritime Academy	231-995-1200	<a href="http://www.nmc.edu/maritime">www.nmc.edu/maritime</a>
Henry Ford Community College	313-845-9600	<a href="http://www.hfcc.edu">www.hfcc.edu</a>
Jackson Community College	516-685-7425	<a href="http://www.jccmi.edu">www.jccmi.edu</a>
Kalamazoo Valley Community College	269-488-4100	<a href="http://www.kvcc.edu">www.kvcc.edu</a>
Kellogg Community College	269-965-4153	<a href="http://www.kellogg.edu">www.kellogg.edu</a>
Kirtland Community College	989-275-5000 x284	<a href="http://www.kirtland.cc.mi.us">www.kirtland.cc.mi.us</a>
Lake Michigan College	269-927-8107	<a href="http://www.lakemichigancollege.edu">www.lakemichigancollege.edu</a>
Lansing Community College	517-483-1200	<a href="http://www.lcc.edu">www.lcc.edu</a>
Macomb Community College	866-622-6624	<a href="http://www.macomb.edu">www.macomb.edu</a>
Mid-Michigan Community College	989-386-6661	<a href="http://www.midmich.edu">www.midmich.edu</a>
Monroe County Community College	734-384-4104	<a href="http://www.monroeccc.edu">www.monroeccc.edu</a>
Montcalm Community College	989-328-1250	<a href="http://www.montcalm.cc.mi.us">www.montcalm.cc.mi.us</a>
Muskegon Community College	231-777-0366	<a href="http://www.muskegon.cc.mi.us">www.muskegon.cc.mi.us</a>
North Central Michigan College	213-348-6626	<a href="http://www.ncmc.cc.mi.us">www.ncmc.cc.mi.us</a>
Northwestern Michigan College-Cadillac	231-775-8611	<a href="http://www.nmc.edu">www.nmc.edu</a>
Northwestern Michigan College-Trav. City	231-995-1054	<a href="http://www.nmc.edu">www.nmc.edu</a>
Oakland Community College	248-341-2200	<a href="http://www.occ.cc.mi.us">www.occ.cc.mi.us</a>
St. Clair Community College	810-989-5500	<a href="http://www.sc4.edu">www.sc4.edu</a>
Schoolcraft College	734-462-4426	<a href="http://www.schoolcraft.edu">www.schoolcraft.edu</a>
Southwestern Michigan College	269-782-1000 x1303	<a href="http://www.swmich.edu">www.swmich.edu</a>
Washtenaw Community College	734-973-3543	<a href="http://www.wccnet.edu">www.wccnet.edu</a>
Wayne County Community College	313-496-2600	<a href="http://www.wccc.edu">www.wccc.edu</a>

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### Non-Public Two-Year and Four-Year Colleges and Universities

Adrian College	800-877-2246	<a href="http://www.adrian.edu">www.adrian.edu</a>
Albion College	800-858-6770	<a href="http://www.albion.edu">www.albion.edu</a>
Alma College	800-321-ALMA	<a href="http://www.alma.edu">www.alma.edu</a>
Andrews University	800-253-2874	<a href="http://www.andrews.edu">www.andrews.edu</a>
Aquinas College	800-678-9593	<a href="http://www.aquinas.edu">www.aquinas.edu</a>
Ave Maria College	866-866-3030	<a href="http://www.avemaria.edu">www.avemaria.edu</a>
Baker College of Auburn Hills	888-429-0410	<a href="http://www.baker.edu">www.baker.edu</a>
Baker College of Cadillac	231-878-3100	<a href="http://www.baker.edu">www.baker.edu</a>
Baker College of Flint	800-964-4299	<a href="http://www.baker.edu">www.baker.edu</a>
Baker College of Jackson	888-343-3683	<a href="http://www.baker.edu">www.baker.edu</a>
Baker College of Clinton Township	586-791-6610	<a href="http://www.baker.edu">www.baker.edu</a>
Baker College of Muskegon	231-777-5200	<a href="http://www.baker.edu">www.baker.edu</a>
Baker College of Owosso	800-879-3797	<a href="http://www.baker.edu">www.baker.edu</a>
Baker College of Port Huron	810-985-7000	<a href="http://www.baker.edu">www.baker.edu</a>



Non-Public Two-Year and Four-Year Colleges and Universities Continued

Calvin College	800-688-0122	www.calvin.edu
Cleary College	800-686-1833	www.cleary.edu
College for Creative Studies	800-952-ARTS	www.cccad.edu
Concordia University	800-253-0680	www.cuaa.edu
Cornerstone University	800-787-9978	www.cornerstone.edu
Davenport University-Midland	800-968-4860	www.davenport.edu
Davenport University-Dearborn	313-581-4400 x305	www.davenport.edu
Davenport University-Grand Rapids	800-632-9569	www.davenport.edu
Davenport University-Kalamazoo	269-552-3308	www.davenport.edu
Davenport University-Lansing	800-686-1600	www.davenport.edu
Finlandia University	877-202-5491	www.finlandia.edu
Grace Bible College	800-968-1887	www.gbcol.edu
Great Lakes Christian College	800-937-4522	www.glcc.edu
Hillsdale College	517-607-2327	www.hillsdale.edu
Hope College	800-968-7850	www.hope.edu
Kalamazoo College	800-253-3602	www.kzoo.edu
Kettering University	800-955-4464 x7865	www.kettering.edu
Lawrence Technological University	248-204-3160	www.ltu.edu
Lewis College of Business	313-862-6300 x230	www.lewiscollege.edu
Madonna University	734-432-4339	www.madonna.edu
Marygrove College	313-927-1240	www.marygrove.edu
New Tribes Baptist Institute	800-555-6824	www.ntbi.edu
Northwood University	800-457-7878	www.northwood.edu
Olivet College	800-456-7189	www.olivetcollege.edu
Reformed Bible College	616-222-3000	www.reformed.edu
Rochester College	800-521-6010	www.rc.edu
Sacred Heart Major Seminary	313-883-8500	www.archdioceseofdetroit.org
Siena Heights University	517-264-7180	www.sienahs.edu
Spring Arbor University	800-968-0011	www.arbor.edu
University of Detroit Mercy	313-993-1245	www.udmercy.edu
William Tyndale College	800-483-0707	www.wiliamtyndale.net



Getting them there safely

Dean Transportation is proud to serve the students of the Grand Rapids Public Schools and to be a partner with the Grand Rapids community.



deanschoolbus.com

deantrailways.com

Summer of Success

Helping Students Stay on Track to Graduate



Is your child on track to graduate? Has your child failed one or more classes? Summer school can help!

GRPS is proud to offer a number of opportunities to support students so they can earn the necessary credits to graduate from high school on time.

The State of Michigan has strict graduation requirements that specify which courses are necessary to earn a high school diploma within four years. If a required core course is failed and not recovered, your child may not be eligible to be promoted to the next grade or graduate from high school unless the course is made up this summer.

If your child has failed or received a

D in one or more classes, you should strongly consider enrolling in the Summer of Success program. If your child attends, Union, Ottawa, Alger, Ford, or Westwood, then they are eligible for the Summer of Adventure.

You can check your child’s academic status through the “Online Grade Book” at <http://earth.grps.k12.mi.us> or contact his/her school counselor.

To learn more about the Summer of Success and the Summer of Adventure, contact your school counselor.





# Searching for \$cholarships

Everyone needs money for college. While searching for it may seem illusive at times, take heart financial assistance is available. It takes a great deal of persistence to search for scholarship monies that are outside the realm of the state and federal governments and colleges and universities. However, possibilities exist for students who know what the search involves and how to maximize the potential for positive results.

## Go the Traditional Route First

Upon acceptance to a college, check with the college admissions office about scholarships. Also, check with the college financial aid office for a comprehensive listing of all types of aid the institution has for its students including scholarships offered by the department of the student's major field of study. Conduct a web search of private foundations as many of them sponsor college scholarships promot-

ing the foundation's specific interests. Apply for local scholarships such as those sponsored by organizations in the student's surrounding community or state. Typically the pool of applicants is smaller, which increases the chance of being selected as an award recipient. Students should contact their high school guidance counselor for a list of locally sponsored scholarships. Explore funding through community sources and private agencies.

## Scholarship Search Services

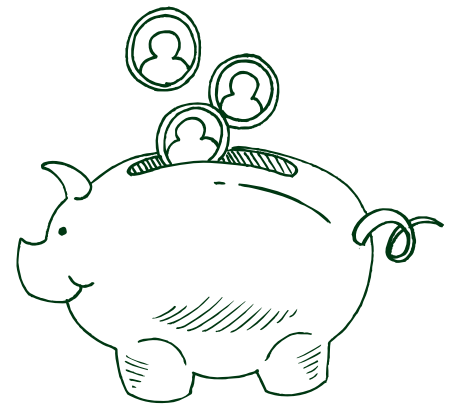
Searching for scholarships other than those awarded by the federal government, state government, or colleges and universities is typically a tedious process. It is up to the student to contact the sources sponsoring the scholarships, obtain the application, write the essay, gather the necessary letters of recommendation, and meet the application deadline. The following are tips for

conducting a scholarship search:

- Start searching and apply early in their junior year of high school.
- Apply for the scholarships that most fit the student's talents, skills, achievements, and interests.
- Be organized.
- Be mindful of deadlines and meet them.
- Write the required essay and have someone else read it for clarity and proofread it for grammar and punctuation.
- Follow the process through to completion.

## Scholarship Search Web Sites

The following list represents a few of the potentially useful scholarship search web sites where students may conduct a scholarship search. Some of them use the same database of scholarship information, and some of them have links to



other financial aid-related sites.

Finally, students need to be aware that scholarship search services are business entities, and lending institutions sponsor many of them. Therefore, students may receive information from lending institutions regarding the types of loans they offer. Students are not obligated to respond to any of these notices. Start searching today and follow all the steps toward a successful outcome.

[www.michigan.gov/studentaid](http://www.michigan.gov/studentaid)

[www.mappingyourfuture.org](http://www.mappingyourfuture.org)

[www.uncf.org](http://www.uncf.org)

## JUMP START YOUR CAREER TODAY

Get qualified for careers in Health Care, Information Technology or Business.

Don't waste another day when you could be preparing for a job you'll love. Short term classes, fast track programs and flexible schedules make it easy to get started. Financial aid is available to those who qualify. **But hurry, classes are filling up fast – call today!**

**KALAMAZOO CAMPUS: (877) 851-7898**



[WWW.CQLC.EDU](http://WWW.CQLC.EDU)

**IT  
STARTS  
WITH  
YOU.**

**5115 Portage Road  
Located on the Bus Route!**



**FULL DISCLOSURE:** Get more information on completion and placement rates, average student debt and related employment data at [www.cqlc.edu/disclosure](http://www.cqlc.edu/disclosure)

## Scholarship Opportunities

### Plummer Letts Parks Leadership Fund

The Plummer Letts Parks Leadership Fund, under the leadership of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Eta Nu Lambda chapter - Grand Rapids, Michigan, is looking to award scholarships(s) this year up to \$1,000.00.

For more information or an application, please contact your child's counselor. Scholarship submissions are due by May 1, 2012 for consideration.

### Inaugural VISINE® STUDENTS WITH VISION™ Scholarship

Visine® is offering one-time \$5,000 scholarships to students who have

demonstrated a clear vision or goal for their future. High school seniors and current college students with a minimum GPA of 2.8 may submit an online application beginning February 15, 2012. The deadline to apply is April 16, 2012. VISINE® STUDENTS WITH VISION™ Scholarship Program recipients are selected based on academic achievement, school and community involvement, financial need and demonstrated vision or goal. For additional program information and to apply for this scholarship, please visit [aim.applylists.net/Vision](http://aim.applylists.net/Vision).



Follow GRPS on...



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[www.twitter.com/grpublicschools](http://www.twitter.com/grpublicschools)



[www.facebook.com/grpublicschools](http://www.facebook.com/grpublicschools)



CLASS OF 2012, YOU ARE

*invited*

**"YES YOU CAN!"**

**A SPECIAL EVENT RECOGNIZING  
2012 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 19, 2012

11:00 a.m. student arrival, Noon Luncheon begins

**WHERE:** DeVos Place Grand Gallery, Rooms A-F  
(Caps and Gowns are required for this event)

**RSVP:** By May 4\* (RSVPs required)

*Featuring:*

- **LUNCH** - FREE to each graduate and one guest - \$15 each additional guest.
- **MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER** - Door prizes for graduates
- **DRAWINGS** - One super drawing and drawings for book scholarships

*\*Please respond with the following information by May 4:*

Student Name; School; Career Interest/Goal; Parent/Guest Name(s).  
RSVP options: Call 616-245-8737 | Fax 616-245-1026 | Mail or drop off  
info to GR Times, 2016 Eastern, SE, GR, MI 49507

For Free Transportation please call the Grand Rapids Times at 245-1026.

*Sponsored by New Hope Baptist Church in partnership with Grand Rapids Public Schools and collaboration with area churches.*

## GRASP

### *Opportunities for Summer Learning*

Looking for help to keep your child's math and reading skills up for the summer?

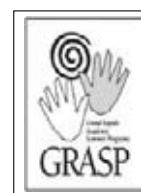
The Grand Rapids Academic Summer Program (GRASP) is the answer. GRASP is a nine-week summer correspondence program in reading and math – grades kindergarten through eighth – that seeks to help students retain skills learned during the school year.

Students complete one lesson a week and mail it in to the GRASP scoring center. Experienced staff members grade and record the lessons and return the results to the students. GRASP students earn medals and certificates for their efforts. We also have added online GRASP for grades 4-8. Parents can also enroll online by going to our website at [www.grpublicschools.org/grasp](http://www.grpublicschools.org/grasp).

Grand Rapids public and parochial elementary schools will receive enrollment forms in April from their schools.

Interested parents may also purchase packets for their children from our location at Shawmut Hills Elementary School (2550 Burritt NW) during Open Enrollment Week June 6-8 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Room 105.

Questions? Please call the GRASP office at 616-819-2545.



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– The Princeton Review



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Brighter  
Together

**MindShare 2012 | Tues., April 24  
at DeVos Place**

Visit [www.grsaf.org](http://www.grsaf.org) or call (616) 988-5430  
for more information

STUDENT ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION  
GRAND RAPIDS

## Center for Economicology Students Collaborate with Mayor

The 6th graders at the Center for Economicology are engaged in their curriculum of sustainability and recently had the opportunity to collaborate with the Mayor of Grand Rapids, George Heartwell, on a City of Grand Rapids sustainability initiative. The City of GR unveiled plans to install electric car charging stations throughout downtown to help promote electric car use in Grand Rapids. The 6th

graders were able to meet with the Mayor for the big press release and share their learning with him. Each student wrote a research paper on the subject and the papers are displayed in City Hall! Students learned the importance of city policy and community initiatives in pushing our industries, population and culture toward sustainability.



Photo courtesy of GVSU.

## Harrison Park Students Visit GVSU

Last fall, President Haas personally invited students from Harrison Park School to visit him at Grand Valley State University. In February, 12 student leaders from 6th through 8th grade took him up on that offer. They began their day at GVSU by meeting President Haas in his boardroom. He connected with the students by sharing personal information that helped them see that he grew up in a household not much different from most of their own. After meeting with President Haas, the students listened to a presentation by

the admissions office and went on a scavenger hunt that ended at Fresh Food Company, where they were treated to lunch. Their visit was part of the Challenge Scholars program, which is funded by the Grand Rapids Community Foundation and prepares students for college by providing social and academic support from an early age. The Challenge Scholars program is currently at Harrison Park, and will be expanding to Westwood Middle School and Union High School.

## The Best Place

In Grand Rapids for Your **Money.**

Our Max Checking Account offers one of the best rates you can find anywhere!

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### "Fair, Firm, and Consistent"

## Enforcement of School Discipline Code

Have you ever seen or read the GRPS Uniform Discipline Code, also known as the "Student Policy Handbook"? If not, it's time to dust off that copy your child received or log on to the district website and download the handbook, because there is a renewed focus within GRPS on the strict enforcement of the school discipline code.

One of the top issues that emerged from Superintendent Neal's "listening tour" was around discipline and behavior and the need for fair, firm, and consistent implementation of our Uniform Discipline Code.

"The district must establish and maintain clear expectations and high standards for all students and adults in order to achieve our desired academic outcomes," said Teresa Weatherall Neal, Interim Superintendent. "I want to make it clear that disruptive behavior and disciplinary issues will no longer be tolerated. Students must know what is or is not acceptable behavior. And then we must enforce it."

In order to ensure consistency and uni-

formity in implementation, the district is organizing professional development and training around the Uniform Discipline Code including in person and online training. The district is also organizing student and parent meetings to share information about expectations and the school code. Students, parents, staff, and volunteers are asked to give particular study to the state laws outlined in the Code of Conduct:

- PA 250 – Arson
- PA 250 – Criminal Sexual Conduct
- PA 250 – Dangerous Weapon
- PA 104 and PA 451 – Physical Assault
- PA 103 – Snap Suspensions
- PA 104 – Physical and Verbal Assault of Staff

A copy of the Uniform Discipline Code in English and Spanish is available for download on the home page of the district website at [www.grpublicschools.org](http://www.grpublicschools.org). A power point and training video is on the website's video player and the district YouTube at [www.youtube.com/grpsmychoice](http://www.youtube.com/grpsmychoice).



## Make Summer Matter – Believe to Become Summer Learning Academy

College campus visits, adventurous outings, and fun field trips are in store for nearly 1,000 Grand Rapids Public Schools students who live in the “Hope Zones” and enroll in the I Believe I Become 2012 summer learning experiences. Check them out!

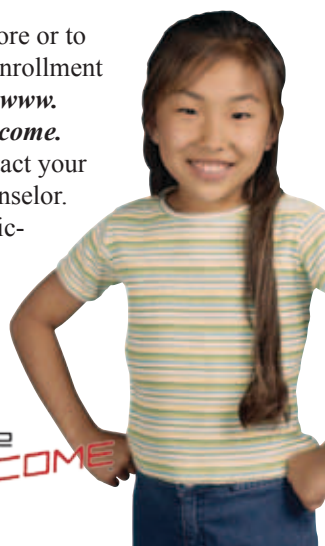
**Middle School Summer Learning Experience:** Students can choose their summer adventures to explore and expand experiences, including innovation, art, blogging, video creation, music making, stage production, science, sports, Craig’s Cruisers, water sports, college visits, amusement parks, and lots more.

**High School Summer Career Experience:** If students are interested in a career in health care, business, technology, science, education, human services, engineering, design and the arts, environment, finance, law, or psychology, then check this out for eight weeks this summer AND earn up to \$900 while you learn!

**Additional Programs for Pre-K through**

**6th Grade:** Students can discover a world of opportunity, explore new ideas and experience the fun of learning new things like the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago or chocolate games! There are opportunities to earn rewards and prizes, make your own video, visit local colleges and a giant waterslide, and make friends that will last a lifetime of adventure!

To learn more or to obtain an enrollment form, visit [www.ibelieveibecome.org](http://www.ibelieveibecome.org) or contact your school counselor. Some restrictions may apply.



### Count on Us. Count on More.

For many people, it’s simply a briefcase. For Clark Hill attorneys and our staff of professionals, it represents a toolkit of diverse resources, integrated networks, and talented teams—all focused on anticipating and responding to your needs in an ever-changing world.

For our clients, it’s a symbol of expertise, reliable counsel, and unwavering service.

With Clark Hill at your side, you can be assured that we will be there, always. So, when you need legal advice, look to Clark Hill PLC.

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## CLARK HILL

ARIZONA ILLINOIS MICHIGAN WASHINGTON DC

SUMMER OF EXPLORATION & ADVENTURE

GRPS my choice  
Grand Rapids Public Schools  
believe 2 BECOME

AN EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL  
ALGER MIDDLE, GERALD R. FORD MIDDLE & WESTWOOD  
MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS AND  
OTTAWA HILLS AND UNION HIGH STUDENTS

JUNE 18 - JULY 26, 2012

MIDDLE SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Field Trip Adventures to Chicago, Detroit, and other exciting destinations
- African Safari, Gun Powder Empires, Science on Wheels, & more!
- Course Recovery

SESSIONS: Monday – Thursday  
Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. | Session: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS:

- College/University Exploration Visits
- Academic Acceleration
- Field Trip Adventures to Chicago, Detroit, and other exciting destinations
- Course Recovery
- Enrichment Opportunities

SESSIONS: Monday – Thursday  
Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. | Session 1: 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Lunch: 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Session 2: 11:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR FOR MORE DETAILS TODAY!

IMPORTANT: Your child may be eligible for the “Believe to Become Summer Learning Academy.” Ask your child’s counselor if he/she is eligible. If your child is eligible, you MUST complete BOTH the Summer of Exploration & Adventure Registration Form AND the Believe to Become 2012 High/Middle School Summer Learning Academy Pre-Registration. A packet of information and registration forms are available through your child’s counselor.

## GRPS Receives Grant to Expand Summer Food Program to 5,300 recipients

GRPS Nutrition Services Director Paul Baumgartner announced at a press conference the expansion of a pilot program that provides families in Grand Rapids with an additional \$60 per month in food benefits in June, July, and August. The program was created to provide low-income families with additional help in obtaining nutritious foods for their children in the summer months, when they are not in school, to reduce summer hunger and improve food security. The program is funded by a grant from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). In 2011, GRPS selected 2,500 students to receive the

additional benefits based on a random lottery. In order to be placed in the lottery, students had to be eligible for free or reduced lunch, and their parent had to return a consent form. In 2012, that number will grow to 5,300. A letter and consent form explaining the program was sent to eligible families. Families who wished to be considered for the program had to return the consent form to their child's school. Students who were enrolled in the program last year and still meet eligibility requirements will remain in it for this summer, as long as they returned the consent form by the deadline. The additional students

will once again be selected via a random lottery system. Families that are selected will be notified in May. Additional grants from the USDA will extend the program to other Michigan school districts, including Bay-Arenac Intermediate School District; Clare-Gladwin Regional Education Service District; Midland County Education Service Agency, and Tuscola Intermediate School District. Michigan and Texas were the only two states chosen by the USDA to test the WIC modeled program. Three other

states are testing new food stamp and bridge card systems for the USDA.



*Paul Baumgartner, GRPS Nutrition Services Director, announcing expansion of the summer food program to include 5,300 recipients.*

## Students Create Sugarbush Salad

Each spring, the students at the Blandford Environmental Education Program (BEEP) take part in an annual tradition. They gather around a Sugar Maple tree (or as they call it, a sugarbush) and learn how to collect the sap that the Sugar Maple tree has stored through the winter. Once the sugary sap has been gathered, BEEP students then process the sap by boiling it to create the end-product, Blandford Maple Syrup.

While on a tour at the Grand Rapids Public Schools Nutrition Services Center, BEEP students were given an opportunity to create a school lunch of their choice. The students developed a very creative salad using an ingredient they are very familiar with – maple

syrup! With the focus on incorporating this seasonal ingredient, the students decided to feature a salad topped with maple syrup-glazed chicken, calling it Sugarbush Salad. The salad was served for lunch on March 14th with a Magnificent Michigan Corn Muffin, pears, rice, and asparagus for a well-rounded and imaginative meal.

Join Blandford Nature Center for pancakes, sausage and Blandford Maple Syrup on Saturday, March 24, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. for the annual Sugarbush Festival.



Come visit our family farm!

**School Tours**

**Family Tours**

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*Recipe*

**Sugarbush Maple Glaze Recipe**

INGREDIENTS			
Apple juice	2 cups	Dijon mustard	2 tsp.
Maple syrup	1 cup	Chicken, diced	1 lb.
Pumpkin pie spice	½ tsp.		

**DIRECTIONS**

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a saucepan on medium-high heat, boil apple juice until it is reduced by half.

Add maple syrup and continue to boil for 5 minutes.

Turn off heat and stir in pumpkin pie spice and Dijon mustard.

Coat chicken with maple glaze and bake at 350° for 20 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink.

Serve maple-glazed chicken over a bed of fresh salad greens or hot whole-grain rice. Yields 6-8 servings

Please join us

**Grand Re-Opening June 5, 2012 at 3 p.m.**

The Paul I. Phillips gym at 415 Franklin SE will open once again for after-school and other youth programs in our community.



## There's a Great Place to Play Right Around the Corner

All throughout the city, the Grand Rapids School District has included a variety of playgrounds alongside their schools for school and community use. Many of the playgrounds were updated during the previous 2004 Bond Construction and others are slated for remodel due to the generous donations of community partners and State of Michigan grant awards.

All GRPS school playgrounds must meet State regulations and undergo annual inspections by the GRPS Facilities and Operations Department. The State of Michigan safety

standards for playgrounds continue to change and improve the safety of play areas for the community's children.

Grand Rapids Public Schools also partners with the City of Grand Rapids to provide outdoor community parks. A number of the school parks areas are maintained by the City and Schools, according to a long standing Joint Use Agreement.

This article would not be complete without a huge "Thank You" to the hundreds of community volunteers that join in every year to spruce up

our playgrounds and outdoor sites. Get out this summer, and show your appreciation of everyone's hard work, by enjoying one of the 37 neighborhood school playgrounds, playfields, or parks.



Aberdeen Playground



Burton Elementary Playground



CEC Playground



Kent Hills Playground

## Student Advancement Foundation Supports GRPS Elementary Fitness Programs

The Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation (SAF) hopes more elementary school students will have the opportunity to get moving and be active as a result of its latest partnership with Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS). The SAF's board of directors approved funds to support elementary fitness through basketball, track, and cross country programs for all GRPS elementary schools.

The funds will cover student participation fees, t-shirts, insurance, and event staff. In addition, the fee for families to attend the sporting events will be reduced or eliminated. The track and cross country program will be available for students in Kindergarten through 5th grade, while basketball will be available to students in 3rd through 5th grades.

In describing the program's focus and objectives, Kurt Johnson, Director of

K-12 Athletics, said, "This provides opportunities for younger students to engage in regular sessions of physical activity beyond the P.E. class time that can be interest-driven."

SAF Executive Director Susan Heartwell said, "Physical wellness is one of the SAF's five impact areas because of how important it is to children's overall health, which in turn affects academic achievement. This program aligns perfectly with our goal: to get children active and keep them healthy."

More information on the programs, including enrollment information and dates, is available at each elementary school.



STUDENT ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION  
GRAND RAPIDS

## JOB Training & PLACEMENT

**goodwill industries**  
of Greater Grand Rapids, Inc.

Career Center: Walk-ins Welcome  
**GOODWILLGR.ORG • 532.4200**

**Attention GRPS Students!!**  
**You've Got Access!**

**The Libraries & Laptops program** provides a laptop for you to use at one of 5 libraries in Grand Rapids: Main, Seymour, Van Belkum, West Leonard, and Yankee Clipper. Check out **www.grpl.org** for hours and locations.

It's easy to get started! You just need your valid GRPS student ID card and the library staff can help you sign in.

For more info  
email Alyssa at  
alyssa@grsaf.org

Brought to You By:





## Calling all Volunteers

Any parents, family or community member interested in volunteering your time to support GRPS student athletes, please contact the volunteer office at 819-2131. This spring, we will gladly use assistance with elementary track and Mileage Club.

Please be aware you will need to fill out our volunteer application before assisting with any programs.

### Spring Sports

**High School** – All High School sports started on March 12, 2012.

- Baseball
- Girls Soccer
- Girls Tennis
- Boys Golf
- Softball
- Track

**Middle School** – All Middle School spring sports begin on April 9th, 2012

- Baseball\*
- Softball\*
- Girls Soccer\*
- Track
- Coed Soccer (K-8 schools only)

\*Base middle schools only

#### Elementary School

– Track and Mileage Club

#### Family of School Meetings

**May 6th 2012** - Parent Meeting for Union Family of Schools in Union Auditorium

**May 16th 2012** - Parent Meeting for Creston Family of Schools in Creston Auditorium

**May 16th 2012** - Parent Meeting for Ottawa Hills Family of Schools in Ottawa Hills Auditorium

For schedules and additional information go to [www.grpublicschools.org/athletics](http://www.grpublicschools.org/athletics)

### Spring Sports

#### Special Events Calendar

April 14th 2012 – Bob Eubanks Track Invitational at Housman Field

May 12th 2012 – 18th Annual Redhawk Golf Outing – A Fun 4 Person Scramble - For more information contact the Union Athletic Office at 819-3168

May 12th 2012– Mickey Stanley Baseball and Softball Tournament 9 a.m.

May 22nd 2012 – West Michigan Meet of Champions at Housman Field

June 2nd 2012 – MHSAA Division 2 - Track State Final

**Free Admission for all spectators, so bring the whole family.**

### Sportsmanship Corner

As a spectator of interscholastic athletics, please consider the time and effort that each of these young participants have put forth to represent his/her school. The purpose of all athletic activities is to provide positive learning experiences and opportunities for personal growth for the participants, coaches, officials, and spectators. Everyone who attends can – and is expected to – assist in the promotion and achievement of good sportsmanship by taking personal responsibility for keeping this contest at a high level of fair, clean, and wholesome competition. Remember...



**SPORTSMANSHIP COUNTS!**



#### ACADEMICS

The LOOP program extends beyond the school day with additional academic support for students.

- Strengthens concepts and ideas in the classroom
- Engages students with elements of “disguised learning”
- Exposes students to new and exciting opportunities after school
- Connects with District initiatives in Math and Literacy
- Offers fun Fall and Summer activities including:
  - Field trips
  - Arts
  - Life skills
  - Cooking
  - Music
  - Service learning
  - Sewing

LOOP academics are available, but not limited to 3 days per week during programming and led primarily by certified teaching staff.

#### ATHLETICS

LOOP partners with the GRPS athletic department to enhance the middle school athletic experience.

- Provides academic support to middle school athletes
- Offers fun Fall and Summer activities including:
  - Swimming
  - Sports
  - Field trips
  - Health and fitness



## WHAT ARE YOU DOING AFTER SCHOOL?

GRPS OFFERS GREAT AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Mon-Thur 11-5 pm

#### REGULAR CALENDAR

June 18 - July 26

#### ALTERNATIVE CALENDAR

June 25 - July 20



GRADES 9-12

#### ACADEMICS

LOFT is a new high school program that offers academic support for teens and opportunities for college and career exploration.

- Prepares students for the ACT and other standardized tests
- Gives students access to a variety of community vendors and partners for an enriched career and educational experience
- Fosters essential life skills through community involvement

#### AND REMEMBER...

- Nutritious snacks and drinks are always provided.
- Transportation is provided to full time participants.
- (some restrictions may apply)
- LOOP and LOFT provide a safe environment supervised and structured by caring adults.

For more information or the nearest LOOP or LOFT location nearest you, Please call **616.819.2165**.



[www.grpublicschools.org](http://www.grpublicschools.org)



## GRPS Headlines

Continued from page 4



### Breakfast at Buchanan

Given the overwhelming evidence that breakfast boosts brainpower, Evelyn Ortiz, Principal at Buchanan Elementary, has made it a personal mission to increase the number of students eating breakfast at her school every morning. Ms. Ortiz frequently takes time to stand outside the school and talk to parents about how economical it is to let their students eat at school.

### GRPS Students Make Valentines for Veterans

Grand Valley State University students partnered with the GRPS Arts Department to work on a special project called "Valentines for Veterans." The GVSU students collected donations of art supplies and brought them in to three GRPS classrooms to help the students create and decorate valentines for veterans and overseas soldiers.



### French Students Visit City High Middle

Twenty one French foreign exchange students spent Valentine's Day at City High Middle School shadowing students as part of their annual exchange day. They observed the students in class, ate with them in the lunchroom, had a special dessert reception with students from City's French classes, and played board games to work on conversing socially.



### Ottawa Hills JROTC Participates in Academic and Leadership Competition

Students in Ottawa Hills High School's JROTC program were chosen to advance to level II in the JROTC Leadership Symposium and Academic Bowl (JLAB). The team competed against 1,345 teams from around the world to advance to level II in an online competition, Zero Hour Threat.

### Sherwood Park Holds "Jump Into Healthy Fun" Event

Sherwood Park held "Jump Into Healthy Fun" in February. Students made whole wheat English muffin pizzas, drank fruit smoothies, learned about healthy beverage choices, and talked about the importance of eating breakfast.



### Brookside 4th Graders Visit Meijer Gardens

Brookside 4th graders visited Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in February. After their visit, students wrote about their favorite part of the trip. Many students enjoyed the tropical biome the most.

### Center for Economicology Holds Regional Spelling Bee

On February 15, the Center for Economicology held a regional spelling bee at City High-Middle School. Two students each from seven area schools participated in the event.

Students ranged from fourth grade through eighth grade and were the top two students from their school spelling bee. The Center for Economicology school bee winners and regional representatives were Lydia Hoekwater and Tashaie Hicks. Lydia was the runner up at the regional bee.

### Westwood Middle Performances

In February, Westwood students put on two special performances. Mr. Pullion presented a Black History experience for the staff, students, and some of the parents from Westwood, which included the Ottawa Hills Choir, the Westwood Choir, singing, skits, dancing, speeches, and trivia. Ms. Isaacson led the Westwood Choir and Band in a concert for the 4th and 5th grade students from Shawmut Elementary.



### The Ocean Doctor Visits Zoo School

In early February, the Ocean Doctor, who has been a guest on shows like "60 Minutes" and "Good Morning America", visited Zoo School as part of his trip to Grand Rapids to speak to the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan. He talked to students about how little of the ocean has been explored and what some of the big issues facing the oceans are. TV show 8 West came to the presentation and did a live segment from Zoo School.

### Riverside Staff Give Back

Riverside Middle School staff served at the Trinity Community Kitchen on the Northwest side of Grand Rapids on February 16. A group of staff have volunteered twice per year for the last three years to serve dinner at the community kitchen, which serves a hot meal to people every Thursday night.

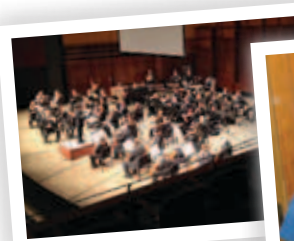


### City High Student Recognized as Finalist in Essay Challenge

Adrian Hernandez, a 10th grader at City High Middle, was chosen as a finalist in the President Gerald R. Ford Essay Challenge. This annual competition is open to West Michigan high school students. This year's theme was "the meaning of leadership today". Adrian's essay was chosen out of more than 400 entries to be one of the 18 finalists. Congratulations Adrian!

### 5th Graders Attend GR Symphony

All GRPS 5th graders had the opportunity to attend a special performance at the Grand Rapids Symphony, where they were introduced to instrument families, the role of the conductor, and music from significant historical periods. Schools were encouraged to work with their art instructor to create art for a slide show during a pre-selected piece in the program.



### Students Develop Reading Skills Using Menus

Ms. Sarge, a first grade teacher at Covell Elementary, has found an interesting way to help her students learn to read. She takes the monthly menu from nutrition services, enlarges it to 400% its normal size, and cuts apart the days. Each morning, the menu for the day is posted with syllable dots and vowel markings. Her class looks forward to reading the menu each day.






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