



# A Note from the Principal

## Introduction

For those of you who I have not met yet, my name is Steve States and I am the principal at Grand River Academy. It is my honor to be serving as the principal for the second year. Prior to this I was a central office administrator, principal, assistant principal, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher. I am very excited for a new year and the privilege of working with your student. Your student or you can contact me anytime with questions or concerns. A phone call, email, or face-to-face meeting are all ways we can get in touch with one another.

## Off to a Great Start!

We've been in school for three weeks now and things have gone well. We had a great start to the school year! Staff were ready to greet students back to our school family with open arms. Our students seemed glad to be back as well. We saw new faces and familiar ones and they all came together in classes beautifully.

With the exception of a little confusion here or there, high school students got their schedules, middle school students found their classes and our k-5 students were in class in no time.

## Thanks for All You Do!

Our students cannot be successful without the support and help that learning coaches provide them at home. We know that schooling at home is a lot of work, for the student and the learning coach. Whether the coach is a parent, grandparent, family friend, or someone else, we appreciate all the work our learning coaches do to make sure our students are successful.

We also thank parent(s)/guardian(s) for the partnership you form with us. We share your desire to see your child be successful at school, in academics and as a whole child. We will work with you to provide educational experiences that will make them into a successful and well-rounded person.

## Attendance

Consistent attendance is one important piece of the puzzle when it comes to your child's education. Our school is unique in that

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attendance is not required every day at our physical location. However, attendance online is required at least 25 hours per week. Students can work at different times of day, they can work on the weekends and miss a few weekdays, but the time on task at home is important.

It is also important for students to attend onsite. Our teachers work hard to create lessons that support your student's work in Odysseyware or K-12. Their attendance onsite will help them be successful online. If you have questions about attendance or need help accessing the curriculum, please let us know. We are here to help your student be successful.

## National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test (NMSQT)

The four comprehensive District 51 high schools offer the NMSQT. That's Palisade, Central, Grand Junction High, and Fruita Monument High. The NMSQT qualifies students who score in a certain range for the National Merit Scholarship. Parents/students may contact their attendance area high school if they wish to take the test. Grand River does not offer the test at our location. For full details visit the [PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide](#). If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us.

## Clubs

Our clubs are underway. Our clubs are a great opportunity for students to participate in the "life" of Grand River. They have the chance to have fun with other students, make new friends, and to interact with their teachers in a non-academic environment. Included in this

issue of the newsletter is a schedule of club activities.

We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with you to provide your student with an excellent education. Thank you for sharing your student with us.

Warmest Regards,

Steve States, Principal

# Middle School Field Trip

Twenty students participated in our first Field Trip August 30th to the CSU Research Farm on B 1/2 Road where they helped harvest apples for the Grand Valley Food Bank. The second middle school field trip is scheduled for September 13th at Connected Lakes from 12 to 3pm. Student will be learning the basics of paddle boarding in conjunction with GJSUP. All equipment is included in the \$15.00 price. {Please see email that was sent with permission slip. The trip is open to the first twenty participants who turn in the slip and money.}

# Counselor Corner

Dear Grand River students and Parents/Guardians:

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Michelle Haptonstall. I am the K-12 Counselor at Grand River Academy. I am very honored to serve your students and families. I am entering my 2nd year at Grand River and I am so excited and pleased to return and am ready for an excellent 2019-2020 school year.

I enjoy meeting and assisting my families. Please encourage your students to come and visit me anytime for any reason. I am here to help in any way I can.

During the month of September, Counseling will be starting some of the district initiatives for your students. We will begin our Safe School /Social-Emotional and Career and College Readiness initiatives for middle and high schools.

Next week, Sept. 2nd all 9th graders will begin working on their 4 year graduation plan for credit earning as they plan out their high school hopes for completing and graduation.

September 3/4 Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors will be looking over their transcripts and creating and recreating a plan as they recognize where they are in their grad plans and how to move forward.

## Career Dates to know:

Sept. 10th- Day/night fair at GJHS for all Juniors and Seniors who would like to speak to Colleges and Universities. This is a 30 minute opportunity for students to attend and speak with representatives from attending universities. This fair lasts from 9-11 am.

Sept 17.- Construction Day- Vocational field trip- Mesa County Fair Grounds- Transportation provided- Contact Ms. Haptonstall or GRA main office for permission forms.

Sept 29 - October 5th- Tentative Free Application Week- for Current Seniors/graduates for 2020-2021 College School Year.

October 6- College Fair- Aspen High School- over 150 Colleges/Universities to talk to. No GRA sponsorship or transportation will be provided.

REMINDER- if you are thinking of taking College courses next year you will want to become familiar with the FAFSA process and application forms.

## Upcoming-Safe Teen- Suicide Prevention training

**MS- Sept 12-** 8th Grade- ending the Silence

**HS- Sept 24-** 9th Grade Suicide Prevention Training

## Seniors:

To ensure that you are on track to graduate per your personal plan please get with Ms. Haptonstall to ensure you are getting the courses necessary to set yourself up for the best outcomes.

**Juniors:**

If you want to try to graduate early or have thought about it, you may want to set up an appointment with Ms. Haptonstall to discuss next steps and plans to reach your personal goals.

**Elementary, MS, and HS**

Counseling will be talking to your students to introduce them to who I am and what I do. If you, as a family, have any questions about who I am and/or what I do and how I can support your student while at school, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Social -Emotional support groups:**

There will be a very short questionnaire which will be coming out to students in the next couple of weeks. This will be to gain information about counseling supported or community supported groups that could be of benefit to your students.

# School Dress

School is like your student's work place and appropriate dress is important for a workplace. Please check your student's attire before they come to school to make sure that it is not revealing or that they are not wearing shirts with references to alcohol, tobacco, drugs or that have vulgarities on them. Thank you for your help with this.

# September Calendar



2 <sup>nd</sup>	No school Labor Day
13 <sup>th</sup>	Middle school field trip to connected lakes for paddle boarding, 12pm-3pm.
16 <sup>th</sup>	No school, teacher workday
19 <sup>th</sup>	Parent/Teacher Conferences 4pm-8pm
26 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Fall Bar-b-que 4:00pm-6:00pm

# Weekly Schedule

K-2<sup>nd</sup> grades- Tuesday 8:30am-2:30pm

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades- Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm

k-5<sup>th</sup> grades- Thursday 8:30am-2:30pm  
(optional day)

\*6<sup>th</sup> grade- Tuesday 8:30am-2:30pm

\*7<sup>th</sup> grade – Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm

\*8<sup>th</sup> grade- Thursday 8:30am-2:30pm

9<sup>th</sup> grade- Tuesday 9am-2:30pm

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10<sup>th</sup> grade- Wednesday 9am-2:30pm

11<sup>th</sup> grade/12<sup>th</sup> grade- Thursday 9am-2:30pm

\*6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade have “Stay & Play” from 2:30pm-3:00pm on their scheduled day (optional).

# Growth Mindset

In general, a growth mindset is the belief that intelligence and ‘smartness’ can also be learned and that the brain grows from experience and effort. The opposite, a fixed mindset, is the idea that you are smart, or you are not. Did you know that praising efforts rather than intelligence or results can impact your child’s ability to persevere in challenges?! The goal is to have children thrive on challenges and see failures, not as a sign of low intelligence, but as a learning opportunity. Brain research tells us that making mistakes actually wires more connections into the brain! When a person has a growth mindset, they accept challenges, see their efforts as worthwhile, and are open to learning from mistakes. Students with a growth mindset achieve at higher levels than

those with fixed mindsets. How can you help? Some simple ways:

- Adding “yet” when they claim they are “not good at this” (Respond: “You are not good at this yet.”)
- Ask questions that focus on their effort and choices and get them to reflect on satisfaction of that effort (e.g. What did you learn today? What mistake did you make that taught you something? What did you try hard at today?)
- Model this yourself as you share about your day.

# School Pride

Did you know that Grand River Academy’s mascot is a dinosaur known as a raptor? Our school colors are Navy blue, light blue, and yellow. Please share this with your student so they can show their pride and know their school colors and mascot.

# Grand River Clubs



## Elementary School Clubs

Elementary families should watch their weekly update for club information. Elementary clubs will be held on varying Fridays often at 1:00.

## Middle School Clubs

**Middle school has Stay and Play everyday from 2:30 to 3:00** pm and at least one Friday field trip per month.

## Middle School/High School Clubs

Club	Level	When	Sponsor
Cars 'n Coffee	HS	Last Friday of each month at 1:00 pm	Larry Robbins
Fiber Arts	MS/HS	12:30-2:30 rotating on Fridays - please see hall calendar	Ann Peterson
River Watch	MS/HS	12:30-2:30 rotating on Fridays - please see hall calendar	Ann Peterson
Fine Arts	MS/HS	2:00-3:00 on Fridays	Tilisa Clement
Open Rec	MS/HS	2:00-3:00 on Fridays	Paul Stoner, Ken Ahrens, Randi Overturf
Performing Arts	MS/HS	12:30-2:30 on Fridays	Sonja Predovich
Student Council	HS	12:00-1:00 on Fridays	Ken Ahrens
Photography	MS/HS	1:00-2:00 on Fridays	Ken Ahrens
Video Game	MS/HS	1:00-2:00 on Fridays	Paul Stoner
Yearbook	HS	11:00 on Fridays	Randi Overturf
Stay & Play	MS/HS	2:30 Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	Neil Kuiken
Field Trips		See board for details on upcoming field trips!	Staff varies



**1-877-542-7233**

[safe2tellco.org](https://safe2tellco.org)

Anonymously Report Concerns 24/7

