

Newsletter



A Note from the Principal

Fall is officially here, if you can believe that! It has come quickly. It's hard to believe it is also the end of 1st quarter on October 11th. As the temperatures cool and leaves change colors, our students should be well into their coursework. We are here as a resource and support for your student. If they need assistance, please don't hesitate to ask your student's teacher.

A Big Thank You

We know that your student's success is dependent on our partnership with the learning coach and/or the parent(s)/guardian(s). Since 80% of your child's schooling is online and at home, you or the coach (if it is someone besides you) are critical players in your student's education. This means checking progress regularly and being there to assist your student with their work. We appreciate all you do and we couldn't school your child without our collaboration with you.

Vaping

The topic of "vaping" has been controversial. That controversy has increased because of the deaths or illnesses that are being linked to using E-cigarettes, or vapes.

From 2017 to 2018, there was a 78% increase in E-cigarette users among high school students. That means there was an increase from 11.7% to 20.8% of high school students who are E-cigarette users.

Among middle school students, there was a 48% increase between 2017 and 2018. In this case, it was an increase from 3.3% to 4.9% of middle school students who were using vapes.

Vapes get their flavoring from chemicals. These chemicals can be harmful when inhaled and lead to lung disease such as popcorn lung. Many vapes contain nicotine which is addictive. Nicotine exposure in the teen years can disrupt normal brain development. It can have long lasting effects, such as increased impulsivity and mood disorders (FDA). Besides having harmful effects, E-cigarettes come in many shapes and sizes and can be easily

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concealed or carried as they may look like a normal thumb drive or a pen, for instance.

Please talk with your student about the harmful effects of using E-cigarettes. All tobacco products, including E-cigarettes, are not permitted at school.

School Performance Framework

Each year the State of Colorado issues schools a “Performance Framework.” This contains information about how the school fared the prior year on measures such as the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) and SAT. This information, along with other data collected by the school, is used to create the school’s Unified Improvement Plan (UIP).

The UIP is required by State law and it details the school’s plans for improving outcomes for students

You can find more information on the School Performance Framework at <https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/performanceframeworks> . More information about the State’s UIP requirements can be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/uiip> .

Thank you for sharing your student with us.
Warmest Regards,
Steve States, Principal

Attendance

Attendance, online and onsite is critical to your child’s success. Students who attend onsite are more engaged in the life of Grand River Academy. They experience learning onsite that helps them in their online learning. They also are able to socialize with peers and get used to being around other people.

Attendance online means that your student is logging in for at least 25 hours per week for days they aren’t onsite. It’s easy to get behind if your student does not work the 25 hours per week. Once they are behind, catching up is difficult.

Set a schedule with your student so that they can complete their coursework. Make sure they have a space where they will not be disturbed or distracted. Finally, check you students’ progress regularly.

Middle School

Middle School Learning Coaches Corner:

Middle School is the time for Gradual Release of Responsibility (GRR) which means students need to be doing authentic work that shows their true level of ability including keyboarding their

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own written responses in Odysseyware.
Onsite student work should match what we are seeing in Odysseyware.

Middle School Grading:

The end of the quarter is October 14th and middle school students should be between 20 and 25% progress in their classes with grades of 60% or higher. If parents have questions, Please call the middle school team to delve further into the data.

- Neil Kuiken 970-254-6393 ext. 69158, **7th, 8th grade advisor, Social Studies, Electives and Stay and Play**
- Katie Peterson 970-254-6393 ext. 69147, **Math and Science GR 6,7,8**
- Betsy Warner 970-254-6393 ext. 69105, **6th and 8th grade advisor, ELA 6,7,8, testing coordinator**

Middle School Open Study lab for content support in all areas with each content teacher is Mondays from 1:30 to 3 pm.

Middle School October Field Trips

Friday October 11th A step Back in Time Archaeological and Historical field trip to Montrose and Delta 8:45 to 5pm
\$13.00 contact betsy.warner@d51schools.org .



Grand River Academy Field Trip
A Step Back in Time
Friday October 11th 2019

\$13.00 **UTE INDIAN MUSEUM SHAVVANO ROCK ART SITE GUIDED TOUR WITH ARCHAEOLOGIST HISTORIC FORT UNCOMPANGRE IN DELTA**

for all 3 evenings plus the bus ride downpack a sack lunch for a picnic along the way

Please reserve your spot by returning your form with \$13.00 by Friday October 4th
Meet at school 8:15am
return to school at 4pm



Friday October 25th Studt's Farm and Pumpkin Patch 1 to 3pm contact karla.durmas@d51schools.org meet at the farm \$4.00 per student \$5.00 per adult.

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October Calendar

- 11th Last day of the quarter
- 11th Middle School Field Trip to Delta/Montrose
- 14th No School Teacher Workday
- 15th No School Teacher In-service
- 25th Field Trip to Studt's Farm and Pumpkin Patch

Weekly Schedule

K-2nd grades- Tuesday 8:30am-2:30pm

3rd-5th grades- Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm

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

*6th grade- Tuesday 8:30am-2:30pm

*7th grade – Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm

*8th grade- Thursday 8:30am-2:30pm

9th grade- Tuesday 9am-2:30pm

10th grade- Wednesday 9am-2:30pm

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

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

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October Count

On Wednesday, October 2nd, it is IMPORTANT that all of our Grand River students are logged on and working in ALL of their courses/classes if they are not on site.

As you may or may not be aware, the “Count window weeks” will be from September 25th to October 9th. This is when the Colorado Department of Education verifies that all children are enrolled and schooling “full-time.” We will have to submit reports to the state auditors. They will focus first on Wednesday, October 2nd to prove full-time schooling and then widen their scope to include the entire week before and after. They look at time spent schooling, lessons completed, assignments submitted for grading, and tests completed. Kindergarten thru 5th graders should complete everything on their daily plans. 6th - 12th graders should work in every class each day.

Thank you for your assistance in helping to insure that your child is successful in their schooling and for helping us verify full-time student participation, which continues to allow us to be a schooling option for your family!

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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

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1-877-542-7233

safe2tellco.org

Anonymously Report Concerns 24/7

