

GRAND RIVER ACADEMY



NEWSLETTER

Grand River Families:

I hope your family enjoyed a wonderful Spring Break. I think the students were primed for a break. Now, we are all set to finish the year strong.

Graduation

It's hard to believe it, but graduation day is just around the corner. There are only 37 weekdays between April 1st and graduation on May 23rd. Seniors who wish to walk in the ceremonies on the 23rd must have their coursework completed by May 17th.

Vaping

Vaping has been a hot topic lately. Vaping by teens is on the rise according to the National Institute of Health (NIH). Surveys by the NIH of 12th graders found that 37% of students reported vaping in 2018 compared to 28% in 2017. This rise was seen in all types of vaping products (nicotine, flavored liquids, marijuana, and hash oil). According to the NIH, vaping can lead to addiction and cause long-term harm to brain development. The vapor also contains toxins, including ones that cause cancer, and tiny particles that are harmful when breathed in. School district policy ADC prohibits the use of tobacco or nicotine on school property, including the use of vaping devices.

School Vision Statement

After collecting input from all of our stakeholders (parent survey, student surveys, and from staff) we have developed our vision. The reason for revising our vision is to make sure it reflects the current priorities of the school community and includes the voices of all stakeholder groups. The new vision for our school is:

"An Empowered Learning Community Driven by Challenge, Curiosity, and Compassion."

The vision gives us a snapshot of where we are headed as an organization and will help us make decisions about the continuous improvements we are making to our school.

Safe 2 Tell

Efforts to spread the word about Safe2Tell in District 51 and ensure students that it is a safe, effective way to share tips are paying off, as more people are using the free, confidential reporting tool and saving lives.

While Safe2Tell has existed in various forms since 2004, District 51 ramped up advertising surrounding Safe2Tell two years ago, just before Spring Break 2017. The district has spread the word over the last couple years through posters, cards, book marks, and

postings in every middle and high school bathroom stall, in addition to newsletter articles, press releases, print ads, PSAs and other tools.

As a result, more students are learning about Safe2Tell and finding it effective. Reports to Safe2Tell have increased from 387 in all of 2017-18 to 558 tips so far in 2018-19. The most common reports are:

2017-18

1. Suicidal Threats – 87 tips
2. Bullying – 58 tips
3. Cutting – 37 tips
4. Planned School Attack – 27 tips
5. Depression – 27 tips

2018-19

1. Suicidal Threats – 119 tips
2. Bullying – 58 tips
3. Cutting – 50 tips
4. Drugs – 44 tips
5. Depression – 39 tips

Safe2Tell is a statewide reporting system administered by the Colorado Office of the Attorney General. It encourages students (or Coloradans of any age) to submit anonymous tips about a variety of topics that affect young people. Reports go to school administrators, D51 safety staff, and local law enforcement. Reports can be made in the following ways:

- Call 1-877-542-7233
- Visit safe2tell.org
- Download the free texting app from the Apple or GooglePlay app store

Grand River Shirts

Just a reminder that we do have Grand River Academy Raptor shirts for sell. Shirts are \$12 each and they are pictured below.



Thanks for all you do to support our learners!

Warmest Regards,

Steve States.

Counselor's Corner

As you are well aware, I am sure, the next few months will be fast and furious. We will get set for yet another celebration of a Grand River year completed.

Testing will occur; Classes will come to a closure: Graduation will be celebrated.

Testing tips: Good breakfast, solid sleep, and well maintained mental health will only help students prepare to do their best. While we look at testing as a 'have to' type of school event, it is truly a snapshot of what students can do and a celebration of what students know. This is not an activity that we put together to create anxiety or apprehension for students. It is merely an opportunity for them to demonstrate how far they have come in their learning, as well as a pathway to help guide where to take them in their future learning.

Please know that we want them to do their best and preparing is the first step.

Class completion: Classes will remain open until the last day of school, May 30. All grades will be posted and credits for HS given after those grades are posted.

Scheduling of classes for returning students, 2019-2020, are being scheduled now. Ninth, tenth and eleventh grade schedules will be starting with students as soon as April 16th during Advisory.

If you are a parent who has questions or would like a more formal appointment to discuss schedules/school plans for your student, please contact Ms. Haptonstall, Counselor, 254-6393 X 69103 or contact the main office to set an appointment.

If you have a student wishing to do crossovers at their neighborhood school please contact

the GRA main office to get the paperwork and process started.

Any questions regarding any of these procedures please contact Grand River's main office or the counselor. We would be glad to help or answer questions.

Graduation:

If you student is planning to walk in graduation ceremonies please know all credits **MUST** be **COMPLETED NO LATER** than **MAY 17th** at **4:00 PM**. This ensures we have time to issue credits and verify transcripts prior to Graduation.

If you have a senior who is **NOT** wanting to walk in the ceremony, they are welcome to continue working until the final day of school, May 30th. Those students will still be recognized as 2019 Graduates, however, will not participate in the Graduation Ceremony on May 23rd.

If you have any questions, please contact the GRA counselor, Michelle Haptonstall – 254-6393 X 69103 or e-mail michelle.haptonstall@d51schools.org



D51 releases anti-bullying PSA

Learn more about bullying - a pattern of harassing behavior targeted at you by a person who has physical, emotional, financial, or social power over you - and how to report it in

this [video](#), made right here in D51, and visit the Bullying Prevention Page [here](#).

April Calendar

1st-5th CMAS testing grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

9th SAT testing for juniors. Freshmen attend Wednesday the 10th for testing. Sixth graders do not attend on-site.

10th PSAT testing for sophomores. Seventh graders do not attend on-site. CMAS testing for grades 3, 4, 5.

11th PSAT testing for freshmen. CMAS testing 8th grade. Eighth graders are being released at 11:30AM on this day.

13th PSAT make up testing for 9th and 10th grades.

15th-19th CMAS testing for grades 5, 6, 7, 8

16th CMAS science testing for Juniors

23rd SAT make up testing for 11th grade

29th Conferences—11am-7pm



Trio of parent info nights in April
All D51 families are invited to attend three Parent Info Sessions next month. Free dinner and childcare will be offered.

- April 10: 6 p.m. in the Grand Junction High School Library. Topics to include school bullying definitions, reporting, and legal consequences.
- April 17: 6 p.m. in the Fruita Monument Library. Topics to include pot and opioids.
- April 24: 6 p.m. in the Central High School Library. Topics to include internet and smartphone safety.



Lockdowns, shelters explained
School safety is a top priority in D51. Watch the video above to learn more about what happens when your child's school is in lockdown or shelter-in-place.

Electronic Registration

This coming school year we will be transitioning to all online registration. Beginning April 1st, parent(s)/guardian(s) can register their student online. Go to



www.d51schools.org, hover over the “Parents” tab, hover over parent tools and then select “ParentVUE” and log in. You will then select the “Online Registration” tab.

If you do not have a ParentVUE account or you’re not sure if you have one, contact our registrar (Becky Wyatt) at 254-6393 ext. 691



1-877-542-7233

safe2tellco.org

Anonymously Report Concerns 24/7

