



Register for
Spring Soccer

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New Year Focus Is Continuing Work of Elevating Quality of Life for All Residents



Hello, Neighbor.

Happy new year! We have been busy preparing for the fiscal year 2021 budget, which begins July 1. We are building a budget that aligns with our strategic priorities: governmental excellence, connected and engaged community, mobility, economic prosperity and affordability, health and environment and safe community. I look forward to proposing the budget to the City Commission in April.

We recently received a favorable audit opinion for fiscal year 2019. We are in a good financial position and we continue to focus on improving our financial management policies and ensuring future budgets are fiscally sustainable.

It's a census year. We are working with residents, other community stakeholders and more than 40 partner organizations on outreach and engagement opportunities to increase participation by historically undercounted residents. Census Day – April 1 – is right around the corner, and you can expect to receive an invitation to fill out the census form starting in mid-March.

The census is important to our community as we work together to achieve a bright and equitable future for all Grand Rapidsians. Census data determines the amount

of federal funding that flows into our community. It also is used to draw legislative districts and helps guide economic development and program planning. For each person counted, we estimate \$18,000 will flow into our community over the next decade for health care, education, nutrition, family assistance, transportation and other vital services.

We are working with partner organizations to open more than 40 assistance centers where residents can get answers to census questions and help with filling out the census form. Most of these centers will open in early March. Look for information about the locations and hours in February.

Census participation by every member of our community is important – and easy. The census asks for information you know offhand, includes fewer than 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Your 10 minutes will help elevate the quality of life for everyone in city. For more information on the census, check out page 3.

The City Commission recently approved a legislative priority agenda. The agenda outlines our legislative priorities and furthers our mission to elevate quality of life through excellent City services. Our top legislative and funding priorities are:

- Prevention of childhood lead poisoning and exposure, including investment and increased funding options for lead paint remediation
- Local options and tools to support increased housing
- River restoration and revitalization project funding
- District court reform and equitable investment in district court services

The agenda provides direction on priorities and principles to be used by City leadership and the City Commission's legislative committee when initiating, evaluating and responding to legislative initiatives that impact our city and our residents. It also calls out our support of statewide initiatives that align with our strategic plan. These include drivers licenses for all, expansion of the Elliot Larson Civil Rights Act, continuation of the Good Jobs for Michigan program and restoration of the state historic preservation tax credit program.

Thank you for your partnership as we continue to make our community a great place for everyone. I am excited about our future.

With great expectations,

Mark Washington, City Manager

2020 Elections: We've Got You Covered

It's a busy year of elections, and your City Clerk wants to make sure you're prepared. Here are important dates and information for each election:

March 10: Presidential primary – You need to select a Democratic or Republican ballot. There's a box on the application to make that choice. This doesn't register you as a member of a party – just indicates your ballot of choice for this election.

August 4: Primary election for federal, state and county races – Democratic and Republican candidates are listed on the ballot. You need to select one or the other – can't cross between parties. Judges and proposals also may be on the ballot.

November 3: Presidential general election – You may vote a straight party or select candidates individually. This ballot includes federal, state, county, judicial and school races as well as proposals.

Absentee voting – All registered voters are eligible

to receive an absentee ballot (AV) without a reason. To receive an AV, simply fill out an application before each election. The application is available at grandrapidsmi.gov/Services/Apply-for-an-Absentee-Ballot or in the second-floor City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave. NW, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Validated parking is available in the Government Center Ramp off Monroe and Ottawa avenues. Or, you can be placed on a permanent AV list to receive an application before each election by signing up at grandrapidsmi.gov/avlist or calling the Clerk's Office at 616.456.3010.

Straight party voting – You can vote the partisan section of the ballot by selecting the party only.

Voter registration – Residents who are 18 or older are automatically registered to vote when they make a transaction with the Secretary of State. You may register to vote by mail up to 15 days before an election and or in person at the City Clerk's Office within 14 days of the election up to Election Day. You need to prove residency



in the City of Grand Rapids.

Check your voter registration status, register to vote, view a sample ballot or find your polling location at michigan.gov/vote.

Don't Forget About These Recycling Changes

Reminder: We no longer can accept shredded paper and plastic grocery bags in our recycling system. That's because the Kent County Recycling & Education Center where we take our recyclables stopped accepting these items January 1.

Please don't put shredded paper and plastic grocery bags in your curbside recycling cart. Clean, dry plastic bags can be recycled at several local grocery

stores. Before shredding paper, consider shredding only the sensitive information – your name, address, account numbers – and recycling the rest of the paper. If you have a compost, you can put your shredded paper there.

For more info, check out the guide below or visit reimaginetrash.org.



RECYCLING GUIDE

Kent County Recycling & Education Center | reimaginetrash.org

PAPER

CLEAN AND EMPTY
Flattened Cardboard
Clean Pizza Boxes (No Food Residue)
Paper Boxes & Containers
Newspapers & Magazines
Junk Mail & Office Paper
NO SHREDDED PAPER



PLASTIC

CLEAN AND EMPTY
Plastic Bottles,
Cups & Containers
(Leave Caps On)
NO PLASTIC BAGS
NO FOAM



GLASS

CLEAN AND EMPTY
Glass Bottles & Jars
NO WINDOWS OR CERAMICS



METAL

CLEAN AND EMPTY
Steel & Aluminum Bottles & Cans,
Aluminum Foil
NO PROPANE TANKS
NO SCRAP METAL



CARTONS

CLEAN AND EMPTY
Milk, Juice, & Soup Cartons
(Leave Caps On)



KEEP OUT OF RECYCLING CONTAINERS



SEPARATE OUT RECYCLING TRASH



Anything stringy, like cords, cables, hoses, clothing



Anything in bags. Leave recyclables loose.



Hazardous materials like batteries, medical waste, or propane tanks

11/20/2019



Your Winter Weather Refresher

We're constantly improving our winter operations. That's so we can deliver the highest level of service to you. Here's a reminder of how we clear snow and ice across the city:

The major high-traffic roads in our city are first-attention streets for snow plowing. We apply salt to all first-attention streets. Examples of first-attention streets include:

- Burton Street
- Division Avenue
- Fulton Street
- Leonard Street
- Monroe Avenue

We monitor weather conditions and clear secondary streets and alleys when there are more than 3 inches of snow. De-icing salt typically is not applied to secondary streets. We may salt these streets if there are hills, severe curves or special circumstances in the city.

Our plow operators use deicing

materials on major streets to minimize snow and ice. Pretreating material may be applied to bridges, hills and curves before a snow event, if needed. We work hard to minimize our salt use. This is part of our commitment to environmental sustainability and being a good steward of funds. Less salt is better for our rivers and streams – there's less runoff. Plus, many of our plow trucks have side wings that plow an additional half lane of snow.

When we do have to use salt, our plow trucks have liquid storage capabilities. This allows for the pre-wetting of salt as plows spread it on street surfaces. Pre-wetting salt reduces the bounce to keep it on the road. It also helps us reduce the amount of salt we use by 30 percent – another money saver. Plus, salt activates faster when treated.

For more information on our winter operations and how you can be prepared, visit grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Programs-and-Initiatives/Winter-Preparedness-Guide.

Need a Passport or Document Notarized?

Your City Clerk's Office offers passport and notary services. If you need to apply for a passport, simply make an appointment calling 616.456.3010. If you need a document notarized, visit the second-floor City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave. NW, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The fee for notarization is \$5 per signature.

No appointment is needed. To learn more about these services and all that the Clerk's Office has to offer, visit grandrapidsmi.gov/clerk.



Find More Information at
REIMAGINETRASH.ORG



**"I count, you count,
we count."**

United States[®]
**Census
2020**

What's the census?

The census is the official count of all people living in the U.S. It's been done once every 10 years since 1790.

Why take the census?

When you participate in the count, you help YOUR community get federal funds for its schools, health care, roads and other vital services.

What does the census ask?

It asks for information you probably know off hand for each person in your household. Things like name, sex, age, birthday, race/ethnicity and each person's relationship to the person filling out the form.

Who gets counted?

Everybody! Children, adults, seniors – everyone counts.

How do I participate?

In March 2020, every household will receive a mailed invitation to fill out the census form online, by phone or by mail. It's a short form that takes about 10 minutes to complete.

Where can I learn more?

Visit BeCountedGR.org

**YOUR 10 MINUTES EQUALS
\$18,000*
FOR YOUR**



ROADS



SCHOOLS



HOSPITALS

*per-person, 10-year total

Language Assistance

- Online form: 12 non-English languages
- Paper form: English and Spanish
- Telecommunications help for the hearing impaired
- Language guides (video and print): 59 non-English languages, also American Sign Language, braille, and large print

Key Dates

- ▶ **MARCH 2020**
Census invitations mailed to households
- ▶ **APRIL – JULY 2020**
Reminder letters/postcards sent if no response received
- ▶ **JULY 2020**
Self-response deadline





Income Tax Office Offers Extended Hours

Need help filing your income tax return? Our Income Tax Office is here to help. The office is open on several Saturdays to help you file your city return.

The office is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the following Saturdays:

- January 25
- February 8
- February 22
- March 7
- March 21
- April 4
- April 18
- April 25

The Income Tax Office is on the third floor of City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave. NW. Validated parking is available in the Government Center Ramp off Monroe and Ottawa avenues. Be sure to bring your photo ID, the first page of your federal return and any W-2s, 1099s or schedules you may have.

Walk-ins are welcome. Or, avoid the lines by making an appointment via email to gr1040tax@grcity.us or by calling 616.456.3415 and selecting option 0. You also can visit the Income Tax Office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The filing deadline for 2019 City of Grand Rapids income tax returns is Thursday, April 30.

Make Your Community Project a Reality Through the Neighborhood Match Fund

If you're planning a project to make your community a better place to live, you may be eligible for funding to make it a reality through our Neighborhood Match Fund (NMF).

Our NMF awards contracts up to \$2,500 through a competitive process to Grand Rapids residents for projects that intentionally advance these objectives:

- Build stronger connections/relationships between neighbors
- Lift up resident leadership in the development and implementation of a project
- Promote social justice and inclusion
- Benefit the public

If you're awarded an NMF contract, you need to spend and match the NMF dollars and complete the NMF-funded portion of the project during the six-month contract period.

Who Can Apply?

- Grand Rapids residents
- Informal resident groups – such as block clubs – in Grand Rapids
- Community-based organizations located in and serving Grand Rapids

NMF-funded projects need to be led by Grand Rapids residents from the community of project impact. NMF contracts are between \$200 and \$2,500. The amount we award depends on the amount requested, project scope, alignment with NMF objectives and NMF balance. Our committee reviews applications twice a year.

You can have only one active NMF contract at a time. All reports and paperwork are due before you can apply for a new NMF contract. Projects ideas are accepted twice per year – in June for projects taking place September 1 through February 28 and in December for projects taking place March 1 through August 31.

Special Summer Funding

Do you have a large summer project taking place in June, July or August? Submit your idea for possible funding up to \$10,000 March 1 through March 31 at grandrapidsmi.gov/nmf. If you applied in December and need additional dollars, you can apply as well.

How the Match Works

If you're awarded an NMF contract, you need to match the amount awarded. That means for every dollar we award, you need to match that amount with any combination of:

- Volunteer labor (valued at \$20/hour)
- In-kind goods and services
- Cash donations

For example, an NMF contract for \$500 can be matched with:

- \$100 worth of volunteer labor
- \$300 of in-kind/donated materials (e.g. food, supplies)
- \$100 cash donation from a local business or a grant

Visit grandrapidsmi.gov/nmf for more details.



Our Autonomous Shuttles Are Now Accessible to More Riders

We introduced autonomous shuttles to you last summer. Since then, we've made a few changes to ensure more people in our community can ride them. The enhancements are:

- A wheelchair-accessible shuttle is available on demand
- Vehicle attendants announce stops along the route when requested – super helpful for individuals who have visual or hearing impairments
- Riders who are at least 12 can hop on an autonomous shuttle without a parent or guardian, giving our younger residents and visitors another convenient way to get around downtown

Four electric shuttles at a time travel along the DASH West route downtown, which includes popular destinations such as 20 Monroe Live, David D. Hunting YMCA, Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids Public Museum and Van Andel Arena, among others.

The shuttles are free to ride. They're self-driving, but they always have an attendant when they're on our streets.



There's room for five riders on each one.

To catch a shuttle, simply go to a DASH West stop – one will be there within 20 minutes. The wheelchair-accessible shuttle can be accessed at any stop by calling 855.351.4544. All shuttles run 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday

through Friday.

More info, including stop locations, is at grandrapidsmi.gov/Residents/Parking-and-Mobility/DASH-the-Downtown-Area-Shuttle. Don't forget to share your ride on social media using #AVGR.

Everything You Need to Know About the Sixth Annual Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit

Make plans now to join your neighbors at the 2020 Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit on Saturday, March 7. The Summit takes place 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Grand Valley State University's Pew Campus downtown. This year's theme – Growing in Community & Justice – reflects the power of reclaiming, sharing and connecting our personal and community stories on environmental issues and their impact. Registration opens in late January at grandrapidsmi.gov/summit.

The Neighborhood Summit is an annual one-day experience for Grand Rapids residents, business owners and other community stakeholders to learn with and from one another about strategies, resources and opportunities to strengthen neighborhoods and advance equity.

The event includes:

- Breakfast
- Community resource tables
- Welcome presentation
- Opening remarks by Mayor Rosalynn Bliss
- Keynote address
- A variety of workshops
- Lunch and interactive activities
- Closing ceremony

The closing session includes resident leadership recognition and a drawing for prizes donated by local Grand Rapids businesses and organizations. Attendees may enter the drawing by visiting community resource tables and having their Summit Passport stamped.

“We showcase local businesses at Summit to encourage attendees to shop local and explore and visit neighborhoods,” said Stacy Stout, assistant to the city manager. “To continue this tradition, we are asking for Grand Rapids businesses and organizations to create and donate gift baskets for the prize drawing.”

Interested businesses and organizations are asked to email summit@grcity.us to make pickup or drop-off arrangements.

A teen workshop track – a new feature at the Neighborhood Summit – will be led by youth leaders in the community with a focus on advocacy, anti-bullying and other topics centered on this year's theme. This workshop track is intended for teens ages 13 to 19. It was designed to empower and equip our community's youth through various processes of engagement with ways to elevate their voices and be the change they desire locally and beyond.

The Kids Summit – onsite childcare for Grand Rapids residents attending the Neighborhood Summit – returns this year. The Kids Summit reduces barriers to attendance and provides children ages 0 to 12 with intentional leadership and learning opportunities throughout the day. You can sign up your children when you register for the Summit. Limited space available. Follow Summit on Facebook @GRNeighborhoodSummit for the most up-to-date information.

“This year's Summit has something for the entire family to enjoy,” Stout said. “We hope to equip you with the tools and materials you need to enrich your quality of life.”



GRAND RAPIDS
NEIGHBORHOOD
SUMMIT

We Want to Do Business with You! Here's How to Register Your Business with Us

We're always interested in doing business with new companies for a wide variety of goods and services such as consultation/facilitation, catering, graphic design, equipment, supplies and more. The best way to position your company for spending success is to make sure it's registered in our purchasing system.

It usually takes 5 to 10 minutes to register. It's important to ensure your vendor profile thoroughly represents your company's certifications/status such as Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Women Business Enterprise (WBE), Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB), etc. Also, if you are a certified Micro Local Business Enterprise (MLBE), please be sure to check that box as well.

For information on how to become a certified MBE, WBE, VOSB or MLBE, visit:

- MBE – nmsdc.org
- WBE – wbenc.org
- VOSB – nvbdc.org

- City of Grand Rapids MLBE – grandrapidsmi.gov/government/departments/diversity-inclusion

Here are the steps to register your company as a vendor/supplier:

1. Call our Purchasing Department at 616.456.3172 to get the commodity code(s) for your profile. This ensures you are sent an email for future opportunities.
2. Visit grandrapidsmi.gov
3. Search "Register as a Vendor/Supplier"
4. Review the steps on the Register as a Vendor/Supplier webpage
5. Click "Register Online" to begin registration

If you have any questions or need assistance completing your vendor registration, please contact Alex Droese at 616.456.3984 or adroese@grcity.us.

If you have questions about MBE, WBE, VOSB and/or MLBE opportunities, contact Alvin Hills IV at



616.456-3449 or ahills@grcity.us.

Once you're registered, it's always a good idea to contact Alvin to discuss potential business opportunities with the City.

Update on Small Cell Wireless Facilities in Grand Rapids

Telecom companies continue to build out fiber optic infrastructure to small cell wireless facilities in our community. These facilities are used to meet the growing demand of wireless devices connecting to mobile networks, including 5G.

Last March, the State of Michigan enacted Public Act 365 to regulate small cell wireless facilities deployment. We received several inquiries from our residents and

other community stakeholders related to this, including when, where and how we would comply. We also received and answered questions about radio frequency related to public safety.

To verify safety compliance with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) guidelines for the public, we hired an independent third-party engineering company to perform radio frequency testing at each

small cell wireless facilities location. Results showed all of the tested sites were significantly below the FCC guidelines – below 6 percent of the permissible radio frequency levels for public safety.

All the information, including a map of the small cell wireless facilities locations in the city and testing results, is available at grandrapidsmi.gov/smallcell. Questions? Call our 311 Customer Service at 616.456.3000.

Attention, Homeowners: Do You Receive the Principal Residence Exemption?

The Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) is a property tax exemption administered by our City Assessor's Office. It's an exemption from the local school operating millage and sometimes is referred to as the "homestead exemption."

As an example, if your home has a taxable value of \$50,000, a 100 percent PRE exemption can result in a savings of up to \$900 per year.

If you own and occupy your home as your primary residence, you're eligible to claim the PRE. You can claim only one principal residence exemption in Michigan and can't claim a similar exemption in another state at the same time. The exemption isn't automatic and the property owner needs to file a claim for this exemption.

The PRE exemption is valid until you:

- Move out of your home

- Rent out your home
- Sell your home
- No longer occupy your home as a principal residence

The PRE form is available at michigan.gov/documents/2368f_2605_7.pdf. It needs to be filed on or before June 1 of the year you want the exemption to be applied. Print and file the original completed form with the Assessor's Office by mail or drop it off in person to: City of Grand Rapids Assessor's Office, 300 Monroe Ave. NW, Third Floor, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

What Does PRE Status Mean?

When we say status, we're talking about the percentage of your PRE. This can be between 0 and 100 percent. That's because you can live in a multi-family home or rent rooms in your home.

For example, if you own a duplex and live in one side of it, you can have 50 percent PRE. If you have 100 percent PRE, you won't pay any of the 18 mills of school operating tax.

How to Check Your PRE Status:

- Your most recent summer or winter tax bill
- The most recent notice of assessment mailed to you in January every year
- Look it up at bsaonline.com/?uid=115
- Call us at 616.456.3000 and we can tell you

If you find out you have 0 percent PRE but live in the home you own, you may file a PRE affidavit.

Questions? Call us at 616.456.3000 or visit michigan.gov/taxes/0,4676,7-238-43535_43539-468609--,00.html.



General Information

- Ages 18 & up (all fitness levels welcome) for adult fitness
- Classes begin the week of March 23 and run for 10 weeks
- We suggest bringing a Yoga mat and water bottle to each class
- Cancelled classes will be announced on the recreation update line at 616.456.3699 or on Facebook
- You are encouraged to consult with a physician prior to beginning an exercise program

Three ways to register

ONLINE
grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation

BY PHONE
616.456.3696, option #1

IN PERSON
201 Market Ave SW

Two ways to save

- 1) Multiple classes equal a reduced rate!
- 2) Early bird registration Jan 27 - Feb 27

Register between Jan 27 - Feb 27

| | Resident | Nonresident |
|--------------------|----------|-------------|
| 1 class per week | \$59 | \$69 |
| 2 classes per week | \$89 | \$99 |
| 3 classes per week | \$119 | \$129 |

Register on Feb 28, 2020 or after

| | Resident | Nonresident |
|--------------------|----------|-------------|
| 1 class per week | \$69 | \$79 |
| 2 classes per week | \$109 | \$119 |
| 3 classes per week | \$149 | \$159 |

Looking for flexibility?

Adult Fitness Punchcards

Purchase a punchcard and attend any of the classes listed with the symbol. You may also use a punch to bring along a family member or friend to try a class, as long as you are present. Cards cannot be transferred and all attendees must sign a waiver before participating.

| | Resident | Nonresident |
|------------|----------|-------------|
| 5 punches | \$42 | \$52 |
| 10 punches | \$72 | \$82 |
| 20 punches | \$102 | \$112 |
| 30 punches | \$132 | \$142 |

1 punch = 1 class

DANCE

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF MARCH 23

| CLASS | DAY(S) | TIME(S) | LOCATION(S) | INSTRUCTOR |
|---|-------------------|--|---|--|
| BALLROOM DANCING A beginner class targeted toward couples wanting to learn ballroom dancing. You will learn the Salsa, Waltz, Foxtrot, East Coast Swing, Cha Cha, Rumba and Tango. | MON | 7:30 - 8:25 PM | P&R FITNESS STUDIO | BYRON D. |
| BALLROOM DANCING: THE NEXT STEPS A follow-up to Ballroom Dancing. Continue practicing basic dances and learn new moves to add flair and style to your dance floor fun. | FRI | 4:30 - 5:25 PM | P&R FITNESS STUDIO | JULIE G. |
| GROOVE Sweat away stress and dance some joy into your heart while following simple steps and easy toning moves. Groove is perfect for anyone who wants to add some fun into their current workout routine. If you like to move to a variety of great music, this class is for you! | MON SAT WED | 6:30 - 7:25 PM 10:00 - 10:55 AM 5:30 - 6:25 PM | CA FROST ELEMENTARY P&R FITNESS STUDIO P&R FITNESS STUDIO | TERRI S. ANNA W. TERRI S. |
| GENTLE GROOVE If you like moving your body to a variety of music without complicated steps, this is the class for you. Boost your happiness level and gain confidence in your body and balance, while increasing your heart rate. Perfect for the 50+ crowd or those who prefer to move slower. | WED | 9:45 - 10:40 AM | P&R FITNESS STUDIO | TERRI S. |
| ZUMBA A fusion of Latin and International music. This class combines high-energy and motivating music with unique moves and combinations. | MON THU SAT | 5:30 - 6:25 PM 6:30 - 7:25 PM 9:00 - 9:55 AM | GARFIELD PARK GYM P&R FITNESS STUDIO GARFIELD PARK GYM | AMY K. & BRI C. AMY K. & BRI C. VALERIE J. |

CYCLING

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF MARCH 23






| CLASS | DAY(S) | TIME(S) | LOCATION(S) | INSTRUCTOR |
|---|-------------------|--|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| CYCLE & STRENGTH A combination of high-intensity cycling intervals followed by strength exercises that target the arms, abs and lower back. | MON | 6:30 - 7:25 PM | P&R CYCLING STUDIO | JULIE S. |
| CYCLING Reach your fitness goals while building leg and core strength! Powerful music and pace-setting instruction helps you climb steep hills, move across flat road, and master intense intervals. | MON THU SAT | 5:45 - 6:30 PM 6:00 - 6:45 PM 8:00 - 8:45 AM | P&R CYCLING STUDIO | CAROL S. JULIE S. CAROL S. |
| CYCLING 101 This is a low intensity class perfect for those new to indoor cycling! We will be on the bike for 10 minutes at a time. When off the bike (about 3 minutes) we will focus on upper body strength and balance. | WED | 5:30 - 6:15 PM | P&R CYCLING STUDIO | JOAN O. |



CARDIO & STRENGTH

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF MARCH 23

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr 

| CLASS | DAY(S) | TIME(S) | LOCATION(S) | INSTRUCTOR |
|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------|-------------|
| BOOTCAMP  <p>Get ready to push yourself harder than you would on your own. With a mix of strength and cardio, this class is developed to help you improve your body composition, strength and endurance. Each week's workout will vary, challenging your body in different ways.</p> | MON | 5:30 - 6:25 PM | P&R FITNESS STUDIO | JULIE S. |
| CARDIO & CORE  <p>This class combines a variety of strength and aerobic conditioning exercises followed by Pilates-based core work and stretching. Using a variety of equipment and unique training circuits, participants will work all major muscle groups and stay inspired and energized.</p> | WED | 5:30 - 6:25 PM | GARFIELD PARK GYM | ZIYAH D. |
| CORE CAMP  <p>Weight training meets cardio blast intervals to keep your muscles and heart pumping! This class is as fun as it is effective, set to today's hottest music.</p> | TUE | 5:30 - 6:25 PM | P&R FITNESS STUDIO | KRISTIN P. |
| KICKBOXING  <p>Mix up your routine with balance, coordination, and strength-building moves. Strengthen your legs, upper body, abs, and burn calories.</p> | MON | 6:30 - 7:25 PM | P&R FITNESS STUDIO | SHANNON H. |
| PILATES  <p>Tone muscles, improve posture, and learn flexibility and balance. Focus on moving as one unit with control and grace. Improve circulation, endurance, and reduce stress.</p> | MON | 5:30 - 6:25 PM | MLK PARK LODGE | ZIYAH D. |
| POUND®  <p>Using Ripstix®, lightly weighted drumsticks engineered specifically for exercising, POUND® transforms drumming into an incredibly effective way of working out. Instead of listening to music, you become the music in this exhilarating full-body workout that combines cardio, conditioning, and strength training with yoga and pilates-inspired movements. Designed for all fitness levels, POUND® provides the perfect atmosphere for letting loose, getting energized, toning up and rockin' out! The workout is easily modifiable and the alternative vibe and welcoming philosophy appeals to men and women of all ages and abilities. POUND® approved sticks required for everyone. Punchcard holders must have their own Ripstix®. Ripstix® available at registration for \$20.</p> | THU | 5:30 - 6:15 PM | P&R FITNESS STUDIO | KRISTIN P. |
| STRONG30  <p>STRONG30 packs a total body workout into 30 minutes. It combines HIIT (high intensity interval training), body weight exercises, and cardio moves. In every class, the music and moves sync together in a way to help push you past your limits and reach your fitness goals.</p> | SAT | 8:15 - 8:45 AM | P&R FITNESS STUDIO | AMY K. |
| STRONG BY ZUMBA  <p>A non-dance based workout combining high intensity interval training (HIIT), body-weight exercises, and cardio moves. In every class, music and moves sync in a way that push you past your limits and reach your fitness goals.</p> | WED | 6:30 - 7:25 PM | P&R FITNESS STUDIO | AMY K. |
| WATER AEROBICS  <p>Build core strength, conditioning, endurance, and all-over toning. Class features deep and shallow water exercises. A great low/non-impact workout. Float belts are available.</p> | TUE WED THU SAT | 6:30 - 7:25 PM 6:30 - 7:25 PM 6:30 - 7:25 PM 9:00 - 9:55 AM | CITY HIGH POOL | KATHLEEN H. |

YOGA

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF MARCH 23

| CLASS | DAY(S) | TIME(S) | LOCATION(S) | INSTRUCTOR |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| BASIC YOGA  Discover your inner yogi in a class that builds strength and body awareness. Begin with gentle stretching and move to flowing through and holding poses. Class will come to a restful end. | MON MON TUE WED WED THU SAT | 5:30 - 6:25 PM 6:30 - 7:25 PM 6:00 - 6:55 PM 12:15 - 1:00 PM 6:00 - 6:55 PM 4:30 - 5:25 PM 9:00 - 9:55 AM | CA FROST ELEMENTARY GARFIELD PARK GYM N PARK PRESBYTERIAN P&R FITNESS STUDIO PALMER ELEMENTARY P&R FITNESS STUDIO P&R FITNESS STUDIO | TERRI S. AMY K. KATHY W. KAYE E. KATHY W. MARLA F. SARA R. |
| GENTLE YOGA  A balanced practice that will center you, leaving your body feeling open and relaxed. Basic poses and a slower flow unlock body tension, strengthen your core and help you tune into personal peace. | TUE THU | 9:00 - 9:55 AM 9:00 - 9:55 AM | P&R FITNESS STUDIO P&R FITNESS STUDIO | TERRI S. TERRI S. |
| RESTORATIVE YOGA  Achieve deep relaxation with breath work, props, and holding simple poses. The slower pace helps you disconnect from your busy life and tune into you, creating mind and body awareness. | SUN | 7:00 - 7:55 PM | P&R FITNESS STUDIO | KAYE E. |
| NEW! YOGA "FORE" GOLFERS Improve your golf game with yoga! This basic yoga class will focus on poses to increase flexibility, core stability, and posture for your golf swing while also practicing mindfulness and breathing techniques to assist with your mental game. All levels of yoga and golf welcome! | TUESDAYS APR 14, 21, 28 & MAY 5 | 5:30 - 6:30 PM | GARFIELD PARK GYM | SARA R. |

\$40 for residents, \$50 for nonresidents



5K TRAINING PROGRAM

2 RUNS A WEEK FOR 6 WEEKS, 10 FITNESS CLASSES, AND 1 RACE DAY

| | Resident | Non |
|------------------|----------|------|
| Registration Fee | \$60 | \$70 |

| CLASS | DAY(S) | TIME(S) | LOCATION(S) |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| ACHIEVE YOUR 2020 FITNESS GOALS! (AGES 18+) The 5K training program is designed for first-time runners, casual runners or those getting back into running after time off. The program meets twice a week (Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings) starting March 17 and ending May 2 . In addition, our running expert will hold "chalk talks" before Saturday runs to provide vital information on running topics (shoes, stretching, nutrition, clothing, hydration). Each participant receives a punch card to attend 10 fitness classes throughout the time period to incorporate cross training in your program. Race fee included - race day is May 2. | TUESDAYS, MAR 17 - APR 28 SATURDAYS, MAR 21 - MAY 2 RACE DAY - MAY 2 | 6:00 PM START 8:30 AM START TBD | 201 MARKET AVE SW 201 MARKET AVE SW TBD |

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr

YOUTH - SWIM LESSONS

CLASSES RUN FOR 8 WEEKS, MARCH 28 - MAY 30

| | | |
|------------------|----------|------|
| | Resident | Non |
| Registration Fee | \$48 | \$58 |

| CLASS | DAY(S) | TIME(S) | LOCATION(S) |
|---|-----------|------------------|----------------|
| PRESCHOOL LEVEL I (AGES 3-5) Level 1 helps children become more familiar with the water and helps them learn basic skills. Participants begin to develop positive attitudes and safe practices in and around the water. Participants should be comfortable in the water without a parent. | SATURDAYS | 11:30 AM - NOON | CITY HIGH POOL |
| PRESCHOOL LEVEL II (AGES 3-5) Participants work on skills such as floating, breath control, arm and leg actions on their front and back. They will be working towards performing these skills independently with the supervision of a swim instructor. Participants must be comfortable in the water without a parent, understand floating and be comfortable putting their whole face in the water. | SATURDAYS | 11:30 AM - NOON | CITY HIGH POOL |
| LEVEL I (AGES 6+) This is an introductory class that helps participants become more comfortable in the water. Participants learn basic swimming and water safety skills throughout the class. Participants should learn how to enter and exit the water without assistance, breath control, floating with assistance, arm and leg actions for front and back crawl, and how to stay safe near water.. | SATURDAYS | 10:30 - 11:15 AM | CITY HIGH POOL |
| LEVEL II (AGES 6+) Participants build on foundation skills such as simultaneous and alternating arm and leg actions on front and back, floating and gliding so they can be performed without support, increasing distance, and greater endurance. Participants must be able to swim two body lengths with support. | SATURDAYS | 10:30 - 11:15 AM | CITY HIGH POOL |
| LEVEL III (AGES 6+) Participants start learning new strokes: elementary backstroke, breaststroke kick, dolphin kick, scissors kick, rotary breathing, and survival floating are taught at this level. Participants must be able to swim at least five body lengths (15 feet) on front and back without support or assistance. | SATURDAYS | 9:30 - 10:15 AM | CITY HIGH POOL |
| LEVEL IV (AGES 6+) Participants work toward increasing distance and stamina for swimming and treading water. Participants work on new strokes and refining previously learned swimming skills. This class works on breaststroke, butterfly, sidestroke, basic diving and open turns. Participants must have an understanding of elementary backstroke, breaststroke kick, rotary breathing, dolphin kick and scissor kicks. Participants need to be able to swim 15 yards front crawl, back crawl and elementary backstroke before entering this class. | SATURDAYS | 9:30 - 10:15 AM | CITY HIGH POOL |



YOUTH - SPRING SOCCER

QUICK INFO

- Practices begin March 24 or 26
- Games begin April 18
- Season ends May 30
- Each team practices for one hour per week
- Each team plays one game per week on Saturdays
- Children of all abilities are welcome to play

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 27

(RESIDENTS: \$45, NONRESIDENTS: \$55)

ONLINE

grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr
 Search "soccer"

BY PHONE

616.456.3696
Option #1

IN PERSON

201 Market Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

YOUTH - GYMNASTICS

CLASSES OCCUR SATURDAYS, APR 18, 25 & MAY 2, 9, 16, 30

Register between Jan 28 - Feb 28
 Resident \$42 Non \$52

| CLASS | DAY(S) | TIME(S) | LOCATION(S) |
|--|---|----------------|--------------------|
| GYMNASTICS I (AGES 4-6) For the younger gymnast to encourage success and fun in the gym. Kids learn tumbling and balancing basics with emphasis on strength and flexibility. | SATURDAYS APR 18, 25 & MAY 2, 9, 16, 30 | 1:30 - 2:15 PM | P&R FITNESS STUDIO |
| GYMNASTICS II (AGES 5-9) A follow-up to Gymnastics I. Activities increase strength, movement, coordination, agility and flexibility. Kids must be able to complete cartwheel and back bridge to sign up. | SATURDAYS APR 18, 25 & MAY 2, 9, 16, 30 | 2:30 - 3:15 PM | P&R FITNESS STUDIO |

YOUTH - DANCE

CLASSES RUN FOR 6 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF APRIL 13

Register between Jan 28 - Feb 28
 Resident \$42 Non \$52

| CLASS | DAY(S) | TIME(S) | LOCATION(S) |
|--|--|--|--------------------|
| BALLET/TAP COMBO (AGES 3-5) This class will develop coordination, balance and rhythm through basic ballet/tap moves and creative movement. Participants should wear ballet shoes. The end of the session recital will be a tap dance performance. | SATURDAYS APR 18 - MAY 30 | 12:15 PM - 1:00 PM | P&R FITNESS STUDIO |
| BALLET/TAP COMBO (AGES 6-8) | MONDAYS APR 13 - MAY 18 | 4:30 - 5:15 PM | P&R FITNESS STUDIO |
| PRINCESS BALLET (AGES 3-5) Stretch your imagination and your toes in the storybook dance class based on dances from your favorite fairy tales and ballet stories. Your child will explore elements of creative movement, ballet and jazz in this delightful trip to an enchanted kingdom. Ends with recital. | FRIDAYS APR 17 - MAY 22 SATURDAYS APR 18 - MAY 30 | 9:30 - 10:15 AM 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM | P&R FITNESS STUDIO |

YOUTH - FENCING

Registration Fee
 Resident \$85 Non \$95

| CLASS | DAY(S) | TIME(S) | LOCATION(S) |
|---|--|----------------|-------------------------------|
| YOUNG SQUIRES (AGES 5-7) This class is designed for kids with little or no fencing experience. Build confidence, focus, self-esteem and have fun! All equipment is provided. Plastic weapons will be used. | WEDNESDAYS, MAR 4 - APR 15 WEDNESDAYS, APR 29 - JUN 3 | 4:30 - 5:15 PM | WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY |
| SESSION I (AGES 7-13) No prior experience required. No additional equipment required. | MONDAYS, MAR 2 - APR 13 THURSDAYS, APR 23 - MAY 28 | 5:30 - 6:30 PM | WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY |
| CONTINUING YOUTH (AGES 7-13) No additional equipment required. Must already have completed at least one 6 week class or camp. | THURSDAYS, MAR 5 - APR 16 MONDAYS, APR 20 - JUN 1 | 5:30 - 6:30 PM | WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY |
| THE SPORT OF KINGS AND QUEENS (AGES 14+) If learning to fence is on your bucket list, come on in and try it. Beginning Teen and Adult Classes for ages 14 and over. No prior experience required. No additional equipment required. | THURSDAYS, MAR 5 - APR 16 THURSDAYS, APR 23 - MAY 28 | 6:30 - 7:30 PM | WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY |



PROGRAMS FOR AGES 50+ AT GARFIELD PARK COMMUNITY GYM

These programs are designed for ages 50+, however, everyone is welcome to participate. In addition to these classes, we share community information and offer Cribbage Game Days, Book Club, Knitting Thursdays, and Explore the Neighborhood for everyone to participate in. Stop in to pick up a monthly calendar of activities or to check out any of our classes. Find more information at grandrapidsmi.gov, keyword "50+", by calling 616-456-3696, option 1, or visiting our Facebook page at facebook.com/GarfieldParkGym. **All classes are held at 2111 Madison Ave SE.**

| PROGRAM | DAY(S) | TIME(S) | PRICE |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| STRETCH AND FLEX Stretch and flex is focused on increasing strength, balance and flexibility. The class begins with chair exercises and light hand weights. A great class for men and women! Classes are drop-in and ongoing. Hand weights are provided. | MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS | 10:00 - 10:55 AM | \$3/CLASS |
| ACTIVE ADULTS FITNESS Class includes a warm-up, standing cardio and strength training. Classes are drop-in and ongoing. Try your first class free! | TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 11:05 - 12:00 PM | \$3/CLASS |
| WALKING CLUB Come walk your way to better health while meeting new friends and neighbors. Walking club is free and ongoing. | MON - THU | 10:00 AM - NOON | FREE |
| PICKLEBALL Get together to play this great court game! Never played? We'll teach you! We have equipment for new players to use. Come see what Pickleball is all about. We have two indoor courts available. | TUE, WED & THU FRIDAYS | NOON - 2:30 PM 9:30 - 11:30 AM | FREE |

RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT FEES:

You are a resident if you reside within the City of Grand Rapids' boundaries. Nonresidents are welcome to participate but are charged a slightly higher fee.

REFUND POLICY:

A full refund is granted until the Early Bird Registration Deadline listed on page 6. A \$5 cancellation fee will be charged if the refund is requested after the early bird registration deadline but prior to the first class of a session.

A pro-rated refund will be granted when a program participant is unable to complete a program due to illness, injury or relocation.

A full refund is granted when Parks and Recreation cancels a class due to low enrollment.

CANCELLATIONS:

If a class or program is cancelled due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances, an announcement will be made on the recreation program update/cancellation line at 616-456-3699. Please call this number if you have any question as to whether classes will be held. This line is updated on a regular basis so call before you head out to any class or program.

FEE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE:

Reduced fees are available for Grand Rapids residents who qualify. Applications may be obtained by visiting www.grandrapidsmi.gov or by calling 616.456.3696. Applications must be submitted prior to registering for a class/program.

CLASS LOCATIONS:

CA Frost Elementary - 1460 Laughlin Dr NW
 City High Pool - 1720 Plainfield Ave NE
 Garfield Park Gym - 2111 Madison Ave SE
 MLK Park Lodge - 900 Fuller Ave SE
 N. Park Presbyterian - 500 N. Park St NE
 Palmer Elementary - 309 Palmer St NE
 P&R Cycling Studio - 201 Market Ave SW
 P&R Fitness Studio - 201 Market Ave SW
 West MI Fencing Academy - 1111 Godfrey Ave SW



Address:

201 Market Ave. SW Grand Rapids, MI 49503

E-mail:

parksandrec@city.us

Website:

grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr

RESERVE A PARK FACILITY

PERFECT FOR GRADUATION PARTIES

SEAT UP TO 160

- PICNIC SHELTERS
- PAVILIONS
- GYMNASIUMS
- COMMUNITY ROOMS

RESERVE ONLINE!
 VISIT GRANDRAPIDSMI.GOV AND
 SEARCH "RESERVE A PARK"



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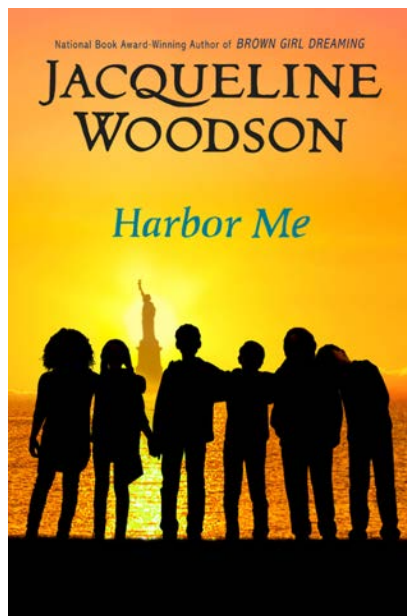
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LIBRARY LEADERS

John J. McNaughton
DirectorMarla J. Ehlers
Assistant Director

616.988.5400 • WWW.GRPL.ORG

The One Book, One City for Kids 2020 Selection



About the program

One Book, One City for Kids is an annual reading program that encourages upper elementary students to read and discuss the same book. The program also helps to develop a lifelong love of reading among school-age readers, to inspire readers to bring story ideas and themes to life through discussion and creative reactions, and to build collaborative ties between public libraries, school libraries and area schools.

About the book *Harbor Me*

Six kids. One school year. A room to talk. It all starts when six kids are sent to a room for a weekly chat—by themselves, with no adults to listen in. At first they fear this new, unfamiliar situation and wonder what on earth they'll even talk about. But in the place they dub the ARTT room ("A Room To Talk"), they discover it's safe to discuss topics they usually keep private.

A father has recently gone missing, and that starts a conversation about the things causing angst in their lives, from racial profiling and fears of deportation to a deep yearning for family history and a sense of belonging. When the six of them are together, they find they can express the feelings and fears they usually hide from the world. And together, they grow braver and more prepared for the rest of their lives.

With her always honest, lyrical writing, acclaimed author Jacqueline Woodson celebrates the power of friendship, open-minded dialogue, and empathy. *Harbor Me* digs in deep to show how so many of America's social issues affect today's kids—and how they creatively learn to forge their way in spite of them.

Meet the Author
Jacqueline Woodson

Jacqueline Woodson is the author of more than two dozen award-winning books for young adults, middle graders, and children. Among

her many accolades, she is a four-time Newbery Honor winner, a three-time National Book Award finalist, and a two-time Coretta Scott King Award winner. Most recently, she was named the 2018 Ambassador for Young People's Literature by the Library of Congress.

All of the 5th graders in Grand Rapids Public Schools will meet Ms. Woodson in March when she visits Grand Rapids to speak about her books.

Copies of the book are available to check out at all GRPL locations. To learn more, visit www.grpl.org/onebookforkids.

Funded by:

FRIENDS OF
THE LIBRARY

Community Partner:



Apply to Become the Next Poet Laureate of Grand Rapids

The Grand Rapids Public Library is accepting applications from emerging and established poets to become the seventh Poet Laureate of Grand Rapids. This prestigious three year term begins April 2020. The Poet Laureate is selected by a search committee featuring GRPL staff, local poets, and writers. The deadline to submit is January 31, 2020.

The Grand Rapids Poet Laureate is an ambassador for poetry, creating programs and projects to foster the writing and reading of poetry by the public. The program began in 2003 with the appointment of Linda Nemece Foster. Past Poet Laureates include Patricia Clark, Rodney Torreson, David Cope, LS Klatt, and Marcel Price (Fable the Poet), who

currently holds the position. The Poet Laureate receives a stipend of \$2,000 per year.

Applicants must demonstrate a love of and commitment to poetry. The ideal candidate is passionate about acting as an ambassador of poetry and has a strong desire to engage Grand Rapidsians of all ages and from all walks of life in projects and programs. Applicants must be residents of Kent County. The Poet Laureate selection committee will review all applicants and select a candidate in February 2020, with the term beginning in April 2020.

A complete nomination should include:

- Cover letter with contact information, including email and phone.
- Resume or CV that includes publication and/or performance credits.
- Written statement (of no more than 500 words) detailing the types of projects you would like to accomplish, and how.
- Ten pages of original poetry (published or unpublished) as a sample of work.
- Names and contact information of two or three individuals who can speak to how you would be successful in the role of Poet Laureate.
- Applicants may submit links to online readings of their poetry (no more than ten minutes in total).
- Poets seeking to fill this position must submit materials in PDF format only to poetlaureate@grpl.org. For more information, visit www.grpl.org/poetlaureate.

Funded by:



Dyer-Ives Foundation Poetry Fund

Smart Kids Start Here!

Storytimes

Reading to your child from birth not only helps your child's brain grow, it also creates a wonderful bond between the two of you.

Baby & Me 0 – 18 months

Bring your babies and bounce along to fun stories, songs, and rhymes! Baby & Me is a 15-minute long storytime, followed by a relaxed playtime where baby and you will meet new friends.

Tuesdays, January 14 – April 28
11:00 am | West Side Branch

Wednesdays, January 15 – April 29
11:00 am | Yankee Clipper Branch
11:00 am | West Leonard Branch

Thursdays, January 16 – April 30
10:30 am | Seymour Branch
11:00 am | Main Library



Toddler Time 18 months – 3 years

Bring your toddlers to share fun stories, songs, rhymes, and learn together! Toddler Time is a 25-minute long storytime, followed by a hands-on activity and playtime designed to help your child's brain grow.

Mondays, January 13 – April 27
6:30 pm | Main Library

Tuesdays, January 14 – April 28
11:00 am | Main Library

Wednesdays, January 15 – April 29
10:30 am | Seymour Branch

Thursdays, January 16 – April 30
11:00 am | Yankee Clipper Branch

Fridays, January 17 – May 1
11:00 am | West Side Branch

Family Time Families with children 18 months – 5 years

Parents and caregivers are invited to bring their children to this 45-minute class featuring hands-on, literacy-rich activities such as stories, songs, fingerplays, and fun. Classes end with a creative art activity.

Fridays, January 17 – May 1
10:30 am | Ottawa Hills Branch



Bilingual Pajama Time Families with children 5 years and under

Join us for a bilingual storytime and share stories, rhymes, music, and movement with the whole family in the evening! Pajama Time in Spanish is a 30-minute long storytime followed by a hands-on activity and playtime. Wear your pajamas and get those wiggles out before bed!

Mondays, January 13 – April 27
6:30 pm | West Leonard Branch

Tiempo de Pijamas Bilingüe Familias con niños menores de 5 años

¡Ven a la biblioteca para disfrutar una hora de cuentos bilingüe para toda la familia! Compartiremos cuentos, rimas, música, y movimiento. Tiempo de Pijamas Bilingüe incluye 30 minutos de lectura y movimiento seguido por una actividad para los niños y tiempo para jugar juntos. ¡Ven a la biblioteca vestido en tus pijamas para un evento especial antes de dormir!

Cada lunes del 13 de enero al 27 de abril
6:30 pm | Sucursal West Leonard

Let's Play

Children 5 and under are invited to a playdate at the library! Let's Play focuses on child-driven play using STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) toys to ignite the imagination. Caretakers are invited to enjoy a hot beverage while meeting new people and learning helpful literacy tips. Drop in for an hour of friends and fun.

Thursdays, January 16 – April 30
11:00 am | West Leonard Branch

Saturdays, January 18 – May 2
11:00 am | Yankee Clipper Branch
12:30 pm | Seymour Branch

Ready, Set, Play!

Free play helps build social skills, communication, creativity, and most importantly, confidence. If you have an elementary school student who wants to de-stress and have fun after school, this is the program for them!

Thursdays, January 16 – April 30
6:30 pm | Madison Square Branch



Calling all Poets! Enter the Annual Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition

The Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition is open to poets ages 5 through adult who live in Kent County. Submissions are accepted every February and winners are notified in the spring. Winners have their poems published in *Voices*, receive a cash award, and take part in a reading in June.

About the Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition

- FREE to enter
- CASH prizes
- PUBLICATION in the annual literary journal, *Voices*
- WINNERS read poems at the Awards Reading held during Grand Rapids' Festival of the Arts in June

- OPEN to Kent County, Michigan residents of all ages and students attending classes within Kent County including GVSU
- NATIONAL JUDGE
Keith S. Wilson

Divisions and Awards

Elementary School

- 1st & 2nd Grade
- 1st Place: \$25 & Publication
 - 2nd Place: Publication
- 3rd & 4th Grade
- 1st Place: \$25 & Publication
 - 2nd Place: Publication

Middle School

- 5th & 6th Grade
- 1st Place: \$50 & Publication
 - 2nd Place: Publication
- 7th & 8th Grade
- 1st Place: \$75 & Publication
 - 2nd Place: Publication

High School

- 9th & 10th Grade
- 1st Place: \$75 & Publication
 - 2nd Place: Publication
- 11th & 12th Grade
- 1st Place: \$75 & Publication
 - 2nd Place: Publication

Undergraduate

- 1st Place: \$100 & Publication
- 2nd Place: \$75 & Publication

Adult

- 1st Place: \$150 & Publication
- 2nd Place: \$125 & Publication
- 3rd Place: \$100 & Publication

How to Enter

- Submissions will be accepted February 1 – February 29, 2020.
- Visit www.grpl.org/dyer-ives for submission guidelines.

All winners are notified by May 1, 2020.



LOCATIONS & HOURS

Main Library

111 Library Street NE • 49503
616.988.5400

M-Th 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM
F-Sat 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Sun 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
(Sunday hours Labor Day to Memorial Day)

Madison Square Branch

1201 Madison SE • 49507
616.988.5411

T-W 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Th 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
F-Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Ottawa Hills Branch

1150 Giddings SE • 49506
616.988.5412

T 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
W 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Th-Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Seymour Branch

2350 Eastern SE • 49507
616.988.5413

M-T 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
W-Th 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Van Belkum Branch

1563 Plainfield NE • 49505
616.988.5410

T 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
W 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Th-Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

West Leonard Branch

1017 Leonard NW • 49504
616.988.5416

M-T 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
W-Th 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

West Side Branch

713 Bridge NW • 49504
616.988.5414

T-W 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Th 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
F-Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Yankee Clipper Branch

2025 Leonard NE • 49505
616.988.5415

M-T 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
W-Th 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM



616.988.5400 • WWW.GRPL.ORG

Free Classes for Adults at the Library!

Computer Classes

All computer classes are held at the Main Library (111 Library Street NE) in the Adult Computer Training Center on the Lower Level.

For more information on each of these classes, visit www.grpl.org/computer.

Exploring Social Media and Email

Tuesday, January 21
1:00 – 2:30 pm | Main Library

Managing Your Digital Footprint

Tuesday, January 28
1:00 – 2:30 pm | Main Library

Backup Basics: How to Secure Your Data

Thursday, February 6
11:00 am – 12:30 pm | Main Library

Internet Privacy: Protecting Yourself in the Digital Age

Thursday, February 20
11:00 am – 12:30 pm | Main Library

Social Media Privacy: Taking Control of Your Profiles

Thursday, February 27
11:00 am – 12:30 pm | Main Library

Intro to Coding, taught by Grand Circus

Thursday, February 27
6:30 – 8:30 pm | Main Library

Open Lab – Bilingual Computer Help

Need assistance with your computer, tablet, or smartphone? We're happy to help! Stop by during our drop-in computer help sessions to have your questions answered.

Drop-in sessions at the Main Library:
Wednesdays, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
January 22 – February 26

Laboratorio Abierto Sesiones bilingües de ayuda con la computadora

¿Necesita ayuda con su computadora, tableta, o teléfono inteligente? ¡Sólo estamos aquí para ayudar! Visítenos durante nuestras sesiones de ayuda de computadora para responder sus preguntas.

Miércoles, 22 de enero al 26 de febrero
1:00 – 3:00 pm | Biblioteca Principal
Centro de Capacitación en Informática para Adultos
Nivel Inferior

Business Classes

All Small Business Research Center classes are held at the Main Library (111 Library Street NE) in the Adult Computer Training Center on the Lower Level.

Small Business Research Essentials

Wednesday, January 29
7:00 – 8:30 pm | Main Library

Holistic Job Seeking

Wednesday, February 19
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm | Main Library

SCORE at the Library

SCORE is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping entrepreneurs like you succeed in the world of small business. They can help with the development and writing of a business plan or any aspect of an existing business in need of further development.

A SCORE certified business counselor will be holding business consulting sessions at the library on the Lower Level near GRPL's Small Business Resource Center on the first Wednesday night of every month. Register for a session by visiting www.grpl.org/sbrc.

For further information about SCORE and GRPL's Small Business Resource Center, please call 616.988.5400 or email businesslibrarian@grpl.org.

Free Events for Film Fans

57th Ann Arbor Film Festival Traveling Tour

Thursday, January 30, 2020 | 6:00 pm
Wealthy Theatre | 1130 Wealthy St SE

The Ann Arbor Film Festival (AAFF) has created an "Almost All Ages" program for younger audiences. This program includes short experimental films and animation that will stir the imagination of audiences from the ages of 8 to 108. The Pickle Fort Collective will be demonstrating some hands-on film manipulation techniques. Admission is free, but space is limited. A short discussion will follow each program. Viewer discretion is advised for the touring program.

Co-sponsors: Cinema Lab, Wealthy Theatre

Experimental Film Family Day

Saturday, February 1, 2020
3:00 pm | Main Library

Lights, camera, experimentation! Join us as we showcase some of the most interesting and innovative short films you will ever see! Kids 8 and up can learn to create their own abstract films and animation. We will be showing the AAFF's "Almost All Ages" program. The Grand Rapids Community Media Center, Wealthy Theatre, and members from the Pickle Fort Collective will lead activities like stop motion animation, hand processing of 16mm film, and more.

And the Oscar Goes To...

Thursday, February 6, 2020
6:00 pm | Main Library

Whether you are a regular film goer or haven't been to a theater in years, join us for an overview of this year's Academy Award nominees just before Oscar's big night. Make your own call on who will win and who should win the film industry's most coveted award.

Taste of Soul Sunday 2020

February 16, 2020 | 1:00 – 4:30 pm | Main Library

Join us as we celebrate African American history and culture at Taste of Soul Sunday. Sample African American art, music, literature, history, and food. This event is free and open to the public. Visit www.grpl.org/tasteofsoul.

LISTEN



Kevin Murphy
1:00 – 1:30 pm

Lady Ace Boogie featuring DJ Dean Martian & Orlando from Bedrock
1:30 – 2:15 pm

Serita's Black Rose
2:30 – 3:15 pm

The Gospel Believers
3:30 – 4:15 pm



LEARN

Scenes from "The Meeting" by Ebony Road Players
1:30 pm & 3:00 pm

Join us for pivotal scenes from the powerful play "The Meeting," an American play by Jeff Stetson about an imaginary meeting between Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X in 1965.

Faith and Democratic Struggle Before #BlackLivesMatter
1:30 pm & 3:00 pm

Dr. Randal Jelks will share how hearing individual stories helps us to understand the black American experience beyond the larger narratives of enslavement, emancipation, and #BlackLivesMatter.

Resistance Reimagined: The Role of African American Literature in Activism
2:15 & 3:30 pm

Join this conversation about unconventional modes of activism, what resistance looks like, and how African American literature has played a significant role in "protesting antiblack violence, calling for major socio-political change, and challenging false promises of American Democracy."



New Hope Baptist Church Live African American Museum
1:00 – 4:30 pm

Watch some of the most important and influential figures in African American history come to life as they share their life stories, struggles, and accomplishments.



CREATE

Let's Move Dance Party
1:30 pm & 3:30 pm

World Music & Stories with The Storytellers
1:30 pm

Engage in a combination of interactive stories, beautiful music, and hands-on fun with musical instruments!

Alma W. Thomas Tote Painting
3:30 pm

Get inspired by Alma W. Thomas, best known for her colorful abstract paintings. Create your own painting on a tote bag canvas by using her abstract style!

Crafts
1:00 – 4:30 pm



EAT

Enjoy free food samples provided by Daddy Pete's BBQ, Boston Soul Cafe, Savor the Flavor, and Flavorful Pound Cakes & Treats.

Sponsored by:



Go Beyond Taste of Soul Sunday



Black Family History Series

Saturdays, February 8, 15, 22, 2020
10:00 am – 3:30 pm | Main Library

What parent or grandparent hasn't been asked where they came from, what their job was, or how they met their spouse? While these family history questions are universal, answers can be challenging to find. This is especially true for African Americans interested in their family history. Join us for a series of workshops that will help you learn about and document your family's genealogical history. Hosted by local genealogist Joyce Daniels, the series will help you investigate your roots. Registration is not required, however a lunch will be provided if you RSVP to rsvp@grpl.org.



Hustle/Step Soul Line Dance Party with DJ Andre Posey

Tuesday, February 18
6:30 pm | Main Library

The library is the perfect place to learn—and why not learn how to Hustle/Step? DJ and dance instructor Andre Posey will be leading us through both simple and complicated hustle soul line dances. Soul line dances are unpartnered line dances that are easy enough that anyone from kids to seniors can join in on the fun.



WE ARE GR

College Prep



Financial Aid - A5



Choosing a College - A6



Michigan College and University Directory - A7

Grand Rapids Public School News - Section A

Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Activities - Section B

• Adult Fitness, Youth Soccer, and more!

City of Grand Rapids and Public Library News - Section B

January 2020 | Vol. 18 | Issue 3 | Section A

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

Grand Rapids Promise Zone Approved – Scholarships Available for Class of 2020

The Grand Rapids Promise Zone Authority (GRPZA) is pleased to announce it is launching the Grand Rapids Promise Zone scholarship. Starting with the Class of 2020, students who live in the City of Grand Rapids and graduate from one of the eligible high schools (see below) can earn a certificate or associate degree at Grand Rapids Community College tuition-free. The scholarship will not only cover tuition, but also books, supplies, and fees associated with GRCC courses. The scholarship is prorated based upon the length of time a student resides in the City of Grand Rapids and attends one of the eligible high schools – as follows:

| LENGTH OF ATTENDANCE AND RESIDENCY | SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| GRADES 9 - 12 | 100% |
| GRADES 10 - 12 | 100% |
| GRADES 11 - 12 | 50% |
| GRADE 12 ONLY | None |

Eligible students in the Class of 2020 will receive additional information in the coming months. However, the GRPZA strongly urges all students to complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1. Students can complete and submit their FAFSA online at studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid. Additional information regarding the Grand Rapids Promise Zone scholarship and additional resources to assist students in completing their FAFSA form can be accessed at grpromisezone.com.

Grand Rapids Promise Zone Scholarship – Eligible High Schools:

- Grand Rapids City High School
- Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy
- Innovation Central High School
- Ottawa Hills High School
- Union High School
- Grand Rapids Montessori High School
- C.A. Frost Environmental Science Academy

- Grand Rapids Public Museum School
- Grand Rapids Learning Center
- Southwest Community Campus High School
- Lake Michigan Academy
- Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School
- Sacred Heart Academy High School
- Grand Rapids Christian High School
- West Catholic High School
- Grand Rapids Adventist Academy
- Wellspring Preparatory High School
- Hope Academy of West Michigan
- Grand Rapids Covenant House Academy
- NorthPointe Christian High School
- Plymouth Christian High School
- Southeast Career Pathways

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City High School Marching Band to represent Michigan at 2020 National Independence Day Parade

Grand Rapids Public Schools' City High Middle School has been invited to be a representative of Michigan in the 2020 National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C. The invitation arrived after a nomination by Mayor Rosalynn Bliss which guarantees acceptance to the parade. The band will travel to Washington D.C. to celebrate America's 244th birthday and perform before tens of thousands of spectators.

"The City High Marching Band performs all over the city, district, and state," says Mayor Bliss. "I'm eager to see them as one of the Michigan representatives in the parade this year."

The patriotic spectacle will take place on Saturday, July 4, 2020 in the heart of the United States Capital, making its way west down Constitution Avenue, and ending at the National Mall between the White House and the Washington Monument.

The City High School Marching Band will be featured alongside bands and other parade performers selected to march in this historic tribute to America's past and present.

"This is a once in a lifetime experience for our students that we don't want to miss," says Ryan Huppert, Principal of City High Middle School. "We're excited about this opportunity and eager to make it happen."



Throughout the school year, the City High School Band performs at festivals, galas, pep rallies, and games. This year, the band is featuring its first ever Winter Color Guard, for students grades 7-12. The band also features a mentor program where older students tutor younger musicians to help them excel on their instruments. Thank you to GRSAP and all our parents, partners, and donors for making this opportunity possible.



C.A. Frost Minecrafters

GRPS Hosts 6th Annual ROBO Battle of the Minds FIRST LEGO League Robotics Tournament

In December, GRPS hosted ROBO Battle of the Minds, the 6th annual FIRST Lego League Robotics qualifier for the Grand Rapids area. The FIRST LEGO League in Michigan affords students grades 4-6 the opportunity to explore their futures in the fields of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Students work as teams building their skills while both designing an autonomous LEGO MINDSTORMS robot and creating a research project that can impact their community. This year's event will host up to 30 teams from schools across the region and state, up to 10 kids per team.

Grand Dial Communications was the event producing partner with the FIRST in Michigan League. Other key sponsors of the event include: The Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation, Steelcase, and Consumers Energy.

The Grand Rapids Montessori Super Robotics Squad qualified to advance to the State Championship on December 14th at Bloomfield Hills High School. The team also received a trophy for Robot Strategy and Innovation.

The C.A. Frost Architectural Inhabiters received a Project trophy for their strong research work, and Taryn Eva, the North Park Coach won the Coach and Mentor award to recognize her work with the North Park teams.

Congratulations to everyone!



C.A. Frost Architectural Inhabiters



Grand Rapids Montessori Super Robotics Squad



North Park Montessori Bot City Builders



C.A. Frost Minecrafters



North Park Montessori Gone LEGO



Grand Rapids Montessori Super Robotics Squad

Grand Rapids Public Schools

WE ARE GR

January 2020

Grand Rapids
Board of Education

Kristian Grant, *President*

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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. The District will not discriminate against any person based on race, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, height, weight, color, religion, national origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, disability or veteran status. The District's Civil Rights Compliance Officer is Larry Johnson. Mr. Larry Johnson may be contacted at 1331 Franklin SE, P.O. Box 117, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0117 or (616) 819-2100. The District's Title IX Coordinator is Kurt Johnson. Mr. Kurt Johnson may be contacted at 1331 Franklin SE, P.O. Box 117, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0117 or (616) 819-2010.

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.grps.org.

To comply with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), 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 email savagem@grps.org or at (616) 819-2028.

WE ARE GR

January 2020

is published four times per year 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
Fax: (616) 819-3480

www.grps.org www.WeAreGR.com
John Helmholtz, *Executive Director of
Communications & External Affairs*
Kyle Pray, *Director of Communications
& Enrollment*

Javier Cervantes,
Communications Coordinator
Miranda Burel, *Administrative Assistant*

Burton Elementary named Apple Distinguished School

Burton Elementary was recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for 2019-2022 for its extensive use of Apple technology in the classrooms.

Apple Distinguished Schools are innovative, leadership driven educational experiences that use Apple technology to inspire creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. They showcase innovative uses of technology in learning, teaching, and the school environment, and have documented results of academic accomplishment.

Burton Elementary received this designation because its use of Apple technology allows teachers to create opportunities for students to take ownership of their learning, to communicate and collaborate with classmates and their immediate and global communities, all while challenging students to create unique products that represent their learning.

“Our teachers and students have worked hard for the last three years to use technological learning in such a unique way,” says Burton Elementary Principal, Allison Woodside de Carrillo. “We have seen so much growth not only in our own learning, but also in what our students are able to express. We have come so far and can’t wait to continue!”

Burton Elementary is a cultural center on the southwest side of Grand Rapids, where 95% of students receive free and reduced lunch. Being recognized as an Apple Distinguished School highlights Burton Elementary’s success as an innovative and compelling learning environment that engages students and provides tangible evidence of academic accomplishment.



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GRPS Academic Calendar

JANUARY 2020

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Jan 6 | Theme School Round 2 Application |
| Jan 20 | NO SCHOOL ; No LOOP Programming |
| Jan 21-31 | NWEA/MAP K-8 Testing (grades 9-10 optional) |
| Jan 29 | GRPS HS Vocal Music Festival |
| Jan 31 | Middle School Swimming Championship (@ City) |

FEBRUARY 2020

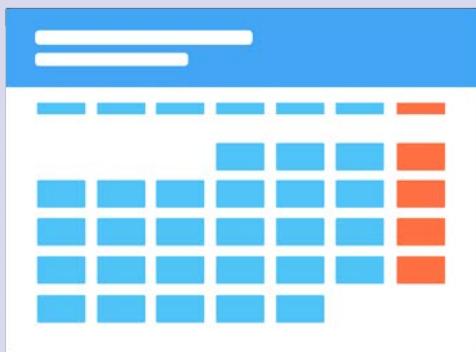
| | |
|-----------|---|
| Feb 1 | Union HS Showcase |
| Feb 1 | Ottawa Hills HS Boys' Swim Invitational |
| Feb 3-7 | NWEA/MAP K-8 Testing (grades 9-10 optional) |
| Feb 10-11 | GRPS Pre-MSBOA Festivals |
| Feb 12 | COUNT DAY |
| Feb 15 | GRCC Dual Enrollment Application Due (Summer) |
| Feb 20-21 | GRPS Middle School Vocal Music Festivals |
| Feb 20 | School Choice Expo (TBD) |
| Feb 28 | Theme School Round 2 Application Deadline |

MARCH 2020

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Mar 1 | GR Community Foundation Scholarship Apps Due |
| Mar 6 | NO SCHOOL |
| Mar 7 | Middle School Wrestling Invitational (@ City) |
| Mar 18-19 | GRPS Non-MSBOA Music Festivals |

APRIL 2020

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Apr 2 | No LOOP Programming |
| Apr 3-10 | NO SCHOOL - Spring Break |
| Apr 13-30 | M-STEP 5/8/11 Testing |
| Apr 13-30 | MI-Access 3-8/11 Testing |
| Apr 14 | SAT Initial Test Date |
| Apr 14 | PSAT 8/9/10 (grade 8 initial test date) |
| Apr 14-16 | PSAT 8/9/10 (grade 9-10 initial test date) |
| Apr 15 | WorkKeys Initial Test Date |
| Apr 15 | GRCC Dual Enrollment Applications Due (Fall) |
| Apr 15-21 | PSAT 8/9/10 Make-Up |
| Apr 20-30 | NWEA/MAP K-10 Testing |
| Apr 28 | SAT Make-Up |
| Apr 28 | City-Wide Art Show Public Reception - GRPS Elem. |
| Apr 28-29 | PSAT 8/9/10 Make-Up |



APRIL 2020 (continued)

| | |
|--------|--|
| Apr 29 | WorkKeys Make-Up |
| Apr 30 | City-Wide Art Show Public Reception - GRPS Secondary and Shared Time |

MAY 2020

| | |
|----------|--|
| May 1 | Preschool, Here I Come |
| May 1-8 | M-STEP 5/8/11 Testing |
| May 1-15 | NWEA/MAP K-10 Testing |
| May 4-29 | M-STEP 3/4/6/7 Testing |
| May 4-29 | MI-Access 3-8/11 Testing |
| May 6 | Last Day for Great Start Readiness Preschool |
| May 21 | Last Day of LOOP Programming |
| May 22 | 1/2 Day - Students (am), Records Flex (pm) |
| May 25 | NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day |
| May 26 | Innovation Central HS & Grand Rapids Montessori Graduation (7:30-8:30 pm at Calvin College-VanNoord Arena) |
| May 28 | City High Middle School Graduation (6-7 pm at Fountain Street Church) |
| May 29 | Ottawa Hills High School Graduation (6-7 pm at Calvin College-VanNoord Arena) |
| May 30 | University Preparatory Academy Graduation (11 am - 12 pm at Calvin College-VanNoord Arena) |
| May 30 | Union High School Graduation (2-3 pm at Calvin College-VanNoord Arena) |

JUNE 2020

| | |
|---------|--|
| Jun 1-3 | 1/2 Day - Secondary Exams (am), Records Flex (pm) |
| Jun 3 | LAST DAY OF SCHOOL |



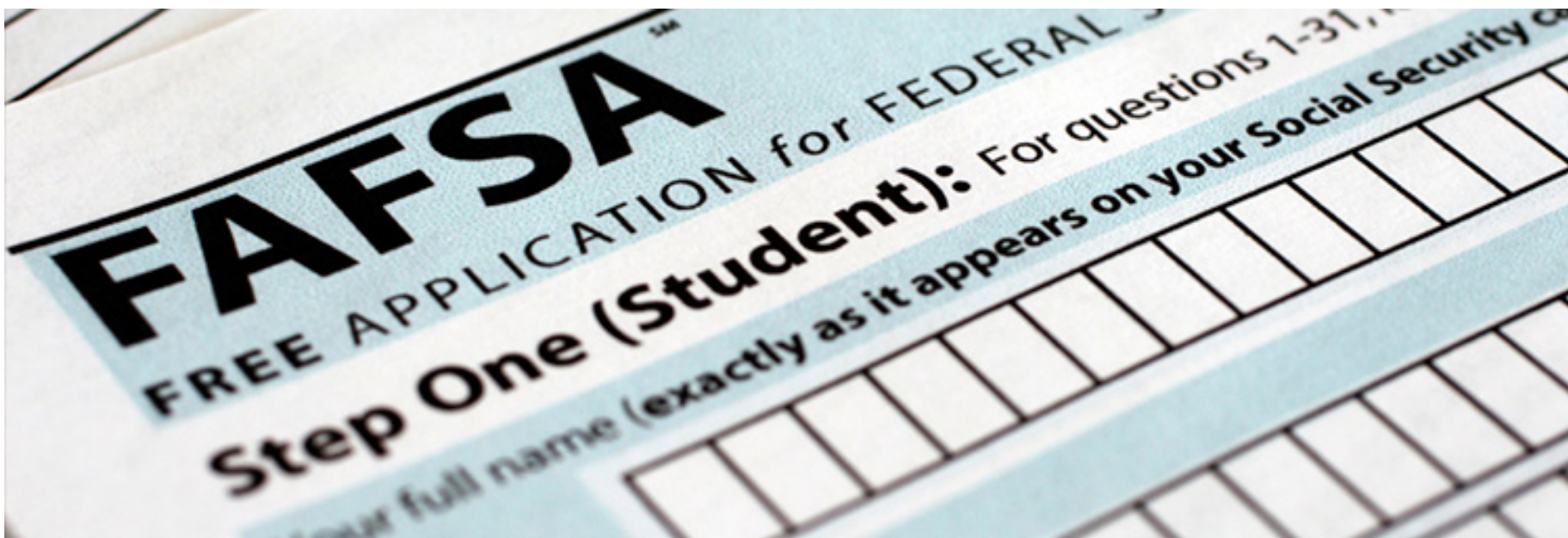
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**APPLICATION
DEADLINE IS
MARCH 1, 2020**



Understanding College Financial Aid

Deadline for FAFSA Application for Financial Aid is March 1

Did you know that more than \$185 billion in financial aid is available to students attending college? Many people think they won't qualify for financial aid, but about 2/3 of full-time undergraduate students receive some sort of aid, according to The College Board.

What is financial aid?

Financial aid refers to the combination of loans, grants, and scholarships that help pay for college. Most students will receive some form of financial aid. Some of the most common types of financial aid are:

Federal loans

- There are two types of federal loans: subsidized and unsubsidized. Both types of loans must be repaid with interest. With a subsidized loan, the government pays the interest while your child is in school. With an unsubsidized loan, the interest is being added to the loan balance while your child is in school.
- Some federal loans do not require a credit check or cosigner.

Private loans

- Private loans are usually offered by banks and other financial institutions. Private loans usually have a higher interest rate than federal loans, but not always, so it is important to research any loans you are offered and compare the terms.

Grants

- Grants may come from the government, a college/university, or private organizations. Grants are a gift and do not need to be paid back. Students usually receive grants based on their financial need.

Scholarships

- Scholarships may also come from the government, a college/university, or private organizations.

Scholarships, like grants, do not require repayment. Scholarships are different from grants because they usually are awarded based on a characteristic of the student. Examples include academics, athletics, an association you belong to, religious affiliation, or the degree you will pursue in college. Scholarships often have rules that recipients need to follow, such as a GPA requirement.

Work study

- Some students are offered an opportunity to work part-time on campus to help pay for their schooling.

How do I sign up to receive financial aid?

Applying for financial aid can seem like a daunting task, but it doesn't have to be. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, better known as the FAFSA, uses much of the same information you provide on your income tax return. Before beginning the FAFSA, you will need to register for a PIN number at pin.ed.gov.

You will also need to collect the following documents, if applicable: social security number; alien registration number; most recent federal income tax return, W-2s, and any other income records; bank statements and investment records; and any records of untaxed income. Depending on your situation, you may not have all of these, just collect as many as you can. The FAFSA is available online at fafsa.ed.gov.

If you need help filling out the FAFSA, you can access a step by step guide at studentaid.gov/fafsa or connect with a customer service representative at fafsa.gov.

How often do I need to apply?

You must complete the FAFSA each year. The FAFSA is always due March 1 for Michigan schools and determines financial aid for the following school year.

What do I do after the FAFSA is completed?

On the FAFSA, you will indicate which colleges you want your FAFSA information sent to. The college will send you an award letter, which outlines what type of financial aid you are eligible to receive. The letter will have a deadline to reply, and it is very important to respond before the deadline. The college/university's financial aid office can answer any questions you have about the award letter. You may choose to accept some, all, or none of the financial aid offered to you.

You should also apply for scholarships. Search the web for legitimate scholarship research sites such as michigan.gov/mistudentaid and fastweb.com. Research scholarships available through you or your parents' employer, school networks, community organizations, and religious organizations. Locally, the GRCC Foundation (most applications due March 15) and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation (due March 1) are great places to apply for scholarships.

Helpful Websites

Federal Information

- US Department of Education - studentaid.ed.gov
- FAFSA - fafsa.gov
- IRS (Tax Forms) - irs.gov
- Selective Service - sss.gov

State Information

- michigan.gov/mistudentaid

Loan Information

- studentaid.ed.gov/sa

Scholarship Information

- The GRCC Foundation - grcc.edu/money
- Other Scholarships - fastweb.com

Choosing a College

Choosing a college can feel like a daunting task. Choosing the right college can seem even harder. Before you begin your search, it helps to understand some of the terms associated with higher education.

- **Public, Private, and For-Profit:** Public colleges receive funding from local and state governments. They typically offer lower tuition rates, especially to in-state residents. Private colleges are funded through tuition, fees, and donations. Some private schools offer competitive scholarships to make them more affordable. For-profit schools are businesses that offer degree programs. They typically offer degrees for specific careers. Students may graduate with higher debts than from other types of schools, and credits don't always transfer.
- **Four-Year vs Two-Year:** Four-year schools offer programs that lead to bachelor's degrees. Two-year programs lead to a certificate or associate degree.
- **Liberal Arts:** Liberal arts schools offer a variety of courses in liberal arts, which includes literature, history, languages, mathematics, and life sciences. Most liberal arts schools are also four-year programs.
- **University:** A university is often larger than a college and typically offers more choices for majors and degrees. Most are made up of smaller colleges, such as engineering, health sciences, education, or liberal arts.
- **Community College:** Community colleges are two-year programs that can provide a certificate or associate degree. They also prepare students to transfer to a four-year school to finish their bachelor's degree, if they wish. Their credits typically transfer to four-year schools and they are known for their affordability.
- **Vocational or Technical:** Vocational and technical programs offer training in a specific industry or career, like medical records, dental hygiene, mechanics, or culinary arts. They typically offer certificates or associate degrees.

Once you know the types of schools and programs available to you, you need to determine what will be the best fit. Ask yourself these questions to help you narrow your search:

- Am I more interested in a two-year or four-year program?
- How close to home do I want to be?
- Would I be happier at a campus with a lot of students or in a smaller setting?
- Do I want to be around people like me or with a more diverse group?
- How important is cost?

- Do I know what major I want to pursue? If not, what types of classes do I want to take?
- What type of learning environment do I want?

After you have considered these questions, make a list of the qualities you are looking for. As you search for colleges and review materials, like their brochures and websites, keep the list you made in mind. The College Board website has a great search tool called "College Search Step-by-Step" (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges>) that allows you to enter your criteria and find those schools that fit your list.

After you have narrowed down your choices to the ones that most interest you, schedule a college visit to learn more and see the campus. The checklist below can help you get the most out of your visit.

Picking a college or university takes time and planning, but it is an important step for your future. Be sure to begin your search early, so you have enough time to explore your options and make the best decision for you. Don't be afraid to ask a lot of questions and to turn to those you trust, like your parents, school counselor, and others for advice.

Information adapted from the College Board

Choosing a College Checklist:

- Arrange for a tour of the campus.
- Sit down with an admissions officer to learn about application requirements.
- Pick up financial aid forms.
- Sit in on a class that you find interesting. If it isn't available or classes aren't in session, see what the classrooms look like.
- Be sure to get business cards for people you meet, in case you have follow up questions.
- Talk to a current student to find out what they like and don't like about the school.
- Visit the dorms and learn about housing choices.
- Check out the fitness center, library, bookstore, and common areas.
- If you want to play a sport, meet with the coach or athletic staff.
- Explore the community around the campus.
- Find out what clubs and activities are available.
- Read student newspapers and other publications to learn more about the school's culture.

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| Eastern Michigan University | 734-487-1849 | www.emich.edu |
| Ferris State University | 231-591-2000 | www.ferris.edu |
| Grand Valley State University | 616-331-5000 | www.gvsu.edu |
| Kendall College of Art & Design/Ferris | 800-676-2787 | www.kcad.edu |
| Lake Superior State University | 906-632-6841 | www.lssu.edu |
| Michigan State University | 517-355-1855 | www.msu.edu |
| Michigan Tech University | 906-487-1885 | www.mtu.edu |
| Northern Michigan University | 906-227-1000 | www.nmu.edu |
| Oakland University | 248-370-2100 | www.oakland.edu |
| Saginaw Valley State University | 989-964-4000 | www.svsu.edu |
| University of Michigan- Ann Arbor | 734-764-1817 | www.umich.edu |
| University of Michigan- Dearborn | 313-593-5000 | www.umdearborn.edu |
| University of Michigan- Flint | 810-762-3300 | www.umflint.edu |
| Wayne State University | 313-577-2424 | www.wayne.edu |
| Western Michigan University | 269-387-1000 | www.wmich.edu |

Public Community Colleges

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Alpena Community College | 989-356-9021 | www.discover.alpenacc.edu |
| Bay College | 800-221-2001 | www.baycollege.edu |
| Charles S. Mott Community College | 810-762-0200 | www.mcc.edu |
| Delta College | 989-686-9000 | www.delta.edu |
| Glen Oaks Community College | 269-467-9945 | www.glenoaks.edu |
| Gogebic Community College | 906-932-4231 | www.gogebic.edu |
| Grand Rapids Community College | 616-234-4000 | www.grcc.edu |
| Great Lakes Maritime Academy | 231-995-1200 | www.nmc.edu/maritime |
| Henry Ford Community College | 313-845-9600 | www.hfcc.edu |
| Jackson College | 517-787-0800 | www.jccmi.edu |
| Kalamazoo Valley Community College | 269-488-4400 | www.kvcc.edu |
| Kellogg Community College | 269-965-3931 | www.kellogg.edu |
| Kirtland Community College | 989-275-6767 | www.kirtland.edu |
| Lake Michigan College | 269-927-1000 | www.lakemichigancollege.edu |
| Lansing Community College | 800-644-4522 | www.lcc.edu |
| Macomb Community College | 586-445-7999 | www.macomb.edu |
| Mid-Michigan Community College | 989-386-6622 | www.midmich.edu |
| Monroe County Community College | 734-242-7300 | www.monroeccc.edu |
| Montcalm Community College | 989-328-2111 | www.montcalm.edu |
| Muskegon Community College | 231-773-9131 | www.muskegoncc.edu |
| North Central Michigan College | 888-298-6605 | www.ncmich.edu |
| Northwestern Michigan College | 231-995-1000 | www.nmc.edu |
| Oakland Community College | 248-341-2000 | www.oaklandcc.edu |
| St. Clair Community College | 810-984-3881 | www.sc4.edu |
| Schoolcraft College | 734-462-4400 | www.schoolcraft.edu |

Public Community Colleges (continued)

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Southwestern Michigan College | 800-456-8675 | www.swmich.edu |
| Washtenaw Community College | 734-973-3300 | www.wccnet.edu |
| Wayne County Community College | 313-496-2600 | www.wcccd.edu |

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

| | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Adrian College | 800-877-2246 | www.adrian.edu |
| Albion College | 517-629-1000 | www.albion.edu |
| Alma College | 989-463-7111 | www.alma.edu |
| Andrews University | 269-471-7771 | www.andrews.edu |
| Aquinas College | 616-632-8900 | www.aquinas.edu |
| Ave Maria College | 239-280-2500 | www.avemaria.edu |
| Baker College (multiple locations) | 800-964-4299 | www.baker.edu |
| Calvin College | 616-526-6000 | www.calvin.edu |
| Cleary University | 800-686-1883 | www.cleary.edu |
| College for Creative Studies | 313-664-7400 | www.collegeforcreativestudies.edu |
| Concordia University | 734-995-7300 | www.cuaa.edu |
| Cornerstone University | 616-949-5300 | www.cornerstone.edu |
| Davenport University (multiple locations) | 800-686-1600 | www.davenport.edu |
| Finlandia University | 906-482-5300 | www.finlandia.edu |
| Grace Bible College | 616-538-2330 | www.gracechristian.edu |
| Great Lakes Christian College | 517-321-0242 x230 | www.glcc.edu |
| Hillsdale College | 517-437-7341 | www.hillsdale.edu |
| Hope College | 616-395-7000 | www.hope.edu |
| Kalamazoo College | 800-253-3602 | www.kzoo.edu |
| Kettering University | 810-762-9500 | www.kettering.edu |
| Kuyper College | 616-222-3000 | www.kuyper.edu |
| Lawrence Technological University | 800-225-5588 | www.ltu.edu |
| Madonna University | 734-432-5300 | www.madonna.edu |
| Northwood University | 800-622-9000 | www.northwood.edu |
| Olivet College | 800-456-7189 | www.olivetcollege.edu |
| Rochester College | 248-218-2000 | www.rc.edu |
| Sacred Heart Major Seminary | 313-883-8500 | www.shms.edu |
| Siena Heights University | 800-521-0009 | www.sienaheights.edu |
| Spring Arbor University | 800-968-0011 | www.arbor.edu |
| University of Detroit Mercy | 313-993-1245 | www.udmercy.edu |

COME EXPLORE KINDERGARTEN

Grand Rapids Public Schools is hosting Exploration Week, March 23-27, to help families prepare for the exciting transition to kindergarten. Each of our elementary schools (listed on the next page) will host their own kindergarten event. *Explorers* can expect to tour the school, visit our world-class preschool classrooms, discover what your child will learn in kindergarten, and get answers to your questions.



Pre-K for 4 year olds is available at all GRPS elementary schools. Students must be 4 by September 1st. There is potential for an age waiver, if eligible.

Complete your intake online at preschool.kentisd.org/apply or by calling the Early Childhood Office at (616) 819-2111. Placements take place through the Early Childhood Office beginning in July.

Many families qualify for free preschool through the Great Start Readiness Program grant. If a family's income exceeds grant eligibility, there is a potential tuition option. Please contact the Early Childhood office at 616-819-2111 to further discuss these options.



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 928 ABERDEEN ST NE 49505
 616-819-2868

BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY PK-5
 2505 MADISON AVE SE 49507
 616-819-2242

BUCHANAN ELEMENTARY PK-5
 1775 BUCHANAN AVE SW 49507
 616-819-2252

BURTON ELEMENTARY PK-5
 2133 BUCHANAN AVE SW 49507
 616-819-2262

**CA FROST ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
 ACADEMY ELEMENTARY PK-5**
 1460 LAUGHLIN ST NW 49504
 616-819-2550

CAMPUS ELEMENTARY PK-5
 710 BENJAMIN AVE SE 49506
 616-819-3525

CESAR E. CHAVEZ ELEMENTARY PK-5
 1205 GRANDVILLE ST SW 49503
 616-819-2560

COIT CREATIVE ARTS ACADEMY PK-5
 617 COIT AVE NE 49503
 616-819-2390

CONGRESS ELEMENTARY PK-5
 940 BALDWIN ST SE 49506
 616-819-2201

DICKINSON ACADEMY PK-8
 448 DICKINSON ST SE 49507
 616-819-2505

EAST LEONARD ELEMENTARY PK-5
 410 BARNETT ST NE 49503
 616-819-2525

GERALD R. FORD ACADEMIC CENTER PK-8
 851 MADISON AVE SE 49507
 616-819-2640

HARRISON PARK PK-8
 1440 DAVIS AVE NW 49504
 616-819-2565

KEN-O-SHA ELEMENTARY PK-5
 1353 VAN AUKEN ST SE 49508
 616-819-2696

KENT HILLS ELEMENTARY PK-5
 1445 EMERALD AVE NE 49505
 616-819-2727

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. LEADERSHIP
 ACADEMY PK-8**
 645 LOGAN ST SE 49503
 616-819-2600

MULICK PARK ELEMENTARY PK-5
 1761 ROSEWOOD AVE SE 59606
 616-819-2810

PALMER ELEMENTARY PK-5
 309 PALMER ST NE 49505
 616-819-2929

SHAWMUT HILLS PK-8
 2550 BURRITT ST NW 49504
 616-819-3055

**SHERWOOD PARK GLOBAL STUDIES
 ACADEMY PK-6**
 3859 CHAMBERLAIN AVE SE 49508
 616-819-3095

SIBLEY ELEMENTARY PK-5
 943 SIBLEY ST NW 49504
 616-819-3100

SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CAMPUS PK-8
 801 OAKLAND AVE SW 49503
 616-819-2947

STOCKING ELEMENTARY PK-5
 863 7TH STREET NW 49504
 616-819-3130

**EACH SCHOOL HOSTS EVENTS.
 FOR SPECIFIC DATES AND TIMES,
 PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL
 OR VISIT GRPS.ORG.**



**MARCH 23-27
 GRPS EXPLORATION WEEK**



\$17 MILLION RENOVATION AND 2 NEW COLLEGE AND CAREER-PREP ACADEMIES



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PRODUCTION**
@ OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Academy of Media Production prepares students with the advanced skills and abilities necessary to pursue a successful career in the development and/or delivery of media – radio, television, online, social media, or print. The core curriculum integrates media competencies. The academy features elective courses that allow students to select their own path with assistance from their advisor.



ACADEMY OF
**PUBLIC SAFETY
SERVICES**
@ OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Academy of Public Safety Services emphasizes a career in police, fire, cyber security, private security and military. Principles of police and firefighting are integrated into the core curriculum. Class is a balance of classroom learning and hands-on field experience interacting with local, state and federal agencies. Students learn about their community and the many social dynamics which exist.

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The Battle is On! GR8 Sports, Great Kids announces the third season of Battle of the Brackets.

The excitement is mounting, and the competition is preparing - preparing for another great season of Battle of the Brackets. Embracing the Grand Rapids workforce's competitive spirit, while also raising money for Grand Rapids Public Schools K-8 student athletics, GR8 Sports, Great Kids is excited to announce its third March battle, Battle of the Brackets. And a battle it will be!

GR8 Sports, Great Kids – a program of the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation – relies on the generosity of residents and companies throughout Grand Rapids to continue offering free middle-school and elementary-level sports at GRPS. With more than 70% of the school districts in the Ottawa – Kent (O-K) Athletic Conference requiring some form of pay-to-play, this funding is needed now more than ever.

This is where Battle of the Brackets comes in!

The Battle is essentially the perfect storm, if you will, to create an opportunity for Grand Rapids companies to gain bragging rights and a pretty awesome trophy while also coming alongside GRPS K-8 athletics. Last year, 24 business participated - pitting accountant against accountant, bank versus bank, law firm against law firm, in an all-out, knockdown, drag-out fight (we're kidding, sort of)– all to provide funding for both middle and elementary school sports at GRPS.

We joke, but this event is important. Here's its story: basketball has been in our

blood from our very beginning. Remember those Gus Macker Tournaments? Well, the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation was created as a vehicle through which funds raised from those Gus Macker Tournaments would support GRPS athletics. But then Gus left, and so did the funding for athletics.

The good news, season after season, student athletes make their way on to fields, courts and swimming pools representing GRPS with pride. Because of donor dollars, participants in events like Battle of the Brackets, and the continuous support of our wonderful community, 15 middle-school and four elementary-level sports are offered. This support allows more than 6,000 GRPS K-8 students to participate in soccer, basketball, volleyball - the list goes on – all at no cost to the students or their families!

Although the probability of filling out a perfect bracket is only 1 in 9.2 Quintillion (that's 18 zeroes!), the likelihood of making a tremendous impact on GRPS student athletes is 100%. Of course, the Battle will render teams winners and losers - all in good fun - most importantly it will help make possible opportunities for Grand Rapids Public Schools students to access sports, to participate, to cross finish lines and to try something new.

For information on how you can get involved with GR8 Sports, Great Kids or how your business can participate in Battle of the Brackets, visit www.grsaf.org/battle20.



GR8
SPORTS Great Kids
Battle of the Brackets

The Battle Begins 3/15/20!

<http://bit.ly/Bracket2020>




2019 Battle of the Bracket Men's Bracket Winner, Open Systems Technology (OST)!



2018 and 2019 Battle of the Bracket Women's Bracket Winner, Voisard!

Top Honors

City one of three high schools in Michigan named Blue Ribbon

By Phil de Haan, Charles Honey, Originally published by School News Network on October 11, 2019

In the almost 40 years the U.S. Department of Education has been recognizing exemplary elementary, middle and high schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools, a GRPS school had never been so honored.

That “never” became a first in 2019 when City High/Middle School broke the drought for GRPS and earned a spot on the list of 362 schools nationwide, including just three high schools in Michigan, newly named Blue Ribbon Schools.

The program honors schools for either overall academic excellence or for progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups, and City was honored in the former category. Principal Ryan Huppert said the award is both recognition and encouragement.

“It affirms that an urban and diverse public school is achieving at the highest levels nationally,” he said. “It recognizes the hard work of all of our kids, our staff, our families, and the whole City community to be an exemplary school nationwide.”

Beyond Academics

He added that City, while deservedly praised for its academic accolades, is more balanced than people might sometimes assume.

“Our kids are academic and athletic and artistic,” he said. “They’re active volunteers in the community, and often those experiences turn into internships and jobs. They get involved in local political campaigns. They make up the majority of the athletes on some of the (high school) teams they’re on (with Ottawa Hills and Union). They’re well-rounded kids.”

Z’nya McSpaden, a sophomore who will be part of



Principal Ryan Huppert speaks at the ceremony, saying the building renovations provide ‘an environment that shows kids that they are valued’



Principal Ryan Huppert (second from left) with City High students Z’nya McSpadden, Estrella Govea-Garcia and Tobin Hanks (left to right) in front of City’s main entrance

Union’s varsity basketball team this winter, agreed with her principal. She said it’s still sometimes difficult for people to get past the old stereotypes of City. “At Union they sometimes see us as just the smart kids,” she said. “But there’s more (to City) than that.”

In fact, less than a week after a ribbon-cutting ceremony at City to mark the Blue Ribbon award, Huppert spent two days camping with 62 City juniors and seniors at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, a trip free for the students, many of whom had never camped before, thanks to funding from the Wege Foundation. There, on the shores of Lake Michigan, students and teachers cooked meals together, cleaned up afterwards, hiked, journaled, read and more, in an experience that Huppert described as “some of the most powerful ways we connect with kids.”

And the day after his return from the camping trip, Huppert found himself participating in an extensive conference call, planning for another recent singular City honor: an invitation for the school’s marching band to participate in the 2020 National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C.

Huppert said that the 115-member City marching band, under Director Katie Vermeer, has played in numerous community parades and special days in the past, and regularly plays at Houseman Field in Grand Rapids for GRPS home games, but he admitted that playing in D.C. will be a bit of a jump.

“This is the big leagues of marching bands,” he said with a big smile. “It is a large and special opportunity.”

For City students the education they are receiving in their historic building on Plainfield Avenue is also a large and special opportunity.



Interim Superintendent Ronald Gorman chats at the ceremony with seventh graders (from left) Kenaria Drones, Lino Calderon and Yuliana Dardon

Different Backgrounds, Schoolwide Support

In the words of Nuriya Nesby, a ninth-grader: “The teachers keep us up to date, and they make us feel like we’re safe. If you’ve ever been in a stressful situation or had a bad morning, any teacher around you will (be) like, ‘Hey, are you OK? How are you holding up?’ It’s more school and support, not just school and not just support. You get the mix, and it makes me feel like you’re in a safe environment.”

That sense of support and community is also important to senior Estrella Govea-Garcia. “We come from all different neighborhoods,” she said. “Southwest, Northeast, all over, and from different cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds, but we come together, and that’s one thing I really love.”

Top Honors CONTINUED FROM A12

And for senior Tobin Hanks the recent award provides an opportunity for City as a GRPS school to advocate for funding for public schools as a good place for city residents to invest their tax dollars. “I hope,” he said, “that our school can be an ally (in Grand Rapids) in furthering school for everyone.”

City offers both the International Baccalaureate Middle Years and Diploma Programs, and traditionally has done well in getting students ready for whatever might come after high school. In 2019, City was fourth in the state of Michigan among all public high schools in SAT scores for juniors. The average score for the 123 City juniors who took the test was 1,219, and based on those scores, 81% tested as fully college ready. City also had a 100 percent graduation rate in the most recent data set from MiSchooldata.org, the State of Michigan’s official public portal for education data.

Yet, in the same year City students were acing the SATs and propelling the school to Blue Ribbon status, more than one in three of its 917 students, 36 percent, qualified for subsidized lunch.

GRPS Interim Superintendent Ronald Gorman said that subsidized lunch stat is an important part of the story.

“I believe this school should have been a Blue Ribbon school many years ago,” he said. “When we factor for poverty, if you look at the schools that are ranked just slightly ahead of City, there’s significantly less numbers of poverty in those schools compared to City.”

He believes that Grand Rapids residents should know that they not only have a very good school option in City, but they should also know that there are many schools that are on their way to achievement levels like City.

Or, as Huppert said: “There’s blue ribbon kids and blue ribbon teachers throughout our whole district.”



Students, staff and state and local school board members cut the ribbon on newly completed renovations of the school



The City High/Middle community gives a big thumbs-up to its Blue Ribbon status and extensive building renovations and modernization

Asbestos Notice

Asbestos is a general name for a group of naturally occurring minerals composed of small fibers. These fibers are very strong and resistant to heat and chemicals. The mere presence of asbestos in a building does not mean that the health of the building occupants is endangered. When left intact and undisturbed, asbestos-containing materials do not pose a health risk to building occupants. There is, however, potential for exposure when the material becomes damaged or disturbed. Because of these problems associated with asbestos exposure, the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Act, or AHERA emphasizes that asbestos in school buildings must appropriately managed.

The Grand Rapids Public Schools has an asbestos management plan that addresses contact persons, training, inspections, response actions, operation and maintenance activities, periodic surveillance, cleaning, disclosure efforts and school building areas containing asbestos. Any person may review the management plan at the Grand Rapids Public School’s Facilities Management Department, 900 Union, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503, during regular business hours (8:00 am to 4:00 pm). Plans may also be found on the district’s website at www.grps.org/facilities-asbestos-info. Alternatively, any person may request a copy of the plan by writing the Grand Rapids Public Schools Facilities Management Department, 900 Union, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503. There is a cost involved in reproducing the document of approximately 10 cents per page. The Grand Rapids Public Schools will send a copy out of the management plan within 5 business days of receiving the request.

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New dual immersion school an 'impressive investment' in students, community

Southwest Community Campus middle and high school to open in August

By Charles Honey, Originally published by School News Network on November 12, 2019



Tim Horton of JK Masonry lays concrete block in the south wall of the new

Something special is taking shape on Grand Rapids' Southwest Side: a new, 500-student school that will house the city's first dual-immersion English/Spanish high school.

Cranes are lifting beams and workers are laying blocks at a construction site between Grandville Avenue SW and the U.S. 131 freeway, as crews busily build a four-story school in time for classes to begin next August. The school will be a grades 7-12 extension of Southwest Community Campus, a dual-immersion program a few blocks south at 801 Oakland Ave. SW. Seventh and eighth graders from the pre-K-8 SWCC will move into the new middle and high school next fall, with a grade added each subsequent year.

Recently touring the building for the first time, SWCC Principal Carlos de la Barrera was struck by its light-filled ambience, spacious classrooms and how well it will serve his students and the surrounding community.

"Such an impressive investment validates our belief that our students are smart and that they deserve our full support," de la Barrera said of the \$20 million project. "We always preach that we value our students and their families so this new building is a tangible expression that reinforces our belief."

A Place for Education, Housing and More

As yet to be named, the new school will anchor Plaza Roosevelt, a 5.5-acre, multi-use development offering affordable housing, health-care services, after-school and community activities and college-level programs. A new city park will abut the school as well.

Five single-family homes and three townhouse units are currently being built by Habitat for Humanity south of

the school, and apartments and retail space to the west are planned by Dwelling Place. Nearby Mercy Health's Clinica Santa Maria and Cook Arts Center plan on increasing their services.

Meetings among eight partner agencies and with neighbors have been integral to the school and larger development, said Jeff Brakefield, the school project superintendent for Rockford Construction. Architects were c2ae and TMP Architecture.

"It's really been a neighborhood project," said Brakefield, a 1973 graduate of Ottawa Hills High School, who oversees 28 contractors on-site. "We've gotten a lot of positive feedback. Everybody's on board with revitalizing the neighborhood."

“
Such an impressive investment validates our belief that our students are smart and that they deserve our full support.

SWCC Principal
Carlos de la Barrera

Let There be Light

The 75,000-square-foot facility is built into the side of a hill sloping towards the freeway east of Grandville Avenue SW, between Graham and Rumsey streets. The district purchased the 1.7-acre property in January from Habitat for Humanity. The project is funded by the \$175 million bond approved by voters in 2015.

The school will house two dozen classrooms on the third and fourth floors; art, music and science rooms and administrative offices on the second; and a gym and locker rooms, dining area and kitchen on the first floor. The gym and kitchen will be available for community use, de la Barrera said.

■ CONTINUED ON A15



Principal Carlos de la Barrera, at left with project superintendent Jeff Brakefield, says the school's generous natural light will enhance student learning

Dual Immersion CONTINUED FROM A14

The LEED-certified building features generous natural light, including storefront-style windows on third-floor classrooms – a plus for both energy efficiency and learning. A third-floor “knowledge center” will have an expansive view of downtown.

“It’s very, very important how (natural light) affects your mood and your emotions, in any place, especially in a school where you spend so many hours in a classroom,” de la Barrera said.

It will also feature aesthetic touches such as an entryway mural, and neighbors had input into the warm color schemes chosen for each floor. The community will also weigh in on a mascot for the school, de la Barrera said.

Applications Being Taken

Applications have started coming in from families in GRPS and beyond. Besides accepting students now enrolled at Southwest Community Campus, the school’s feeder boundaries were expanded to take in Chavez Elementary School, de la Barrera said. Applications are now being accepted until Nov. 29, with a second round to be held in January.

Neighborhood students get first priority but must pass an admissions test to demonstrate bilingual ability, de la Barrera said, adding current students don’t need to reapply. The school will offer classes in both Spanish and English, including courses in Spanish culture, literature and history, reflecting its commitment to “biculturalism,” he said.

“We prepare our students to succeed in a multicultural society where being literate in two languages and understanding different cultures is an asset. These skills are in great demand and will open the doors to our students when searching for employment in the near future.”

The school will enable SWCC students who might otherwise have moved out of district to continue their program “in our community’s backyard,” he said.

“The new high school is a beautiful state of the art building that will always remind me of how far we can go when we have a strong collaboration between our community and GRPS.”



A rendering of the new Southwest Community Campus 7-12 school under construction off Grandville Avenue SW (courtesy c2ae and TMP Architecture)



The school is built into a hillside between Grandville Avenue SW and the U.S. 131 freeway



The building will feature different color schemes for each floor (courtesy c2ae and TMP Architecture)



This third-floor ‘knowledge center’ will have expansive views of downtown Grand Rapids (courtesy c2ae and TMP Architecture)

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