



Huff Park Grand Reopening Celebration

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City Commission Sets Interview, Public Input Timeline for City Manager Search

The Grand Rapids community has an opportunity to meet and hear from finalists vying for the vacant city manager position, including a community forum and first-round interviews. If needed, second-round interviews will be scheduled the following week.

The community forum will take place 5:30 to 7 p.m. Monday, July 30 in the Ryerson Auditorium at the Grand Rapids Public Library, 111 Library St. NE. The event will include remarks by each finalist and a meet and greet with community members. Finalist interviews will take place 2 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 31 in the ninth-floor Commission Chambers at City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave. NW. The interviews will be followed by City Commission review and discussion from 8 to 9 p.m.

The interviews and discussion will be streamed live on Facebook (facebook.com/CityofGrandRapids) and YouTube (youtube.com/CityofGrandRapids) and broadcast live on the Grand Rapids Information Network (GRIN), which is Comcast Channel 26.

If needed, second-round interviews will take place 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Aug. 7 in the Commission Chambers. The interviews will be followed by City Commission discussion and a vote on the next city

manager. The interviews, discussion and vote will be streamed live on Facebook and YouTube and broadcast live on GRIN.

“We are looking for a collaborative, strategic and innovative leader who has strong communication skills and a commitment to transparency and inclusiveness,” Mayor Rosalynn Bliss said. “This is an exciting time in our city, and we are eager to find the right person for this important job.”

Springsted Waters, an executive recruitment firm, is overseeing the search process. For more on what the Commission and community are looking for in a new city manager, including answers to other frequently asked questions about the city manager position and search process, visit grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Programs-and-Initiatives/City-Manager-Search.

Springsted Waters has provided candidate application materials to the city manager search subcommittee comprised of Mayor Bliss, Third Ward Commissioner Senita Lenear and First Ward Commissioner Jon O’Connor. The subcommittee is reviewing the candidate application materials and plans to suggest finalists to the City Commission on Tuesday,



July 24 during its Committee of the Whole meeting, which starts at 9:30 a.m. The meeting is streamed live on Facebook and YouTube and broadcast live on GRIN.

The City Commission hopes to have a new city manager in place by early September.

Former Deputy City Manager Eric DeLong has served as interim city manager since Greg Sundstrom’s retirement in early February.

Three Finalists Vying for Third Ward Seat

Finalist Interviews, Public Hearing Set for July 24



Three candidates have progressed to the next step in the City Commission’s search to fill the Third Ward Commission seat vacated last month by David Allen. A subcommittee comprised of Third Ward Commissioner Senita Lenear, First Ward Commissioner Jon O’Connor, Second Ward Commissioner Joe Jones and Third Ward residents and business owners recently interviewed eight

candidates and made finalist recommendations to the City Commission.

The three finalists – listed in alphabetical order – are:

- Ryan Anderson
- Austin Dean
- Nathaniel Moody

The City Commission will interview the three finalists from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 24 in the ninth-floor Commission Chambers at City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave. NW. The public will have a chance to comment on the finalists during a public hearing at 7 p.m. later that day during the City Commission meeting, also in the Commission Chambers. The City Commission will discuss the finalists and vote on the appointment during

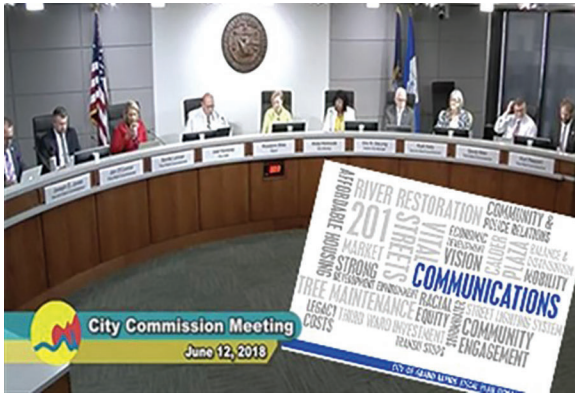
a special meeting at 8 a.m. Tuesday, July 31.

The finalist interviews, public hearing and vote will be streamed live on Facebook: facebook.com/CityofGrandRapids and YouTube: youtube.com/user/CityofGrandRapids and broadcast live on the Grand Rapids Information Network (GRIN), which is Comcast Channel 26.

The five other candidates interviewed during the first round were:

- Audrey Campbell
- Paula Collier
- Sarah Hampton
- Marci Lewandowski-Jenkins
- Jeffrey Snyder

City Commission Adopts FY2019 Fiscal Plan



The City Commission last month adopted the City's FY2019 budget. Approval of the fiscal year ordinance establishes a series of operating, debt service and capital appropriations for the fiscal year that began July 1.

The \$590 million spending plan reduces the City's property tax millage rate from 9.0258 mills to 8.9710 mills. The budget invests in outcomes around affordable housing, community and police relations, legacy costs and economic development. It also prioritizes several capital projects: Vital Streets, fire stations, parks, pools and playgrounds, Grand River restoration, tree maintenance and transit shelters, among others.

As part of the fiscal year ordinance adoption, the Commission also approved Stage IV of the City's Transformation Plan. The FY2019-23 Preliminary Fiscal Plan shows continued positive General

Operating Fund results in FY2019 and FY2020. However, the next three years of the plan predict growing net operating losses in the General Operating Fund. City officials say continued transformation by meeting the goals contained within the plan will help maintain future budgets and city operations.

Highlights of the proposed fiscal plan include:

- Making an initial investment of an estimated \$590,000 in the Affordable Housing Fund and increasing the City's commitment to supporting the creation of additional affordable housing units
- Continuing the \$1 million appropriation for outcomes that strengthen community and police relations through FY2023
- Investing \$4.2 million to renovate, repair or reconstruct eight City-owned parks and invest in the redevelopment of MLK Lodge
- Investing each year over the five-year period in complementary streetscape features in conjunction with Vital Streets projects in the Southtown, South Division and Grandville corridors
- Being intentional in reducing disparities by operationalizing racial equity goals across all departments and investing \$50,000 to support a comprehensive strategic planning process by the Economic Development Department that focuses on reducing disparities

- Expanding the customer advocate function approved in the FY2018 budget to increase opportunities for early intervention in code compliance cases and achieve positive and equitable outcomes with fewer complaint-based mechanisms
- Effectively managing legacy costs
- Investing \$17.5 million to Vital Streets asset management and debt retirement
- Investing \$6.35 million over five years for the Grand River restoration project development and implementation
- Investing \$400,000 to address the backlog of priority two trees within seven years and begin implementation of a proactive tree maintenance management plan
- Investing \$250,000 to continue to improve bus shelter locations throughout the city
- Increasing the Experience Grand Rapids investment for promotional services by \$100,000 per year
- Investing \$100,000 per year for FY2019 and FY2020 for Southtown Corridor Improvement District (CID) operational support
- Investing \$100,000 in FY2019 for Southtown CID capital investments
- Reserving a Transformation Fund balance of \$750,000 for a flexible Third Ward equitable investment initiative in FY2019

Exercise Your Right to Vote: Voter Registration and Absent Voter Ballot Info

State Primary Election — August 7, 2018

July 9 was the last day to register to vote in the August state primary election.

Are you registered to vote at your CURRENT address? Did you know you have to re-register to vote every time you move? You must re-register to vote at your new address every time you move, even if you move within the City of Grand Rapids. This will determine what election precinct you will need to vote in.

Please visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at michigan.gov/vote to:

- View your **Sample Ballot** for the upcoming election
- Track your **Absentee Ballot**
- Verify your **Voter Registration**
- Find your **Polling Place**
- Contact your **Local Election Official**
- Find answers to **Frequently Asked Questions**

Checking this before heading to the polls will save you time!

Will you be voting for the first time? Under Michigan Election law, unless you registered to vote in person at a Secretary of State branch office, Kent County Clerk's Office, Grand Rapids City Clerk's Office or a public assistance agency you must vote in person the first time. This provision does not apply if you are older than 60, disabled or an overseas voter.

If you are subject to the "vote in person" requirement and need an absent voter ballot, you may request one in person at the Grand Rapids City Clerk's Office. If you have questions about your voter registration status contact the Clerk's Office at 616.456.3010.

Absent Voter Ballots

Absent voter ballots are available for all elections. They provide voters a convenient way to cast a ballot when they are unable to vote in person on Election Day. Perhaps you work or have a prior commitment in a city other than where you live that will have you out of town on Election Day.

As a voter, you may obtain an absent voter ballot if you are:

Expecting to be out of town on Election Day, 60 years old or older, unable to vote without assistance at

the polls, in jail awaiting arraignment or trial, unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons, appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside your precinct of residence.

Absent Voter Ballot Request Deadlines

State Primary Election — August 7, 2018

August 4 at 2 p.m. — Deadline for individuals to request an absent voter ballot by mail

August 6 at 4 p.m. — Deadline for individuals to request an absent voter ballot in person

Permanent Absent Voter List

The City of Grand Rapids maintains a permanent absent voter list. If you request to be placed on this list, you will automatically receive an Absent Voter Ballot Application for an absent ballot prior to each election. Each application is specific to the current election only. If you wish to participate in that particular election via the absent ballot process, you will need to complete, sign and return the application to the City Clerk's Office to receive your absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are available 45 days prior to each election. To be placed on the list, call, email or write the Clerk's office: 616.456.3010, grcityclerk@grcity.us, 300 Monroe Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

Protect Your Children – Get Rid of Dangerous Lead Paint in Your Home

If you live in a home built before 1978, you have a good chance of exposure to lead paint inside and outside the home. Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan warns residents that lead is bad. It can be dangerous – especially to children and pregnant women – causing brain damage and learning disabilities.

However, Healthy Homes says you can prevent lead poisoning. Funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD, can help remove lead paint safely through the Get the Lead Out! program.

HUD recently simplified the program, making participation free for eligible homeowners. Renters, homeowners and landlords who meet certain eligibility requirements can qualify. It's a great opportunity to improve and make homes healthier. Repairs typically include new windows and siding.

If you live in and/or own a home in the city,



contact Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan at 616.241.3300 or visit gettheleadoutgr.org to learn more or contact the City of Grand Rapids Community Development Department at 616.456.3030. HUD funding and the timeframe to participate in the program is limited.

Grand Rapids Launches Motu – New App for On-Street Parking Payments



The City's Mobile GR and Parking Services Department recently introduced Motu, a new app for on-street parking payments. Motu replaces Parkmobile for on-street parking payments in the city.

“Our city's motto is Motu Viget, which means strength in activity,” said Josh Naramore, the City's Mobile GR-Parking Services manager. “We are excited to celebrate this by making moving around Grand Rapids easier through this app.”

Motu allows drivers to manage their time in the city. The app, developed by Passport – a global leader in mobile payments for parking and transit – provides an easy way to extend parking time. Inside the app, a few quick taps on the user's smartphone screen can lengthen parking time up to two hours in most locations. Users can extend parking time without added service fees.

The Motu app also has a customized design

for Grand Rapids, which eliminates confusion around where users are paying for parking. The app allows users to monitor their parking sessions, view payment history and receive email receipts. For more information, visit grandrapidsmi.gov/motu.

“When you're on the go as much as our community is, you want an app that can get you where you're going quickly,” Naramore said. “Motu offers a type of convenience that appeals to both residents and visitors. We're also excited to announce that Motu is available in Spanish.”

As a growing city, Grand Rapids is looking to get ahead of increasing population trends, the housing market and future mobility demands, Naramore said. With the Motu app, the City can continue to support growth and activity while still staying true to its environmentally friendly initiatives.

Passport is the industry's leading mobile technology solution specializing in enterprise business applications and payments for the public and private sectors. In Michigan, it is the No. 1 mobile pay provider with more than 2.2 million transactions per year. The auto capital's mobile pay parking app, ParkDetroit, is designed and powered by Passport. Other Passport-managed apps include Michigan State University's SpotOn and Ann Arbor's ePark. The University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan-Dearborn and the cities of Flint and St. Joseph use Passport's PassportParking® app.

The Motu app is free to download through the App Store or Google Play. Users also can manage their parking at motu.ppprk.com.

City Seeks Community Input on Proposed Bicycle Action Plan



The City of Grand Rapids is seeking public input on a proposed Bicycle Action Plan that provides direction on policies, programs and practices as well as needed resources and recommended priorities, action steps and performance measures to create a world-class community for bicycling. The development of a bicycle plan was recommended in the Vital Streets Plan – approved by the City Commission in December 2016 – to further define recommended facility types and priorities for advancing additional improvements to a connected system of bicycling facilities.

The City is accepting comments on the draft Bicycle Action Plan through Aug. 17. To read the plan, visit grandrapidsmi.gov/Directory/Programs-and-Initiatives/Bicycle-Action-Plan. Feedback may be emailed to mobilegr@grcity.us, mailed to the City's Mobile GR-Parking Services Department, 50 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or called in to the City's 311 Customer Service at 311 or 616.456.3000. A public hearing on the plan is proposed for Aug. 14 during the 7 p.m. City Commission meeting in the ninth-floor Commission Chambers of City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave. NW. A vote on the plan is proposed for Sept. 18.

“We're working to move Grand Rapids forward as a community where bicycling for transportation and recreation is a safe, comfortable and integral part of daily life for people of all ages, abilities and socioeconomic levels,” said Kristin Bennett, the City's transportation planning and programs supervisor. “We want to hear from those who live, work and play in Grand Rapids on what they think about this plan so, together, we can foster a thriving bicycling community.”

The City is designated at a bronze level through the League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Communities initiative, which is a benchmarking program that gauges the quality of bicycling for all levels of people. The Bicycle Friendly Communities program awards silver, gold, platinum and diamond levels. A robust, actionable bicycle plan is a key component to improving a community's award level and its “bicycle friendliness.”

The Vision Zero 2018 Campaign & New Pedestrian Crossing Ordinance

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the City's new pedestrian crossing ordinance?

The City Commission approved a new ordinance that requires drivers to stop for pedestrians at all crosswalks as part of a comprehensive effort to lower Grand Rapids' higher-than-state average rate of pedestrian-involved crashes with motor vehicles.

How is the new ordinance a change from the City's past statute on pedestrian crossings?

The previous City ordinance required vehicle operators to simply "yield" the right-of-way instead of come to a complete stop. The new ordinance calls on motorists to fully stop for pedestrians at marked and unmarked crosswalks, except at intersections where the movement of traffic is regulated by a police officer or a traffic signal. In these cases, pedestrians will need to wait for the pedestrian "walk" signal to properly cross.

What is the Vision Zero campaign?

The City Commission's pedestrian crossing action is part of a new Vision Zero initiative to eliminate traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries by promoting safe driving behaviors and addressing pedestrians' vulnerability when crossing city streets. The goal of the Vision Zero campaign is to reduce crashes, prevent injuries and save lives by creating a culture of respect for all road users – pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers.

Who is most at risk from crashes with motor vehicles?

People walking and bicycling, children, the elderly, people of color

and people in low-income communities face a disproportionate risk of traffic injuries and fatalities. The intent of Vision Zero is to demonstrate the City's belief and commitment that even one traffic-related fatality or serious injury in Grand Rapids is too many. The City's new ordinance reflects that the safety of people walking, bicycling, using transit or operating a motor vehicle is of the

and 2016, based on the most recent data available. Nationally, pedestrian deaths make up 14 percent of the total traffic deaths in the United States – up from 11 percent in 2011. The National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL) attributes this uptick to the decreasing deaths of motorists and increasing numbers of Americans walking for transportation and recreation.



utmost importance when designing, maintaining and operating city streets. The City Commission's responsibility is to support policies that can help Grand Rapids combat pedestrian injuries and fatalities and create more walkable communities within Kent County that everybody can enjoy without fear.

Why is the new pedestrian crossing ordinance in Grand Rapids necessary?

The Commission's decision will help Grand Rapids achieve significant lasting improvements in pedestrian safety. Reported traffic crashes are increasing nationally, statewide and locally, including a nearly 21 percent increase in Grand Rapids between 2009

Does additional data exist that supports the City's new pedestrian crossing ordinance?

Yes. State data show that Kent County reported 790 pedestrian-involved crashes between 2012 and 2015, the third highest among all Michigan counties and just below Oakland County's 866 crashes – despite Kent County having only roughly half of Oakland County's population.

Among the Kent County pedestrian-involved crashes between 2012 and 2015, 439 occurred in Grand Rapids – or 56 percent of all crashes in the county. Additionally, 51.7 percent of pedestrian-involved crashes in the city during that span happened in or near an intersection, compared with 36.4 percent statewide, indicating a significant need for improvements at or near intersections.

What factors account for the rise in pedestrian crashes?

Among the trends associated with the rise in pedestrian fatalities – beyond the growing number of people walking for health, economic or environmental reasons – are increased motor vehicle traffic as gas prices remain stable, an improving economy that's putting more drivers on the road and the sharp rise in smartphone use, resulting in distracted pedestrians and drivers, according to a 2016 NCSL report. Alcohol is also a major factor in pedestrian fatalities: 36 percent of pedestrians killed in 2012 had a blood alcohol count above the

legal driving limit, although that number is down from 44 percent from the early 1980s, the NCSL noted. At least 27 states now mandate that drivers use necessary precaution if they observe an obviously intoxicated or incapacitated pedestrian, the NCSL reports.

Do other municipalities in Michigan have similar pedestrian crosswalk ordinances to Grand Rapids' new statute?

Yes. The cities of Ann Arbor and East Lansing have long enforced ordinances requiring drivers to stop for pedestrians at marked and uncontrolled crosswalks. An uncontrolled crosswalk typically means that a traffic control device is either not in place or in operation to dictate pedestrian movement. Most recently, Traverse City in 2011 passed an ordinance requiring drivers to halt their vehicles for pedestrians in marked and posted crosswalks, followed by a public education and enforcement campaign that began in 2014.

How does the pedestrian safety campaign align with the City's Driving Change campaign that promotes bicycle safety?

The City's pedestrian safety initiative follows the nationally heralded Driving Change bicycle education campaign that Grand Rapids launched in 2016 with Michigan Department of Transportation support. The campaign helped publicize Grand Rapids' 2015 "safe passing" ordinance, which requires motorists to keep at least 5 feet between the right side of their vehicle and bicyclists they are passing, as well as other bicycle safety rules.

During the Driving Change campaign's five-month reporting period in May through September 2016, police reports showed fatal or serious-injury crashes involving bicycles in Grand Rapids dropped to two compared with 11 during the same period of 2015. The two fatal/serious crashes between May and September 2016 represented an 81 percent decrease – and the lowest total in Grand Rapids since 2010. Total crashes involving bicyclists decreased by more than 40 percent in 2016 for the same five-month reporting period. The 42 crashes in 2016 was the lowest number of bicycle-involved crashes reported in Grand Rapids between May and September going back to 2004, the first year of available data.



Be in the know of what's happening in YOUR city and YOUR ward with GR Connect. Each month, GR Connect will be your source of news and activities from City Hall and your Police, Fire and Parks and Recreation departments as well as other City departments.

Subscribe to one or more GR Connect e-newsletter Ward editions:
<https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Directory/Programs-and-Initiatives/Subscribe-to-Our-Newsletter>

GRPD Unveils Two Crime Reduction Initiatives

In an effort to reduce crime and to increase cooperation and collaboration with the community while investigating crime, the Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD) this month began two community initiatives.

Gun Violence Door Hanger Initiative

The Police Department, in collaboration with the Silent Observer Program, has created new door hangers for use when officers are going door to door searching for information after a gunfire incident.

The goal of the door hangers is to eliminate and prevent violent acts, to engage and empower our community without fear of retaliation, to allow the community to flourish without crime and to make a positive change for all of Grand Rapids.

In the past six months, the GRPD has responded to and investigated:

- 94 violent gun crimes – including 4 adults and 1 child killed by gun violence
- 185 non-violent weapons offenses – including illegally carrying a concealed weapon (CCW) or careless/reckless discharge of firearm
- 170 reports of sounds of gun shots

“Often times, residents may not want to open their doors for police after such incidents for a variety of reasons,” according to GRPD Detective Unit Commander, Lieutenant Kristen Rogers.

“We are giving residents an opportunity to take back their neighborhoods without the fear of being seen talking to a police officer.”

She says this fear of providing investigators with information leaves some cases unsolved and can drastically increase the amount of time it takes to bring a suspect to justice.

The door hangers are two-sided, one side in English and the other in Spanish. They will be used by all officers and detectives during neighborhood canvasses and at incidents of gunfire. Each will be placed on residents’ doors in hopes they will call and relay what they have heard and seen, without having to talk to the police in public. The door hangers explain how they can call the police directly, but if for their own reasons they wish to remain anonymous, it explains this process as well.

Director of the Kent County Silent Observer Program Chris Cameron is eager to partner on this initiative.

“These door hangers remind residents that in order to help police stop, solve and prevent crime, they need to share what they know with police or Silent Observer and can do so in the privacy of their own home,” she said. “Silent Observer guarantees our users’ anonymity and is our community’s alternative to silence as it gives our residents the courage to stand up and speak out about crime.”

Voluntary Camera Registration Program

According to the GRPD, partnership is a critical component to solving crime in the community. Many cases are solved quickly with the help of security cameras in use – both residential and at businesses across the city. Time is of the essence when a crime occurs and that is why police are asking for the community’s partnership.

In an effort to reduce crime, improve living conditions and keep with evolving technological advances, the Grand Rapids Police Department has created a “Voluntary Camera Registration Program.” This online registration allows residents and business owners to let the police department know that they have a camera on their property. These camera locations will be added to a database only accessible to law enforcement. Having a database with known locations of surveillance cameras will make it quicker for law enforcement to obtain video footage that may help to solve a crime.

The GRPD stresses that registration is completely voluntary and law enforcement officials will not have direct access to camera footage or access at any time. If a crime does occur at a home, business or in the general vicinity, the GRPD may contact the property owner to request images from the surveillance system. It is the police department’s goal to work



collaboratively with the community to reduce crime as well as the time it takes to solve a crime.

Grand Rapids Police Department Crime Prevention Coordinator Julie Niemchick said, “This program is a great way to assemble extra eyes for recording crime and suspicious behavior when needed. It also builds a stronger, safer community.”

To register a camera, search “Camera” at grandrapidsmi.gov or visit grpdreporting.grand-rapids.mi.us/. Registration requires name/business, address, telephone and location of the camera information.

For more information about the Voluntary Camera Registration Program or for troubleshooting advice, please call the Crime Prevention Office at 616.456.3363.

Commission OKs New Michigan Street Corridor Transportation Partnership



The City Commission approved a new three-year pilot program partnership with the Interurban Transit Partnership (The Rapid) and Spectrum Health that will dramatically increase bus service to help reduce traffic and ease parking congestion along the Michigan Street corridor.

“This is a great example of a creative public-private partnership that helps Grand Rapids move closer to being a more sustainable, safe and

prosperous city by providing a full range of attractive transportation options and offering incentives to change travel behaviors,” Mayor Rosalynn Bliss said.

“Enhanced transit operations along the Michigan Street corridor are critical to our efforts to accommodate the trend of increasing traffic, anticipate future land-use changes and support economic investment and new development in a vital business district.”

The pact will significantly improve The Rapid’s Route 19 service that operates along the “Medical Mile” from Michigan Street as well as a section of the near West Side between Bridge and Leonard streets. The route includes stops near such anchor institutions as Spectrum Health, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids Community College, Michigan State University’s

College of Human Medicine and the Bridge Street Market urban grocery store and cafe under construction by Meijer.

“Leaders of the City, Spectrum Health and The Rapid all have a vested interest in continuing the success of the Michigan Street corridor,” said Peter Varga, CEO of The Rapid. “Together, we are committed to ensuring the Medical Mile flourishes as a great place that is an attractive, accessible and convenient destination.”

Highlights of the plan that begins Aug. 27 include:

- Introducing Route 19 as a no-fare service – similar to the City’s existing no-fare DASH downtown-area shuttle service – by subsidizing the route with approximately \$293,000 in

annual funding support from each Spectrum Health and the City’s Mobile GR and Parking Services Department. The aim is to reduce traffic and parking congestion along Michigan Street by promoting fare-free ridership, including an awareness and education outreach effort that encourages Spectrum Health staff to use The Rapid to travel between offices and the medical center for meetings vs. driving personal vehicles.

- Expanding the service to operate 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday to better meet the needs of employees and students. Estimates suggest Route 19 ridership will grow from approximately 54 daily passengers

■ SEE MICHIGAN ST CORRIDOR/ B16



General Information

- Ages 18 & up - all fitness levels welcome
- Classes begin the week of Sept 9 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 our Facebook page
- You are encouraged to consult with a physician prior to beginning an exercise program

Three ways to register



ONLINE
recreationgr.us



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 July 30-August 24

Register between July 30-Aug 24*

	Resident	Nonresident
1 class per week	\$55	\$65
2 classes per week	\$85	\$95
3 classes per week	\$115	\$125

*online registration closes August 24

Register on Aug 25** or after

	Resident	Nonresident
1 class per week	\$65	\$75
2 classes per week	\$95	\$105
3 classes per week	\$125	\$135

**online registration not available

Looking for flexibility?

P Adult Fitness Punch cards

Purchase a punch card and attend any of the classes listed with the **P** 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.

Reg #	# of Classes /Punches	Fee Resident	Fee Nonresident
366000A	5	\$40	\$50
366000B	10	\$70	\$80
366000C	20	\$100	\$110
366000D	30	\$130	\$140

*online registration closes August 24

CYCLING

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR	REG #
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	SADIE R.	366402A
CYCLING P 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 TUE TUE WED WED THU SAT	5:30 - 6:15 PM 6:00 - 6:45 AM 6:15 - 7:00 PM 4:30 - 5:15 PM 5:30 - 6:15 PM 6:00 - 6:45 AM 8:30 - 9:15 AM	P&R CYCLING STUDIO	CAROL S. AILEEN M. STEVE C. JOAN O. JOAN O. AILEEN M. CAROL S.	366401A 366401B 366401G 366401C 366401D 366401E 366401F

DANCE

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR	REG #
BALLROOM DANCING Learn the Salsa, Waltz, Foxtrot, East Coast Swing, Cha Cha, Rumba, and Tango.	MON	7:30 - 8:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	JULIE G.	366800A
BALLROOM DANCING: THE NEXT STEPS A follow-up to Ballroom Dancing. Continue practicing basic dances and learn new moves to add flair.	FRI	4:30 - 5:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	JULIE G.	366801A
ZUMBA P A fusion of Latin and International music. This class combines high energy and motivating music with unique moves and combinations.	MON THU	5:30 - 6:25 PM 6:00 - 6:55 PM	GARFIELD PARK GYM THE CRANE ROOM AT COLDBROOK	AMY K. AMY K.	366803A 366803B
WERQ P A fiercely fun dance workout based on current Billboard 100 pop, rock and hip-hop songs. You don't have to be a dancer to join but you'll feel like one while you are blasting away calories during this class.	MON	6:30 - 7:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	MONICA S.	366502A
GROOVE P 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 WED	6:30 - 7:25 PM 5:30 - 6:25 PM	KEC OAKLEIGH KEC OAKLEIGH	TERRI S. TERRI S.	366804A 366804B









Register online: recreationgr.us 

Register online: recreationgr.us

CARDIO & STRENGTH

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9

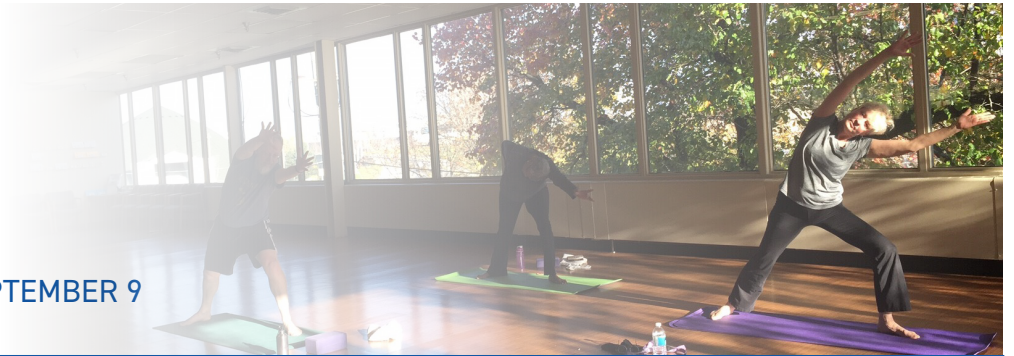





CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR	REG #
CARDIO & CORE  This class combines a variety of strength and aerobic conditioning exercises followed by Pilates-based core work and stretching. Utilizing a variety of equipment and unique training circuits, participants will work all major muscle groups and stay inspired and energized.	WED	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	ZIYAH D.	366501A
KICKBOXING  Mix up your routine with balance, coordination and strength-building moves. Strengthen your legs, upper body, abs and burn calories.	MON	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	SADIE R.	366303A
POUND®  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. Punch card holders must have their own Ripstix®. Ripstix® available at registration for \$20.	THU	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KRISTIN P.	WITH STIX: 366102A WITHOUT: 366102B
STRONG BY ZUMBA  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.	WED	6:30 - 7:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	AMY K.	366507A
WATER AEROBICS  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.	TUE THU SAT	6:30 - 7:25 PM 6:30 - 7:25 PM 9:00 - 9:55 AM	CITY HIGH POOL CITY HIGH POOL CITY HIGH POOL	KATHLEEN H. KATHLEEN H. KATHLEEN H.	366702A 366702B 366702C
PILATES  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..	MON	6:00 - 6:55 PM	OTTAWA HILLS HS	ZIYAH D.	366200A
CORE CAMP  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.	TUE	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KRISTIN P.	366504A
CIRCUIT TRAINING  Circuit training burns calories, builds muscles, improves endurance and body composition. Each week will offer a new series of strength and/or cardio exercises of varying levels of difficulty and focusing on specific body parts for a comprehensive workout. Expect to work hard and see results in this fun class.	TUE	6:00 - 6:55 PM	THE CRANE ROOM AT COLDBROOK	JULIE B.	366514A

Register online: recreationgr.us

YOGA

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9



CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR	REG #
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.	SUN	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KRISTA D.	366100A
	MON	5:30 - 6:25 PM	KEC OAKLEIGH	TERRI S.	366100 B
	MON	6:30 - 7:25 PM	GARFIELD PARK GYM	AMY K.	366100 C
	MON	12:15 - 1:00 PM	CITY HALL	KAYE E.	366100 D
	TUE	6:00 - 6:55 PM	N. PARK PRESBYTERIAN	BETH H.	366100 E
	TUE	6:30 - 7:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	SARA R.	366100 F
	WED	5:30 - 6:25 PM	KENT COUNTY HEALTH	KRISTA D.	366100 G
	WED	6:15 - 7:10 PM	PALMER ELEMENTARY	KATHY W.	366100 H
	WED	6:30 - 7:25 PM	KEC OAKLEIGH	TERRI S.	366100 I
	THU	12:15 - 1:00 PM	CITY HALL	KAYE E.	366100 J
	THU	4:30 - 5:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	MARLA F.	366100 K
	SAT	9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	SARA R.	366100 L
	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.	MON	9:00 - 9:55 AM	GARFIELD PARK GYM	TBD
TUE		9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S.	366101B
WED		9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KAYE E.	366101C
THU		9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S.	366101D
QIGONG/TAI CHI EASY™  This graceful form of intentional exercise involves a series of movements performed in a slow, focused manner accompanied by deep breathing. Unleash your inner healer and cultivate your Qi using gentle movement, self-applied massage, breath work and meditation. This practice is perfect for anyone looking for tools to manage stress and/or to increase their vitality.	SUN	4:30 - 5:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	ALESHEIA H.	366600A
	WED	10:00 - 10:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	ALESHEIA H.	366600B

	Resident	Non
Registration Fee*	\$60	\$70

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR	REG #
FAMILY YOGA Experience the world of yoga as family. Practice yoga in a fun and creative way - there will be yoga poses done separately and together. Children should be at least 5 years old to participate. *Fee includes 1 adult and 1 child registration.	SAT	10:15 - 11:15 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	SARA R.	366107A

FREE COMMUNITY CLASSES

These community classes are offered free of charge to everyone ages 18 & up. Simply show up to the class you want to attend.

FREE COMMUNITY CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9

FREE COMMUNITY INDOOR CLASSES	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
CARDIO FITNESS Want to begin exercising? Looking for something to spice up your current workout routine? Join us for a different type of cardio workout each week.	SAT	9:00 - 9:55 AM	THE CRANE ROOM AT COLDBROOK
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. Bikes are limited - first come, first served.	THU	6:00 - 6:45 PM	P&R CYCLING STUDIO

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. A \$5 cancellation fee will be charged if the refund is requested after the early bird registration deadline but prior to the first session of a class. If a refund is granted to a participant who registered online, the convenience fee will not be refunded.

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. However, the online convenience fee is non-refundable.

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 the deadline for processing.

CLASS LOCATIONS:

- City Hall - 300 Monroe Ave NW
- City High Pool - 1720 Plainfield Ave NE
- Crane Room at Coldbrook - 1101 Monroe Ave NW
- Garfield Park Gym - 2111 Madison Ave SE
- KEC Oakleigh - 2223 Gordon St NW
- Kent County Health - 700 Fuller Ave NE
- N. Park Presbyterian - 500 North Park St NE
- Ottawa Hills HS - 2055 Rosewood Ave SE
- Palmer Elementary - 309 Palmer St NE
- P&R Cycling Studio - 201 Market Ave SW
- P&R Fitness Studio - 201 Market Ave SW
- Richmond Park - 1101 Richmond St NW
- Weiland Studios - 2920 Fuller Ave NE
- West MI Fencing Academy - 1111 Godfrey Ave SW

WELL ROUNDED SERIES



CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	FEE	REG #
SELF DEFENSE/YOGA Class consists of 2 hours of hands-on self defense training and 1 hour of yoga. Learn how to handle a confrontation and how to use safety items - including your voice - as well as strikes and escapes.	WED, AUG 15 THU, AUG 16	12:00 - 3:00 PM 6:00 - 9:00 PM	201 MARKET	\$60 RESIDENT \$70 NON RES	367800A 367800B
INTRO TO MINDFULNESS Mindfulness is an ability to notice what's going on within you and outside of you, without judging it or trying to change it. Join Terri for this intro to mindfulness and experience three different practices: a breathing exercise, a body scan/relaxation, and a short-guided meditation.	WED, SEPT 19 THU, SEPT 20	12:00 - 1:00 PM 6:30 - 7:30 PM	201 MARKET	\$15 RESIDENT \$25 NON RES	367801A 367801B
DEEP REST YOGA Gentle movement, restorative yoga & Yoga Nidra. Yoga Nidra, translated as yogic sleep, is a five-stage process that begins with a body scan to observe one's physicality. It incorporates meditation on the breath, the balancing of emotional states, visualization, and self-healing. While practicing Yoga Nidra, we move through different stages of consciousness just as in sleep: We shift between the waking state, dream state, and finally to deep, dreamless sleep.	WED, OCT 17 THU, OCT 18	12:00 - 2:00 PM 6:30 - 8:30 PM	201 MARKET	\$30 RESIDENT \$40 NON RES	367802A 367802B
BEAT THE WINTER BLUES With the changing seasons and colder days approaching, join us to learn how exercise can help beat the winter blues. Get an introductory exercise plan to boost confidence, mood and keep you moving this winter. Learn how to get motivated to maintain a healthy mind and body by being active through the chilly months ahead. Come ready to exercise, this class includes a 20-minute presentation followed by 15 minutes of physical activity.	WED, NOV 14 THU, NOV 15	12:00 - 1:00 PM 6:30 - 7:30 PM	201 MARKET	\$15 RESIDENT \$25 NON RES	367803A 367803B

SWIM LESSONS

Resident Non
Registration Fee \$38 \$48

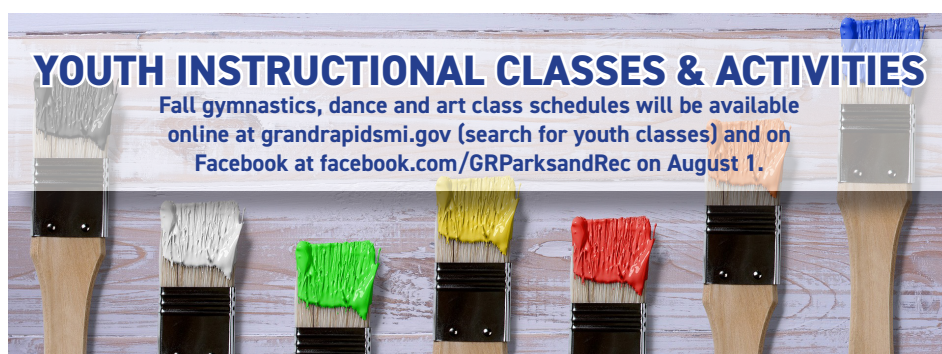
SESSION I: CLASS MEETS ONCE PER WEEK FROM SEPTEMBER 18 - OCTOBER 27		DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
PRESCHOOL LEVEL I (AGES 3-5) Orients children in the pool and helps them gain basic aquatic skills.	TUE	5:00 - 5:30 PM	CITY HIGH POOL	321101C1 321101C2	
	SAT	11:30 AM - 12:00 PM			
PRESCHOOL LEVEL II (AGES 3-5) Kids gain greater independence in their skills and get more comfortable in the water.	TUE	5:00 - 5:30 PM	CITY HIGH POOL	321102C1 321102C2	
	SAT	11:30 AM - 12:00 PM			
LEVEL I (AGES 6+) Helps kids feel comfortable in the water.	TUE	5:45 - 6:30 PM	CITY HIGH POOL	331101C1 331101C2	
	SAT	10:30 - 11:15 AM			
LEVEL II (AGES 6+) Child must have passed or show skills required for Level I. Class builds on fundamental skills.	TUE	5:45 - 6:30 PM	CITY HIGH POOL	331102C1 331102C2	
	SAT	10:30 - 11:15 AM			
LEVEL III (AGES 6+) Child must have passed or show skills required for Level II. Builds on the skills in Level II through more guided practice in deeper water.	TUE	6:45 - 7:30 PM	CITY HIGH POOL	331103C1 331103C2	
	SAT	9:30 - 10:15 AM			
LEVEL IV (AGES 6+) Develops confidence in the skills learned and improves other aquatic skills. Must have passed Level III or demonstrate the skills required for Level III to participate.	TUE	6:45 - 7:30 PM	CITY HIGH POOL	331104C1 331104C2	
	SAT	9:30 - 10:15 AM			

SESSION II: CLASS MEETS ONCE PER WEEK FROM OCTOBER 30 - DECEMBER 15 NO CLASS THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18		DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
PRESCHOOL LEVEL I (AGES 3-5) Orients children in the pool and helps them gain basic aquatic skills.	TUE	5:00 - 5:30 PM	CITY HIGH POOL	321101C3 321101C4	
	SAT	11:30 AM - 12:00 PM			
PRESCHOOL LEVEL II (AGES 3-5) Kids gain greater independence in their skills and get more comfortable in the water.	TUE	5:00 - 5:30 PM	CITY HIGH POOL	321102C3 321102C4	
	SAT	11:30 AM - 12:00 PM			
LEVEL I (AGES 6+) Helps kids feel comfortable in the water.	TUE	5:45 - 6:30 PM	CITY HIGH POOL	331101C3 331101C4	
	SAT	10:30 - 11:15 AM			
LEVEL II (AGES 6+) Child must have passed or show skills required for Level I. Class builds on fundamental skills.	TUE	5:45 - 6:30 PM	CITY HIGH POOL	331102C3 331102C4	
	SAT	10:30 - 11:15 AM			
LEVEL III (AGES 6+) Child must have passed or show skills required for Level II. Builds on the skills in Level II through more guided practice in deeper water.	TUE	6:45 - 7:30 PM	CITY HIGH POOL	331103C3 331103C4	
	SAT	9:30 - 10:15 AM			
LEVEL IV (AGES 6+) Develops confidence in the skills learned and improves other aquatic skills. Must have passed Level III or demonstrate the skills required for Level III to participate.	TUE	6:45 - 7:30 PM	CITY HIGH POOL	331104C3 331104C4	
	SAT	9:30 - 10:15 AM			

FENCING

Resident Non
Registration Fee \$79 \$89

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
BEGINNING OLYMPIC FENCING CAMP (AGES 7-17) Take your first step to becoming an Olympian. These camps are for individuals with little or no fencing experience. By participating in various games, campers will have fun and become acquainted with fencing stance, movement, strategies and rules. This could be your first step to becoming an Olympic Fencer.	AUGUST 14-16	1:00 - 2:30 PM	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY	364102A 364102B
	AUGUST 14-16	6:00 - 7:30 PM		



YOUTH INSTRUCTIONAL CLASSES & ACTIVITIES
 Fall gymnastics, dance and art class schedules will be available online at grandrapidsmi.gov (search for youth classes) and on Facebook at facebook.com/GRParksandRec on August 1.



KICK OFF THE FALL SEASON
 North and south end locations, coed divisions ages 4-15, play begins Sept 4
 Register online at grandrapidsmi.gov (search for soccer)

Register online: recreationgr.us

ENRICHMENT/ADVENTURE CLASSES



CLASS	DATE(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
<p>DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY</p> <p>Digital cameras are powerful tools, but they only produce great results when you know how to use all the features. Join Grand Rapids photographer, Josh Weiland, for a hands-on photography course! As the lead photographer at Weiland Studios, Josh has the experience to answer all your photography questions. Designed for anyone who owns a camera and wants to learn how to take better photos of family, friends, or nature.</p> <p>Ages 16+, Resident: \$50, Non: \$60</p>	WEDNESDAYS SEPT 12, 19 & 26	6:30 - 8:00 PM	WEILAND STUDIOS	384109A
<p>DIGITAL PHOTO EDITING</p> <p>Make your photographs look amazing. Unlock the power of your editing software and learn the art of editing digital photographs in this hands-on course. Josh, the lead photographer at Weiland Studios, will teach you how to improve lighting and contrast, crop and straighten, adjust tone and tint, and much more. Learn basic photo editing skills that you can use on any device - including your computer or phone. No software purchase necessary - you will learn using a free online software program.</p> <p>Ages 16+, Resident: \$50, Non: \$60</p>	TUESDAYS SEPT 11 & 18	6:30 - 8:00 PM	WEILAND STUDIOS	384108A
<p>ECO-PLAY CONNECTION</p> <p>Join a community of children who love to explore, discover the wonder of the natural world and how they fit into it. Eco-Play Connection uses the natural areas of our parks to offer children something unique: time to play in nature by connecting with the outdoors through active hands-on experiences. Learn to navigate trails, search for salamanders, play games, listen to bird songs, observe life cycles, race sticks down a stream, build forts, climb trees and read nature's signs. Rebecca Brilowski-Podbregar is the creator and instructor of Eco-Play Connection. She has a master's degree in urban education and is an experienced elementary Montessori teacher.</p> <p>*Please ensure correct email address and phone numbers are on file as the instructor communicates to class participants by phone and email throughout the session.</p> <p>Ages 6-12, Resident: \$50, Non: \$60</p>	THURSDAYS SEPT 13 - NOV 1	5:00 - 6:30 PM	VARIOUS PARKS*	384106A
<p>BEGINNER KAYAKING</p> <p>Learn the basics of Kayaking. From basic safety, learning about safety equipment, to launching and paddling. All equipment included.</p> <p>Ages 10+, Resident: \$45, Non: \$55</p>	WEDNESDAYS SEPT 12 - OCT 3	5:30 - 6:30 PM	RICHMOND PARK POND	384104A

ACTIVITIES FOR AGES 50+ AT GARFIELD PARK GYM



These activities are suitable for ages 50+, however, everyone is welcome to participate. In addition to these classes, monthly community activities such as card games, book club and knitting are available. Stop in to pick up a monthly calendar of activities or to check out any of our classes. Find more information at www.grandrapidsmi.gov or by calling 616-456-3696, option 1.

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	PRICE
<p>STRETCH AND FLEX</p> <p>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.</p>	MONDAYS WEDNESDAYS	10:00 - 11:00 AM 10:00 - 11:00 AM	\$3/class
<p>ACTIVE ADULTS FITNESS</p> <p>Come join the fun - class includes a warm-up, standing cardio and strength training. Classes are drop-in and ongoing.</p>	TUESDAYS THURSDAYS	11:30 AM - 12:25 PM 11:30 AM - 12:25 PM	\$3/class
<p>WALKING CLUB</p> <p>Walk your way to health and meet new friends. You can walk in the Garfield Park Community Gym or in the park. Strollers are welcome.</p>	MON & WED TUE & THU	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Free
<p>COMMUNITY TIME</p> <p>Local professionals and neighborhood groups are invited to share information about services and opportunities in our city. Check out our monthly calendar for dates and times.</p>	TUESDAYS THURSDAYS	10:00 AM 10:00 AM	Free

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

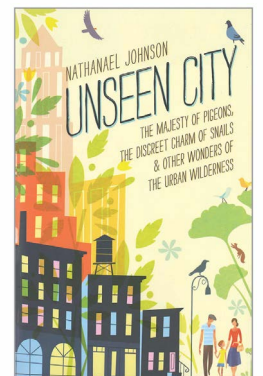
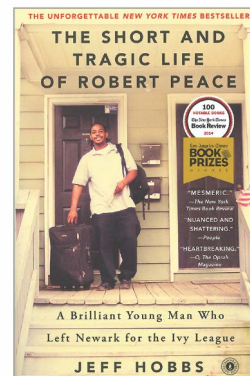
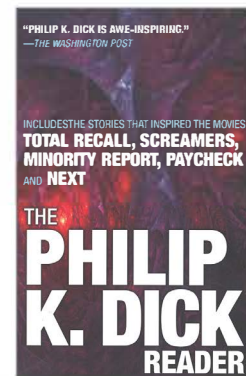
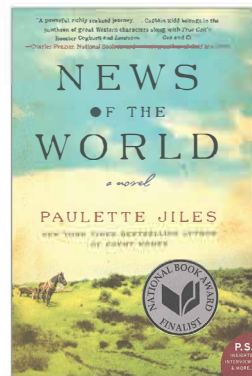
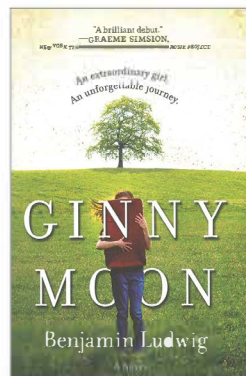
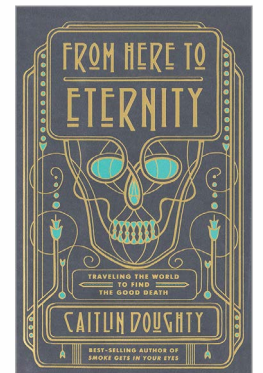
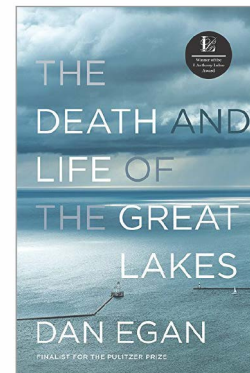
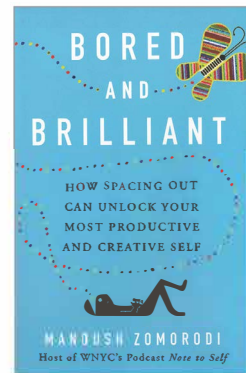
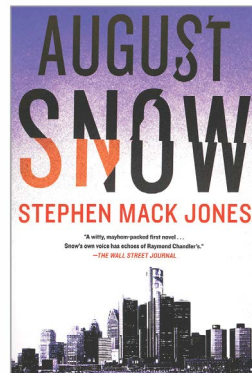
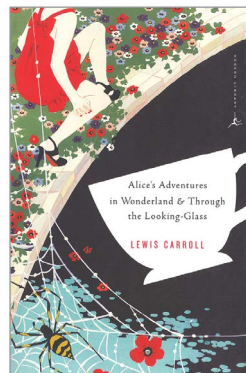
M-T 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
W-Th 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM



616.988.5400 • WWW.GRPL.ORG

GR Reads: Summer Reading All Grown Up

Through August 31 at all library locations



The Grand Rapids Public Library has once again partnered with area organizations to present GR Reads, a summer reading program designed for adults. Come discover the 10 interesting books that our smart staff has selected and join your neighbors for fun, informative programs inspired by the books. For a complete list of books, the fun, free events and locations, visit www.grpl.org/greads or stop by any GRPL location.

Sponsored by:



Media Sponsors:



Events



Falcons and Chimney Swifts:

An Urban Birdwalk

Thursday, August 2, 7 p.m.

(Rain Date: Monday, August 6)

Main Library – 111 Library St NE – meet on the front steps

Join the Grand Rapids Audubon Club for a walk around downtown to see birds that have found ways to thrive in heavily populated areas. We will be on the lookout for Chimney Swifts, which have learned how to roost in homes' chimneys and large smoke stacks, and Peregrine Falcons, that were introduced years ago atop McKay Tower as a way to control the pigeon population. Wear good walking shoes for this 90-minute walk.



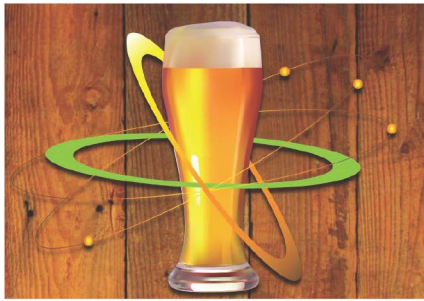
GR Reads: The Movies –

Total Recall

Tuesday, August 7, 8 p.m.

Wealthy Theatre – 1130 Wealthy St SE

In the year 2084, a worker leaves Earth for the mind-bending reality of a Martian mining colony ruled over by a dictator who can alter reality to suit his whims. Based on the Philip K. Dick novel *We Can Remember It for You Wholesale*. Tickets are \$3 with a valid GRPL library card. Use code GRPL2018 to purchase tickets online.



Science on Tap: Exploring the Ecology of the Great Lakes

Thursday, August 9, 8 p.m.

SpeakEZ Lounge – 600 Monroe NW

Join Dr. Mark Luttenton from GVSU for a deep dive into the ecology of the Great Lakes. When Europeans first arrived, the Great Lakes ecosystem was evolving into a diverse and stable ecosystem. Europeans viewed this as an economic opportunity and began to exploit the resources of the region. Dr. Luttenton will provide an ecological overview of the Great Lakes from the time they took shape to how they function today.



Lawn Party Extravaganza Saturday, August 11, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Riverside Park – 3060 Monroe Ave NE (bandshell area)

Bring the whole family for a trip down the rabbit hole! Celebrate summer and all things Alice with giant lawn games, Wonderland crafts, and tasty treats that will make you grow very tall or very small (results may vary). Dress as your favorite character and be prepared to have so much fun you will leave grinning like a Cheshire Cat. This program will be held rain or shine.



Introduction to Zentangle

Monday, August 13, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 16, 6:30 p.m.

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Come discover the wonderful benefits of the Zentangle® Drawing Method! The Zentangle Method is a fun, relaxing and easy-to-learn way of creating beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Taught by Amy Kam of the peaceful pen, learn the techniques and basic steps of creating a Zentangle work of art. Discover the gift of relaxation, expanded awareness, enhanced focus, new techniques for problem-solving and uncover new ways to see beauty or embrace the unexpected. No art experience is necessary and beginners are welcome. All supplies are included.



Beyond Her Grave Bicycle Tour: The Legacies of Women Buried in Fulton Street and Oakhill Cemeteries

Tuesday, August 14, 6 p.m.

Saturday, August 18, 11 a.m.

(Rain date: Tuesday, August 21, 6 p.m.)

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

She Rides Her Own Way and the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council will co-host a one-of-a-kind bicycle cemetery tour highlighting notable women of the past. Leaving from the Main Library, the tour will stop at Fulton Street Cemetery, the city's oldest public burial ground. It will then proceed to Oakhill Cemetery, filled with architectural treasures. Learn about the historic women who shaped the Grand Rapids community as you visit their final resting place. If you are unable to ride but want to take part in the tour, visit grpl.org for meeting times at each cemetery.



Resiliency and Perseverance: An Evening with Pastor Troy Evans

Wednesday, August 15, 6:30 p.m.

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Pastor Troy Evans started out a lot like Robert Peace — a young black man growing up in the inner city. He lived in a rough neighborhood and was drawn to gang life at an early age. But where Peace's story ends in tragedy, Pastor Troy was able to turn his circumstances around and create a thriving life and unique ministry that touches the lives of young people just like him. Join us for a conversation centered on resiliency and perseverance and its impact on the lives of urban youth.



Protecting and Restoring the Great Lakes

Wednesday, August 22, 7 p.m.

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Emily Finnell, chief strategist of the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes, will share past and ongoing efforts to protect and restore our Great Lakes. She coordinated the development and implementation of the Michigan Water Strategy, a 30-year plan that focuses on healthy ecosystems, enhancing the use and enjoyment of Michigan's water resources, and growing stewardship. Learn about the initiatives and policies around the Great Lakes. A question and answer period will follow the presentation.

Digital Resources at GRPL

The Grand Rapids Public Library has a wide variety of digital resources for free with your library card. These services offer free access to thousands of eBooks, audiobooks, movies, documentaries and television shows.

OverDrive®

With OverDrive, you can check out eBook and digital audiobook titles for free with your Grand Rapids Public Library card. With thousands of titles to choose from, you'll be sure to find something that meets your interests. With OverDrive's mobile app Libby, you can download titles for offline use. eBooks can also be downloaded and read on e-ink readers such as Amazon Kindle.



In addition to eBooks, audiobooks and digital comics, Hoopla offers streaming music, movies and television shows. Selections include many bestselling eBooks, albums and movies as well as many classics and lesser known titles. With the Hoopla Digital app, you can download digital content for offline use.



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2018 Summer Reading Challenge

Through September 3 at all library locations

The Grand Rapids Public Library's Summer Reading Challenge is a free and fun way to inspire your child to read. Kids challenge themselves to read a certain number of books or a certain number of minutes during the summer. Studies show that children who read during the summer maintain their reading levels when they return to school in the fall. The Summer Reading Challenge keeps kids motivated to read with interactive events, prizes and team spirit.

When you reach your goal, stop into any GRPL location between July 23 and September 9 to finish the Summer Reading Challenge and pick up your prize.

There's still time to take the challenge! Sign up at any GRPL location or visit www.grpl.org/summerreading.

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Events for Kids



Bubbleman Ron
Tuesday, July 31

10:30 a.m. – Main Library
2 p.m. – West Leonard Branch

Wednesday, August 1

10:30 a.m. – Seymour Branch
3 p.m. – Yankee Clipper Branch
6:30 p.m. – Main Library

Summer Reading Celebration
Tuesday, August 7

10:30 a.m. – Main Library
10:30 a.m. – Van Belkum Branch
2 p.m. – Madison Square Branch
2 p.m. – West Leonard Branch

Wednesday, August 8

10:30 a.m. – Seymour Branch
10:30 a.m. – West Side Branch
3 p.m. – Ottawa Hills Branch
3 p.m. – Yankee Clipper Branch
6:30 p.m. – Main Library

Events for Teens

Writing Workshop with Shani Womack

Thursday, August 2

3 p.m. – Main Library

Flint native Shani Womack brings her love of community and storytelling to this writing workshop. She will show the importance of storytelling and how people from all walks of life can find ways to share their own stories.



Fall Storytimes

For ages 0 – 5 years

Baby & Me Storytime

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

Mondays, September 10 – November 12

12:30 p.m. – West Leonard Branch

6:30 p.m. – Main Library

Wednesdays, September 12 – November 14

11 a.m. – Yankee Clipper Branch

Thursdays, September 13 – November 15

10:30 a.m. – Seymour Branch

Toddler Time

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

Tuesdays, September 11 – November 13

11 a.m. – Main Library

Wednesdays, September 12 – November 14

10:30 a.m. – Seymour Branch

11 a.m. – West Leonard Branch

Thursdays, September 13 – November 15

11 a.m. – Yankee Clipper Branch

Pajama Time

Come explore learning through fun stories, movement, and music activities in this evening storytime. Pajama Time is a 30 minute storytime followed by a hands-on activity and playtime. Wear your pajamas and get those wiggles out before bed!

Tuesdays, September 11 – November 13

6:30 p.m. – Seymour Branch

Thursdays, September 13 – November 15

6:30 p.m. – Madison Square Branch

Bilingual Pajama Time

Join us for a bilingual storytime and share stories, rhymes, music and movement with the whole family. The 30-minute English and Spanish storytime is followed by a hands-on activity and playtime.

Mondays, September 10 – November 12

6:30 p.m. – West Leonard Branch

STEAM Ahead

Children ages 3-5 can discover the world around them through science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM). STEAM Ahead is a 20 minute storytime followed by 25 minutes of hands on activities.

Tuesdays, September 11 – November 13

6:30 p.m. – Yankee Clipper Branch

Wednesdays, September 12 – November 14

11 a.m. – Main Library

Thursdays, September 13 – November 15

11 a.m. – West Leonard Branch

Labor Day Closings

The following branches will be closed on Saturday, September 1:

- Madison Square Branch
- Ottawa Hills Branch
- Van Belkum Branch
- West Side Branch

All library locations will be closed Sunday, September 2 and Monday, September 3 for the Labor Day holiday.

Sunday Hours

The Main Library is closed Sundays in the summer.

Sunday hours at the Main Library (1 to 5 p.m.) will resume on Sunday, September 9.

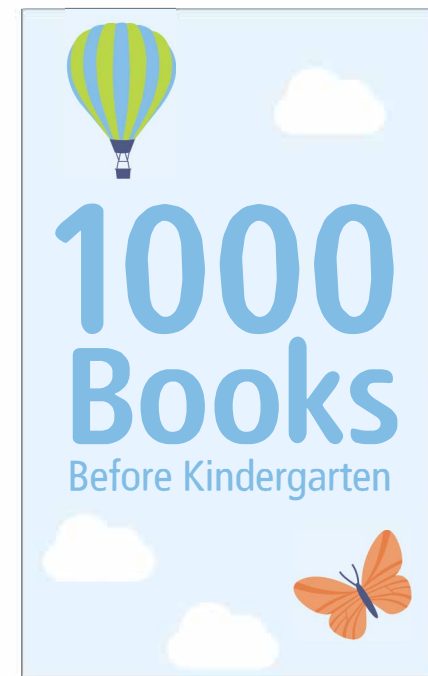
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

The Grand Rapids Public Library offers the nationally acclaimed early literacy program 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. This free program encourages parents and caregivers to read 1,000 books to their child before they start school.

The goal of the program is to provide a simple and fun approach to growing strong early literacy skills. Studies show that reading to a child from birth aids in brain development, bonding and developing skills like letter recognition that help a child be ready to read.

Families can sign up for 1000 Books Before Kindergarten at any GRPL location. They will receive a free starter pack that includes a tracking booklet, growth chart and book recommendations. Children receive a special sticker for each 100 books read and larger prizes at 500 and 1,000 books. It is free to participate in the program.

The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program is offered at all Grand Rapids Public Library locations. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 616.988.5400 or visit grpl.org/1000books.



DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

A COMMUNITY EXHIBIT HONORING DAY OF THE DEAD

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31 – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Would you like to honor a loved one who has passed away? Consider creating an altar at our annual Día de los Muertos event to celebrate their life and share their memory with others.

Visit www.grpl.org/dayofthedead to download an application.

MIÉRCOLES, 31 DE OCTUBRE – DOMINGO, 4 DE NOVIEMBRE

¿Le gustaría honrar a un ser querido que ha fallecido? Considere la creación de un altar en nuestro evento anual del Día de los Muertos para celebrar su vida y compartir su memoria con los demás.

Visite www.grpl.org/dayofthedead para llenar una solicitud.

Michigan St Corridor

Continued from B3

to as many as 800 during the workweek. No weekend service is currently proposed.

- Increasing the frequency of The Rapid's Route 19 service. Buses will arrive and depart at stops every 10 minutes during peak hours from 5:20 a.m. to 8:41 a.m. and then again from 3:21 p.m. to 5:41 p.m. During nonpeak hours, buses will stop every 15 minutes.

“The Route 19 improvements will benefit the City’s parking customers,” said Josh Naramore, Mobile GR and Parking Services manager. “This proposal offers additional parking options to employees and residents by connecting existing facilities that have capacity on the west side of the river, such as the Scribner Lot and Lots 7, 8 and 9, which have available monthly permit parking for \$48 or daily parking ranging from \$2 to \$4. It also allows us to explore additional park-and-ride investments along the corridor to provide more capacity and options.”

The City Commission’s decision aligns with recommendations in the Michigan Street Corridor Plan. The report notes that even with four lanes in each direction, the Michigan Street path can move about

4,000 cars per day – a volume of traffic that is routinely exceeded at certain times of the day and occasionally poses hazards to emergency vehicle drivers’ ability get through due to gridlock and congestion. Projected development by 2035 predicts the corridor will have 15,000 daytime employees arriving and then leaving over two peak hours, in addition to the creation of up to 10,000 new residential units.

“We are very enthusiastic about this partnership – for Spectrum Health, this plan supplements our long-standing, extensive employee shuttle service as our staff transportation needs continue to grow,”

said Rick Redetzke, senior vice president at Spectrum Health. “We are confident this plan will touch people who have never previously considered public transportation and build acceptance of transit as a viable option. This plan also will help Grand Rapids develop lasting solutions to challenges, such as parking, while

allowing for long-term growth along the entire Michigan Street corridor, creating jobs and reliable transportation for both workers and people who live along the route.”



Labor Day Community Bridge Walk

Monday, September 3

Ah-Nab-Awen Park

10 a.m. - Community Bridge Walk
Walk the downtown bridges with fellow community members and Mayor Bliss

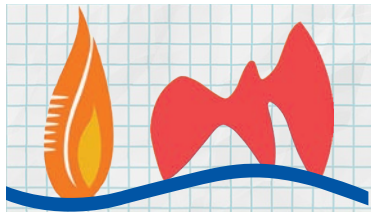
11 a.m. - West Michigan Labor Fest

- Kids Rides & Games
- Food
- Free Admission to the Ford Museum
- Car Show
- Live Music



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

Thank You, Grand Rapids!

By Teresa Weatherall Neal, M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools



Two years after we broke ground on the first bond project, progress is being made to secure, connect, and transform our district.

SECURE

In order to adapt to the complex security concerns of the 21st Century, \$10 million has been set aside to modify entrances at schools to

improve security. The first phase of modified entrances will begin this month at Burton Middle School, Campus Elementary School, César E. Chávez Elementary School, Gerald R. Ford Academic Center, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy. Work will include upgraded technology, card readers, and cameras, as well as new glass, metal, carpentry, carpeting, and door hardware as needed.

CONNECT

During the 2017-2018 school year, over 10,000 new student devices were deployed to classrooms throughout the district. These devices allow students to better interact with curriculum and teachers. Instructional staff devices have also been upgraded as more than 1,400 teachers, staff, and principals have been equipped with new Microsoft Surface Pro 4 laptops.

Classrooms throughout the district have been upgraded with new state-of-the-art, interactive, wireless projection capabilities. This also includes Buchanan Elementary School, City High Middle School, and Museum School's high school campus, which will open this fall with all new classroom technology.

TRANSFORM

Last fall, we celebrated the completion of the first bond project, Ridgemoor Park Montessori. Ridgemoor reopened as a preschool-6th grade Montessori program on the southeast side of the city. This fall, we're celebrating the completion of two more schools, Buchanan Elementary and Museum School's high school campus at 54 Jefferson.

Buchanan Elementary's renovation, with a complete cost of \$13 million, includes new and updated classrooms, gym, office, and more. Museum School will become the ultimate place-based learning environment with a \$10 million investment to become a first-of-its-kind high school in the former public museum.

Join us as we celebrate the completion of these projects:

Buchanan Elementary Ribbon Cutting
1775 Buchanan Ave SE
Thursday, August 16, 4PM

Museum High School Ribbon Cutting
54 Jefferson Ave SE
Wednesday, August 15, 11AM

City High Middle School, which began construction last school year, is set to be completed in 2019. The \$17 million renovation will update the HVAC system and install LED lighting throughout the building. Thanks to bids coming in under budget, all classrooms and science labs will also be updated.

Finally, with the start of school on August 20th, I requested the bond schedule be reevaluated to move some air conditioning projects to 2018-19. As a result, air conditioning will be installed and completed at Campus Elementary and CA Frost Environmental Science Academy (Elementary) by fall 2018. Brookside Elementary, East Leonard Elementary, North Park Montessori, and Shawmut Hills School will be completed by spring 2019.

Stay updated on these and all bond improvements by visiting [WeAreGR.com](#). Thank you again for your support!

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Don't be late on
August 20!
The first day of
school for
K-12 students is
Monday, August 20.

Save the Date
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THANKSGIVING
DAY

[grps.org](#)



Museum High School Taking Shape in Historic Building

Ninth-Graders Enter This Fall

By Charles Honey, Courtesy of School News Network

Don't look now, but the old Grand Rapids Public Museum building is turning into a high school.

Dozens of workers are busily transforming the former museum at 54 Jefferson Ave. SE into a new high school. Come this fall, the ninth grade of Grand Rapids Public Museum School will begin classes there, expanding the program now housing 180 sixth- through eighth-graders at the Van Andel Museum Center overlooking the Grand River.



A taxpayer-approved bond and a grant from the XQ Super School Project are funding the renovation along with a capital campaign

Construction is due to be completed by Aug. 1 on the high school, which will turn the historic building on Jefferson into a state-of-the-art school for students learning from their surroundings and applying knowledge to solutions.

“What’s really exciting to me is I feel like that space gives us an opportunity to engage our students kind of head, hand and heart,” said Museum School Principal Christopher Hanks. “They can be doing work that is meaningful to them, impacts the community and is a learning experience as well.”

The 36,600-square-foot building is designed to educate 360 students, 90 each in grades 9-12. Supervised by general contractor Rockford Construction, workers are preserving elements of the historically protected building, such as original flooring and stairways, while building modern classrooms, high-tech labs and cozy seating nooks.

While the building’s exterior will look mostly the same, the interior will be full of innovations that could serve as a model for other school districts, officials say.

“It was an open canvas for how we can transform this (space) into a high school,” said John Helmholdt,

spokesman for Grand Rapids Public Schools, as he toured a visitor through the building recently.

City and Schools Come Together

The \$10 million renovation is being partially funded by a \$10 million grant from the XQ Super School Project, which in 2016 chose GRPS as one of 10 districts nationwide for support of innovative schools. Another \$2 million from a taxpayer-approved bond and a capital campaign are also supporting the project and other Museum School improvements.

The museum high school developed from a cooperative effort between the City of Grand Rapids and GRPS, which founded the public museum in 1854 and once housed it in a mansion on the Jefferson site. The Depression-era museum building was decided to the city in 1937 on one condition – that it be used for museum purposes, and that it revert back to the school district if it ever stopped being used for that purpose.

That happened when the new museum was opened in 1994, so the vacated building became a natural high school site for the Museum School. In 2015, the city sold the building back

to the schools for \$1, in exchange for school property and the same sum. A joint ceremony of the GRPS Board of Education and City Commission formally turned over the old museum, where generations of school children had gawked up at a whale skeleton and peered wide-eyed at dioramas of woodland scenes.

The GRPS purchase included a parking lot and a “pocket park” at the corner of Jefferson and State Street SE. The Board of Education last week approved enhancements to that corner including trees, seating areas and landscape beds. The board is seeking to split the cost of improvements with the Downtown Development Authority.

Beyond the Classroom

Inside the building, workers have been hammering display cases, putting up drywall and building skylights that will bathe second-story classrooms with natural light. When complete, the spacious main gallery will feature student-designed exhibits. One large inner room will become a lab where students can study canoes and other artifacts from the museum’s adjacent collection building, which students will help catalog and digitize while also processing new artifacts.

Another lab will be a kind of megamakerspace where students can work on 3-D printers as well as lathes and other traditional tools. Indeed, most of the work students do will be outside of traditional classrooms, Hanks said.

“The high school I expect to be really transformative, in that it embodies the mindset

and themes of the school in terms of active learning, a focus on design and innovation, and direct access for our students to the museum collections,” he said. “We’re taking this opportunity to continue building our partnership with the museum. That’s really exciting.”



Workers are transforming the former museum at 54 Jefferson Ave SE into a new high school of Grand Rapids Public Museum

Grand Rapids Public Schools

WE ARE GR

JULY 2018

Grand Rapids
Board of Education
2018

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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

JULY 2018

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www.grps.org www.WeAreGR.com
John Helmholdt, *Executive Director of
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Planting for Our Future



Now in its third year, GRPS' Planting for our Future Project is going strong! With support from the Wege Foundation, GRPS continues to partner with Friends of Grand Rapids Parks and Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation to give students the opportunity to have fun digging in the dirt, while creating a more sustainable Grand Rapids.

This past spring, students planted 52 trees at KEC Oakleigh, CA Frost Environmental Science Middle/High,

Grand Rapids Montessori, and North Park Montessori. To date, students have planted more than 230 trees at 20 schools across the district.

Through hands-on tree plantings, the Planting for Our Future Project seeks to teach students important cross-curricular lessons and to increase understanding of urban forest issues. Additional environmental benefits include added shade, improved stormwater management, and increased habitat. Each tree planted also supports the City's goal of achieving 40% tree canopy cover!

Any Grand Rapids Public School teacher or administrator is eligible to host a spring or fall planting event or school forestry project. Events typically involve planting 10-15 mature trees per school and teach students about the benefits of trees, proper tree planting technique, and tree maintenance. Ideal projects will have meaningful student learning opportunities and involve parents and community members in expanding, protecting, or enhancing our City's Urban Forest. More information is available by contacting Kristen Trovillion, GRPS Sustainability Coordinator, at trovillionk@grps.org.

Use of School Facilities

Students, families, and neighbors are welcomed and encouraged to use Grand Rapids Public Schools parks and playgrounds outside of school hours, including afternoons, weekends, and during the summer. The parks and playgrounds are available for use by individuals until dark. After dark, being on school property may be considered trespassing. Use by a group of people for an event or gathering requires a building use form. The form is available online at www.grps.org/facilities. We ask that you fill out the form to ensure that we can plan appropriately for any staffing or other needs you may have to ensure you have a successful event.

We also encourage all families and neighbors to keep an eye on our schools and playgrounds. Please contact facilities at 819-3010 if you see damaged equipment, unlocked or open doors, trash, or other facility concerns. Please contact the GRPS Public Safety Office at 819-2100 if you have any security concerns, including trespassing, loitering, or misbehavior.

Asbestos Plan Available

A copy of the Grand Rapids Public Schools management plan describing the presence of asbestos is in place in every school building. Asbestos is a building material that in the past was often used in building construction. Contact with some forms of asbestos has been found to be highly dangerous for both children and adults. Following the guidelines of the 1989 Asbestos Hazard Emergency Act, or AHERA, school districts nationwide began an effort to safely remove or contain asbestos in school buildings. The Grand Rapids Public Schools is in complete compliance with AHERA and, under the guidelines of this act, makes its asbestos plan available to the public. Interested citizens can stop by any of the district's schools to look over the plan, which includes information on the location and condition of asbestos materials and details how the district is managing these materials. Community members may also request a copy of the plan by writing the Grand Rapids Public Schools Facilities Management Department, 900 Union, N.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503. There is a cost involved in reproducing the document of approximately 15 cents per page. A copy will be sent out within 15 days.



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LAKER EFFECT

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When you become a Laker, you look outward, focusing on others instead of yourself. With professors' caring guidance, you learn how to make a lasting difference. Then, as you go forward into the world, you're ready to tackle challenges and make meaningful contributions. Like West Michigan itself, your positive impact will be far reaching. That's the Laker Effect.

gvsu.edu



Deloitte Impact Day Benefits Riverside Middle



**Student
Advancement
Foundation**

Grand Rapids

It says a lot about an international company when a day is devoted every year to making a difference in a community. It means even more when that community is Grand Rapids Public Schools.

On June 8, 2018, tens of thousands of Deloitte professionals spent their day contributing to more than a thousand community service projects in cities throughout the US in celebration of Impact Day. Impact Day is a deeply rooted tradition within Deloitte when a day is set aside, nationally, for their leaders and professionals to join together for community service. Held on the first Friday of June, every year, Impact Day coincides with the start of Deloitte's fiscal year and kicks off the organization's year-round commitment to corporate citizenship. And for the last three years, the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation has been fortunate enough to connect the Grand Rapids Deloitte office with the Grand Rapids Public Schools to be recipients of Impact Day.

Throughout the last few years, Deloitte has taken their expert organizational and handyperson skills

and applied them to Mulick Park and Ken-O-Sha Elementary schools. In celebration of its 19th year of "Impact That Matters," this year's Deloitte group set out once again to beautify and spruce up yet another GRPS school and its surrounding campus. Marking the third and possibly the final year that Deloitte will descend its skills and generous volunteerism on a GRPS school, Riverside Middle was the recipient of this year's much needed Impact Day TLC.

More than 30 volunteers arrived early, bright-eyed and eager to once again reclaim this school's beauty. Dedicated volunteers worked hard throughout the day to spruce up the school and the surrounding grounds. They tackled weeding, planting, tree-trimming, brush-clearing, rebuilding benches and organizing the school library. One Deloitte volunteer squad even took to leading Field Day activities in celebration of the middle school students last day of school.

The investment of time, skills, energy and enthusiasm by Deloitte employees over the past three years has made three GRPS schools beautiful, inside and out. Their impact on GRPS will undoubtedly resonate with students and the rest of the school community far beyond Impact Day. From all of us here at the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation and on behalf of the Grand Rapids Public Schools, thank you. Thank you for your dedication to GRPS and your willingness to commit a day to creating an environment and atmosphere of beauty.



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Running the Good Race, From Refugee Camp to Top Student-Athlete

City High Grad Eyes Business Career, Return to Africa

By Charles Honey, Courtesy of School News Network

It was graduation day, and Jama Jafari Jama was in a bind. City High School commencement was that evening at Fountain Street Church. But first he had a race to run – the 800 meters in a regional track qualifier in Grand Haven.

There was no way he was missing the race, or the commencement.

His brother drove him to the meet, where he finished fourth, then brought him back to Grand Rapids, where he jumped in the shower.

“I was so busy, I hadn’t had time to iron my gown,” Jama recalled with a smile. His brother did that for him, and he got to the church in time to receive his diploma.

So ended that particular leg of a race he’s been running since he was born in a refugee camp in Kenya: the race to succeed.

“It truly felt great,” he said of walking across the stage at graduation. “It’s been a long time coming.”

The fire with which he’s run that lifelong race propelled him to earn excellent grades at the academically demanding City High. Jama has been through rough times, but he says nothing will stop him in the long journey now before him, starting with a scholarship at Aquinas College.

“I’ve always wanted to be the best at everything I do,” said Jama, exuding both confidence and humility. “Since I was a kid I’ve had that competitive nature. You can’t get anywhere if you’re not succeeding.”

‘He’s Taking Care of It’

Count Danielle Ralston as one who believes Jama will go far. City High’s head counselor has seen him overcome challenge after challenge since he was a seventh-grader at City.

“That kid has grit,” Ralston said. “In terms of work ethic, not wallowing in self-pity and accepting life’s challenges, whether it’s personal, whether it’s academic, whether it’s athletic – he’s taking care of it.”

“Not only does he have the academic rigor, but behind that is a student you know you can take a risk on, because you know he’s going to succeed.”

Besides pulling roughly a 3.5 grade-point average at City, Jama made his mark as a runner for Ottawa Hills High School. He made all-conference as a junior

on the cross country team, and was a standout in the 800 meters on the track team, narrowly missing all-conference. His top time was 1:58.13, an impressive clip though three seconds short of the school record he wanted to break.



Jama Jafari Jama picked up his semester’s artwork from teacher Anne Krenselewski, who told him, “You’re a joy. You always have been”

Jama achieved those times by running 50 to 60 miles a week, displaying exceptional discipline and drive while maintaining his studies and holding down a job in the Spectrum Health kitchen, said Ottawa cross country and distance coach Dan Ebright.

“His ability to handle all of that and stay organized and still be successful in

all areas is something for other students to take note of and see as an example,” Ebright said. “Jama is goal-oriented. He’s competitive, but he’s also a very easygoing person.”

Ebright thinks he can improve his times at Aquinas, where he’s signed onto the track team on an athletic scholarship. So does Jama.

“I can break records there,” he said, then made a quick mental jump beyond track. “Never stop looking forward. Once you fail at one thing, find another goal to reach.

“I’m stoked.”

Hopes to Help his Homeland

Jama plans to study business administration and accounting at Aquinas, to lay the groundwork for a business career. After establishing some kind of business in America, he envisions going back to Africa for a time to help create jobs.

“That’s always been a big dream of mine: go back home and make life better there,” Jama said, adding he would like to help his own family do better through his business. “At all times I’m thinking, how am I going to get my family on that path to success? I did not get here by myself. I got here together with them.”

He does not remember the Kenyan refugee camp where he was born, to which his parents had fled from war in their native Somalia. But he knows they were poor and that they came to America for the children. In a brief memoir, he wrote, “my parents, realizing it

was too late to achieve their own dreams, saw it as the gateway to invest in a better life for my siblings and I.” He has four siblings, but says his mother had seven children who died from malnutrition and effects from the war.

‘I’ve always wanted to be the best at everything I do.’

— *Jama Jafari Jama*

He is mindful of how hard they worked, and that his father, Jafari, had to leave school in first grade in order to work and help his parents get by. “He’s always telling us, ‘I’ve been working hard all my life so you guys don’t have to work hard,’” Jama said.

The family immigrated to Grand Rapids when he was 3, resettled through help from the Catholic Church. Four years later, however, his parents divorced and he lived for a few years with his mother, Amina, in Buffalo, New York. He recalls it as a painful time, exacerbated by mental-health issues his mother struggled with.

“It sent a sharp pain to my heart and each day it was nailed in deeper,” he wrote in his memoir. He learned early on to avoid the pain by not talking about it and occupying himself with sports, “which gave me a sense of peace,” he wrote.

He moved back to Grand Rapids with his father in 2010, and didn’t see his mother again until several years later. He harbors hopes of helping her and growing closer, citing the maxim of his Islamic faith: “Heaven lies under the feet of your mother.”

Learning Never Stops

He also hopes to gain U.S. citizenship, which he has begun the paperwork for, and which his father has obtained. Spurred by his urging to focus on school, the children have done well in school: older brother Hamadi, a graduate of East Kentwood High School; younger brother Musa, a student at City Middle; older sister Rehema, who attends Grand Valley State University; and younger sister Hawa, who will attend City-based Center for Economicology in the fall.

He credits City’s rigorous academics, International Baccalaureate program and public-service ethic for pushing him to do his best.

“Every single teacher here at City has provided a positive impact on me, and I’ll never forget that,” he said. “The whole program teaches you to think differently,” fostering students who “not only shine in the classroom but shine in the community.”

But he knows graduating just completes this lap of his life, and that it’s up to him to “actually get myself out in life” and build a successful future.

“There’s still so much for me to learn,” Jama said. “The world’s so vast. You can never stop learning.”

Students Learn History, See Possibilities on Tour of Historically Black Colleges

By Charles Honey, Courtesy of School News Network



Ottawa Hills students at Morehouse College by a statue of former President Benjamin E. Mayes; from left, Lee White, Deavon Seewood, Kaylin Howard, Morehouse Admissions Director Darryl D. Isom, Jaylin Howard and Maurice Holt

As Marlon Coe II strolled the grounds of Clark Atlanta University, he noticed something that impressed him: lots of people who looked like him.

The Ottawa Hills High School senior was so struck by that fact, and by Clark's scholarships and program offerings in his area of career interest, medical research, that he has applied to attend the predominantly African-American university next fall.

Clark was one of nine historically black colleges and universities Marlon and 76 other Ottawa students visited over Spring Break. For him and others, it was an eye-opening experience of the opportunities available at schools many of them had never heard of. Seeing them and meeting their students gave Marlon and others a better sense of who they are and where they could go – not just in college but in life.

"To see so many people who look like you and can relate to you, you know you're kind of going through the same thing," said Marlon, who didn't know about Clark before the trip. "Being around them and seeing that they can succeed makes it easier for me to believe that I can succeed."

The tour of schools in Tennessee, Alabama and Florida was a key component of a plan to revive Ottawa with a revamped program and \$17 million in renovations. The school district-funded trip on two reduced-cost Dean Transportation buses was the first foray of annual HBCU tours and an ongoing partnership with those historic schools, said Principal Kaushik Sarkar.

"I hope it gives them an understanding of the importance of their GPAs now as well as those SAT scores," said Sarkar, whose own horizons were

broadened by HBCU tours as a teen. "I hope they saw the school culture and pride at those HBCUs, and that some of those pieces that we witnessed we are able to bring back and make those part of our school culture."

Lesson in HBCUs

Besides Clark, students visited schools including Fisk University and Florida A & M University, which has provided \$50,000 scholarships to five Grand Rapids Public Schools students. Junior Martin Harris said he didn't know FAMU existed before he went. He liked the college's business offerings, which stoked his interest in becoming an entrepreneur to help other people. That expanded his menu of possible schools, including Alabama A & M.

"I didn't know anything about HBCU until I went on the trip," said Martin, whose extended family is from the South. "People say black colleges don't succeed like Michigan, Michigan State or colleges like that. When I think about HBCU now, I would like to go there too."

Students also visited the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, where four young girls were killed in a 1963 bombing by Ku Klux Klan members. They met with a former principal who had known the girls as a boy, and who was one of the first students to integrate the University of Alabama. That put history in perspective for Marlon.

"Seeing him made me realize that stuff is really not that far away," Marlon said. "It shows how far we came."

Martin said hearing from someone who broke school segregation in Alabama inspired him.

"I was thinking, 'That could be one of us,'" Martin said. "If he could do that ... I could do that too."

It motivated him to work harder on his SAT test preparation, which was part of the tour program. He put in more study hours than any other student.

Ready to Hit the Books

Students returned from the trip more fired up about their studies and doing well on their SAT, said math teacher Paul Nelson. On their first day back in class, he said, "They were telling me how

important the SAT was. They were asking how to get their grades up."

Their interest was more than passing, he added, saying he sees students "trying to prioritize the academics over the social stuff."

Sarkar, the principal, hopes this and future HBCU tours motivate students to take high school and college more seriously, as they did for them.

"I hope students see education is valuable," he said. "It is something we should seek to protect and seek to grow."



Students gather in front of the Eternal Flame at Florida A & M University, which has provided \$50,000 scholarships to five GRPS students

Martin and Marlon say they feel closer to their fellow students, with whom they enjoyed an Atlanta Hawks basketball game as well as college tours.

"This was the best trip I have ever been on," Martin said firmly. "We made connections with some people we didn't know. Now we can be together, we can help each other, knowing that

after this trip everybody wants to succeed."

Marlon says he now knows how much HBCU schools have to offer — and how much he himself has to offer.

"I (got) to see all this amazing stuff about us, black people," he said. "It opened my mind to what I can be, and not compromise. Because people before me haven't compromised."



Senior Marlon Coe II, left, and junior Martin Harris are interested in attending a historically black college or university after taking a tour of several



Students from Ottawa's Ladies in Training program on the steps of historic 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama

Community Mentors Help Eighth-Graders Cope With Stress, Handle Classes and Think About College

Sessions Support Challenge Scholars Initiative

By Charles Honey, Courtesy of School News Network



Lashawn McCoy, left, goes over a Battleship move with mentor Tom Bradley, a pastor

Eighth-grader Iyana Baldwin sat across a library table from Zahna Woodson and told her what was on her mind: bitter disappointment about her basketball team's tournament loss.

"That game, it didn't even feel like a game," said Iyana, a multi-sport athlete at Westwood Middle School. "It didn't seem like we was serious."

"I see, I see, I see," Woodson said sympathetically. "That's very upsetting."

Woodson was spending an hour with Iyana and her classmate, Danika Shaw, fueled by bags of popcorn. As one of three dozen community mentors meeting with all Westwood eighth-graders that day, Woodson probed what stresses her students were feeling — which for Iyana definitely included the basketball loss. But Woodson also asked about their grades, their plans for high school and thoughts on college and career.

"Is there anything you're doing in school now that you think you could have a job from or go to college for?" asked Woodson, an operations employee of the C.H. Robinson logistics company.

"I could be an actor," Iyana said with a laugh. "I'm serious, I could be an actor."

"That is real," Woodson said encouragingly. "There are so many really good programs. My brother is really into producing and directing, and he wants to be an actor," adding that he is studying at Western Michigan University.

Encouraging students to think ahead, while also supporting them in their day-to-day struggles, is at the root of the mentoring program Westwood launched this school year. Volunteers from businesses, churches

and nonprofits met monthly with students, mixing attentive listening and occasional advice with games and laid-back conversation.

For mentors like Woodson, it's an enriching interaction with young lives.

"I have awesome girls," she said. "I have an idea of where the conversation is going to go, and it never does. They make me think of things so much differently."

Lots of Listening

Patterned after a similar program at Innovation Central High School, the mentoring aims to help about 100 eighth-graders with their academic and social issues, said Principal Dennis Branson. It's overseen by Rebecca Back, Westwood's coordinator of college and career readiness under the Challenge Scholars program, which provides full college tuition for Westwood and Harrison Park students who graduate from Union High School with good grades and attendance.

Mentors remind students about Challenge Scholars, its requirements and huge benefits to help them think ahead, Back said. Emphasizing goal-setting, organization and relationships is key. So is helping students get through the difficulties of adolescent stress.



"It helps because I think about further goals, and what to do when I grow up," eighth-grader Danika Shaw says of her mentoring sessions

"Especially with the population we serve, a lot of them have a lot of stress that's outside of school, a lot of home-life stress," Back said. "So it's so good to have somebody from the community that believes in our kids, to come alongside and just be a support."

Mentor Tom Bradley, a pastor at CrossWinds Church, said a lot of what he does is just listen in his monthly get-togethers with students.

"I think it opens up a chance for them to talk to another adult that's not an adult they're responsible to, someone that they're reporting to," Bradley said. "They don't owe me anything. I'm

just being a friend."

One Wednesday morning earlier this semester, he played Battleship with Gerald Davis, Lashawn McCoy and Jacob Kanady. Nearby, Adnoris "Bo" Torres played Uno with Druey Lyon, Sergio Arroyo and Deon Farr.

A fatherhood coordinator for Strong Beginnings, which supports black and Latino families during pregnancy and early childhood, Torres said he talks to students about making choices, their education and "what a good relationship looks like."

Sergio, a Challenge Scholar, said Torres gets him thinking ahead to high school and college. "It's been helping me with my grades, with my relationships," he said. "We've talked about how I can make a relationship better."



Mentor Zahna Woodson, left, has some fun with eighth-grader Iyana Baldwin during their monthly mentoring session

Always Available

Back in the library, Zahna Woodson talked to Iyana and Danika about how they handle stressful moments, and what subjects they were nervous about come high school.

"So if you're having problems with your math class once you start ninth grade, do you know who you would reach out to?" she asked.

"My sister," Danika said.

"You know you could always call me up and I'd be like, 'I'm not good at math but let me find somebody,'" Woodson said, with a laugh.



Eighth-grader Sergio Arroyo, left, says mentor Adnoris "Bo" Torres has helped him with his grades and relationships

GRPS Exclusive: Native American Education Program Supports Academics, Culture



Grand Rapids Public Schools is home to the region's only Native American Education Program (NAEP), whose mission is to "support our Native American

students in successful academic achievement and to prevent and respect the whole person through culturally relevant activities". NAEP teaches Native students the importance of education and their

own culture by offering a variety of events and programming.

Through the support of the Grand Rapids Public Schools, the Native American Education Program is able to offer afterschool programming, school presentations, cultural assemblies, and community events. Events and programming are developed and implemented for Native students and are attended by Native, as well as non-native, students, families, and community members giving participants the opportunity to learn and respect the traditional values and beliefs of Native people.

The Native American education program was developed through the partnership of Grand Rapids Public Schools and the Title VI Federal Grant Program. For more information or to register your child, please call the Native American Education Program at (616) 819-3318 or visit www.grps.org/naep.



GRPS, GRCC to Make Paths to College Easier

Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal of Grand Rapids Public Schools and the president of Grand Rapids Community College, Bill Pink, joined forces to expand opportunities for GRPS students.

These opportunities, according to Pink, include making college education more affordable, and providing support to help students overcome obstacles in enrolling and completing college.

The partners want to create a seamless transition between the district and the college. "Together, we are committed to collaborating to ensure that more students gain in-demand skills for careers and transfer

credits to continue their education," Pink said.

There were 813 GRPS graduates enrolled in GRCC last fall and students enrolling in district-provided college classes are growing, according to their joint press release. The documents signed this week extend agreements for the Grand Rapids Learning Center program hosted at GRCC and concurrent enrollment opportunities for district students.

"GRCC and GRPS have a rich history, but also a bright future ahead of us," Weatherall Neal said. "Education is the pathway to success."



GRCC President Bill Pink and GRPS Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal signed on to provide more college opportunities for students

studio

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Contact the Early Childhood office at Grand Rapids Public Schools today at (616) 819-2111 to begin the enrollment process. You can also complete our online application at grps.org/earlychildhood.

GRPS Phone Directory

Information..... 616.819.2000	Elementary and K8 Office 616.819.2020	Nutrition Services 616.819.2135
Action Line 616.819.2500	English Language Learners 616.819.2129	Organizational Learning 616.819.2340
Athletics/Student Activities 616.819.2010	Facilities and Operations 616.819.3030	Payroll/Retirement 616.819.2040
Board of Education 616.819.2197	Fine Arts 616.819.2156	Public Safety/Security 616.819.2100
Business Services 616.819.2070	GRASP 616.819.2548	Shared Time 616.819.3200
Communications 616.819.2149	High School Office 616.819.2112	Special Education 616.819.2185
Community & Student Services 616.819.2150	Homeless Program 616.819.3673	Student Advancement Foundation 616.988.5430
Curriculum/Instruction 616.819.2162	Human Resources 616.819.2022	Superintendent of Schools 616.819.2193
Dean Transportation 616.819.3000	LOOP/LOFT After School Program 616.819.2165	Transcript Requests 616.819.2153
Early Childhood 616.819.2111	Middle School Office..... 616.819.2129	Volunteers 616.819.2150



Dual Enrollment

GRPS high school students can earn free college credit!

GRCC | grcc.edu/dualenrollment

School Bell Schedule

	Drop Off/ Breakfast	Bell Times		Half Day Dismissal
		AM	PM	
Aberdeen School	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Alger Middle School	7:15	7:40	2:21	10:25
Blandford School	7:50	8:10	3:06	11:20
Brookside Elementary	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Buchanan Elementary	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Burton Elementary	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Burton Middle	7:15	7:40	2:21	10:25
CA Frost Environmental Science Academy (6-11)	7:30	8:00	2:47	10:40
CA Frost Environmental Science Academy (K-5)	8:50	9:10	4:06	12:20
Campus Elementary	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Center for Economicology	7:45	8:00	2:41	10:45
Cesar E. Chavez Elementary	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
City High Middle School	7:45	8:00	2:41	10:45
Coit Creative Arts Academy	8:50	9:10	4:06	12:20
Community Transition Campus	7:15	7:20	2:01	10:30
Congress Elementary	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Dickinson Academy	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Early Childhood Special Education at Campus (AM Session)		9:00	12:08	11:45
Early Childhood Special Education Campus (PM Session)		12:48	3:56	
East Leonard Elementary	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Gerald R. Ford Academic Center	8:50	9:10	4:06	12:20
Grand Rapids Learning Center		7:45	4:15	11:45
Grand Rapids Montessori (7-12)	7:10	7:40	2:21	10:25
Grand Rapids Montessori (PK-6)	8:50	9:10	4:06	12:20
Grand Rapids Oral Deaf (AM Session)		9:15	11:51	11:51
Grand Rapids Oral Deaf (PM Session)		12:45	3:21	
Grand Rapids Public Museum School (6th)	7:50	8:10	3:06	11:20
Grand Rapids Public Museum School (7th)	7:50	8:10	3:05	11:20
Grand Rapids University Prep Academy (6-7)	7:35	8:00	2:41	10:45
Grand Rapids University Prep Academy (8-12)	7:10	7:35	2:16	10:20
Harrison Park School	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40

	Drop Off/ Breakfast	Bell Times		Half Day Dismissal
		AM	PM	
Innovation Central	7:10	7:40	2:21	10:25
KEC Beltline	7:35	7:40	2:21	10:25
KEC Oakleigh	8:15	8:30	3:27	10:45
Ken-O-Sha Park Elementary	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Kent Hills Elementary	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Lincoln Developmental Center	7:50	8:05	2:21	10:50
Lincoln School	7:50	8:05	2:21	10:50
Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Mulick Park Elementary	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
North Park Montessori	8:50	9:10	4:06	12:20
Ottawa Hills High School	7:10	7:40	2:21	10:25
Palmer Elementary	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Pine Grove	7:50	8:05	2:21	10:50
Project Search		8:00	2:41	11:10
Ridgemoor Park Montessori	8:50	9:10	4:06	12:20
Riverside Middle	7:15	7:40	2:21	10:25
Shawmut Hills Elementary	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Sherwood Park Global Studies Academy	8:50	9:10	4:06	12:20
Sibley Elementary	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Southeast Career Pathways Center, AM session		9:00	2:39	11:46
Southeast Career Pathways Center, PM session		4:00	8:00	
Southwest Community Campus	8:50	9:10	4:06	12:20
Stocking Elementary	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Union High School	7:10	7:40	2:21	10:25
Westwood Middle School	7:15	7:40	2:21	10:25
Zoo School	7:55	8:15	3:11	11:25



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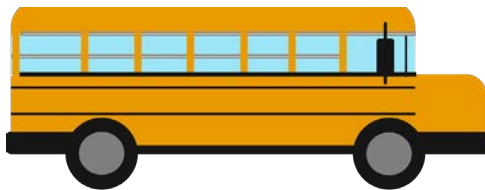
4155 Trade Drive, Grand Rapids 49508

900 Union Avenue NE, Grand Rapids 49503

429 S Union Street NW, Sparta 49345



Theme School Transportation Process



Initial bus routes for Grand Rapids Public Schools elementary and middle school students will be posted at all elementary and middle school buildings and a letter mailed home in August. High school students will continue to use public transportation.

Parents/guardians of students attending special education programs will be called about transportation route information in August.

All bus routes will generally remain as posted through the first week of school. After the first week, bus routes will be adjusted to accommodate student information changes. Parents/guardians will be notified by their school of any bus route changes. **IMPORTANT: Routes are adjusted as needed throughout the school year to accommodate students' needs. Parents and/or guardians are notified of changes through their school.**

Parents/guardians wishing to submit new address information prior to the start of school should go to Student Services, located at 1331 Franklin Street S.E. We can make that address change now! Please remember to bring proof of residency and identification.

To be eligible for transportation:

- Elementary and K-8 students must live more than one (1) mile from their neighborhood/ theme school.
- Middle school students must live more than one and one-half (1 ½) miles from their neighborhood school.
- Voluntary transfer students are not transported.
- Transportation is provided to theme school students within the specific, limited transportation region of their school (see chart to right).
- Students may be required to walk one-half mile to a bus stop.
- Eligible kindergarten students are transported with other elementary students at the beginning and end of the school day.

Theme School Transportation:

Theme schools will continue to have limited transportation within regions of the city. Each theme school has a specific transportation region. Theme school students who are eligible for transportation will continue to be picked up before school at elementary schools within the theme school's transportation region. Theme school students eligible for transportation will continue to be transported to a bus stop within the theme school's transportation region after school.

If your child's Theme school is...	Your child will be picked up at one of the following:
C.A. Frost Environmental Science K-5	Campus Elem.; Congress Elem.; Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy; East Leonard Elem.; Dickinson Academy; Harrison Park; Shawmut Hills; Sibley Elem.; Stocking Elem.
Coit Creative Arts Academy (K-5)	Campus Elem.; Congress Elem.; East Leonard Elem.; Kent Hills Elem.; Harrison Park; Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy; Grand Rapids Montessori
Gerald R. Ford Academic Center (K-6)	Brookside Elem.; Campus Elem.; Cesar E. Chavez Elem.; Congress Elem.; Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy; Mulick Park Elem.; Sherwood Park Global Studies Academy
Grand Rapids Montessori (K-6)	Buchanan Elem.; Campus Elem.; Congress Elem.; Dickinson Academy; Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy; Mulick Park Elem.
North Park Montessori (K-8)	Aberdeen; Congress Elem.; East Leonard Elem.; Harrison Park; Kent Hills Elem.; Palmer Elem.; Stocking Elem.; Coit Creative Arts Academy
Ridgemoor Park Montessori (K-6)	Brookside Elem.; Buchanan Elem.; Burton Elem.; Cesar E. Chavez Elem.; Ken-O-Sha Park Elem.; Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy; Mulick Park Elem.
Sherwood Park Global Studies Academy (K-8)	Buchanan Elem.; Burton Elem.; Brookside Elem.; Campus Elem.; Cesar E. Chavez Elem.; Dickinson Academy; Ken-O-Sha Park Elem.; Mulick Park Elem.
Southwest Community Campus (K-8)	Buchanan Elem.; Burton Elem.; Congress Elem.; Campus Elem.; Cesar E. Chavez Elem.; GR Montessori; Coit Creative Arts Academy; East Leonard Elem.; Mulick Park Elem.; Dickinson Academy; Sibley Elem.; Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy
Blandford School, Zoo School, or Grand Rapids Public Museum School	Students will be picked up at a comprehensive middle school: Alger Middle, Burton Middle, Riverside Middle, Westwood Middle In the A.M., If students live more than 1.5 miles from their neighborhood middle school, they will ride in with the neighborhood middle school students and then transfer to their school. In the P.M., students will be shuttled to Westwood Middle and then be delivered to a neighborhood bus stop within .5 miles of their home.
City Middle School or Center for Economicology	Students will be picked up at a comprehensive middle school: Alger Middle, Burton Middle, Riverside Middle, Westwood Middle In the A.M., If students live more than 1.5 miles from their neighborhood middle school, they will ride in with the neighborhood middle school students and transfer to the City Middle shuttle bus. In the P.M., students are shuttled to a designated elementary school and transported to a neighborhood stop if they live more than 1.0 mile from the elementary school.
CA Frost Environmental Science Academy (6-8)	In the A.M., students ride to a neighborhood middle school and transfer to a shuttle bus to CA Frost. Must live more than 1.5 miles from the school. Alger Middle is your assigned middle school if your neighborhood school is: Campus Elementary, Congress Elementary, Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy, Dickinson Academy Riverside Middle is your assigned middle school if your neighborhood school is: East Leonard Elementary, Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy Westwood Middle is your assigned middle school if your neighborhood school is: Harrison Park School, Shawmut Hills School, Sibley Elementary, Stocking Elementary In the P.M., students will be shuttled to Westwood Middle and ride back to their neighborhood using stops within theme boundaries.
Grand Rapids Montessori (7-8)	In the A.M., students are picked up at a corner stop within the boundaries of these schools: Buchanan Elementary, Campus Elementary, Congress Elementary, Dickinson Academy, Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy, Mulick Park Elementary In the P.M., students are shuttled to City Middle and ride the busses to neighborhood feeder schools or neighborhood stops, if they live more than 1.0 mile from the elementary building.

Registration, orientation or open house - which one should I, or my child, attend? You are welcome to attend them all, but if you have to choose just one or two the following may help you decide.

- Registration is a great time to complete enrollment paperwork
- Orientation offers additional information, such as, class schedule, locker, student ID, etc.
- Open house is a chance to meet your child's teacher and learn more about the school

SCHOOL	REGISTRATION	ORIENTATION	OPEN HOUSE
Aberdeen	TBD	TBD	TBD
Alger	Thurs, Aug 9, 9am-3:30 pm Fri, Aug 10, 9am-12pm	Tues, Aug 14, 10-11am	
Blandford	TBD	TBD	TBD
Brookside	TBD	TBD	TBD
Buchanan	Tues, Aug 7, 8:30am-2:30 pm Thurs, Aug 9, 8:30am-2:30 pm		
Burton Elementary	Thurs, Aug 9, 9-11am, 1-3pm & 5-7pm Tues, Aug 14, 9-11am	Thurs, Aug 7, 6pm	Thurs, Aug 16, 5:30-6:30pm
Burton Middle	TBD	TBD	TBD
CA Frost Elementary	Wed, Aug 15, 5:30-7pm		
CA Frost Middle/High		Mon, Aug 13, 9-11am & 1-3pm Tues, Aug 14, 4:30-8pm	
Campus Elementary	TBD	TBD	TBD
Cesar E. Chavez	Sat, July 28, 11am-1pm Thurs, Aug 9, 9am-6pm		
City High Middle	Wed, Aug 8, 1-3pm Wed, Aug 8, 3-5pm (Ctr for Econ) Tues, Aug 9, 9-11am & 5-7pm Tues, Aug 14, 1-3pm		
Coit Creative Arts Academy	Thurs, Aug 9, 3-5pm		Thurs, Aug 16, 3-5pm
Congress Elementary	Mon, Aug 6, 11am-7pm Thurs, Aug 9, 9am-4pm		Wed, Aug 15, 5:30-7:30pm
CTC Mayfield	Wed, Aug 1, 2-5pm		
CTC Straight	Wed, Aug 8, 2-5pm		
Dickinson	Tues, Aug 7, 9-11:30am Wed, Aug 8, 1-3pm Thurs, Aug 9, 9am-1pm		Thurs, Sept 6, 4:30-6pm
East Leonard	Wed, Aug 8, 8am-3pm Thurs, Aug 9, 8am-3pm		Tues, Aug 14, 5-6:30pm
Gerald R. Ford	Thurs, Aug 9, 10am-12pm & 6-8pm Mon, Aug 13, 10am-12pm & 6-8pm		
GR Learning Center	TBD	TBD	TBD
GR Montessori	Mon, Aug 6, 1-3pm & 4-6pm	TBD	TBD

SCHOOL	REGISTRATION	ORIENTATION	OPEN HOUSE
GRUPA		Thurs, Aug 9, 11am-2:30pm (Middle School) Mon, Aug 13, 11am-2:30pm (High School) Tues, Aug 14, 2-6pm (Open Orientation)	
Harrison Park	Thurs, Aug 9, 10am-12pm & 2-4pm Mon, Aug 13, 10am-12pm & 2-4pm		Wed, Aug 15, 5-6pm
Innovation Central	Mon, July 30, 1-3pm & 5-7pm Tues, July 31, 9-11am & 1-3pm Wed, Aug 1, 1-3pm & 5-7pm Thurs, Aug 2, 9-11am & 1-3pm		
KEC Beltline	Tues, July 31, 9am-4pm Thurs, Aug 2, 9am-4pm		
KEC Oakleigh	Wed, Aug 8, 12-3pm Tues, Aug 14, 9am-3pm		
Kent Hills	TBD	TBD	TBD
Ken-O-Sha	TBD	TBD	TBD
Lincoln Campus	Mon-Fri, Aug 20-24, all day	Planned on individual student need	Thurs, Sept 13, 10am-1pm
MLK	Mon, Aug 6, 9-11am & 1:30-3:30pm Thurs, Aug 9, 9-11am, 1:30-3:30pm & 5-7pm	Tues, Sept 4, 5:30-7:30pm	Tues, Sept 4, 5:30-7:30pm
Mulick	Wed, Aug 15		
Museum School	Wed, Aug 15, 2-4pm (High School) 5:30-7:30pm (Middle School)		
North Park Montessori	Wed, Aug 8, 9:30-11:30am Thurs, Aug 9, 1:30-3:30pm & 6-7:30pm	Limited stations avail- able to register Tues, Aug 14, 5:30-7:30pm	
Ottawa Hills	Tues, Aug 8, 9am-2pm Wed, Aug 15, 9am-7pm		
Palmer Elementary	Tues, Aug 14, 10am-2pm Wed, Aug 15, 10am-2pm Thurs, Aug 16, 10am-2pm		Wed, Aug 15, 5-6:30pm
Pine Grove	TBD	TBD	TBD
Ridgemoor Park Montessori	Tues, Aug 7, 9am-2pm Wed, Aug 8, 9am-2pm	Thurs, Aug 16, 5-7:30pm	Thurs, Sept 13, 5-7pm
Riverside Middle	Mon, Aug 6, 1-4pm Thurs, Aug 9, 10am-2pm		Tues, Aug 14, 3-6pm
SE Career Pathways	TBD	TBD	TBD
Shawmut Hills	Wed, Aug 15, 6-8pm	Wed, Aug 15, 6-8pm	
Sherwood Park	TBD	TBD	TBD

SCHOOL	REGISTRATION	ORIENTATION	OPEN HOUSE
Sibley	Mon, Aug 6, 1:30-4:30pm		
SWCC	Thurs, Aug 9, 9am-3pm Tues, Aug 14, 9am-3pm		Thurs, Aug 16, 5-7pm
Stocking	Thurs, Aug 9, 10am-12pm, 1-3pm & 4-6pm		Wed, Aug 22, 6-7:30pm
Union	Thurs, Aug 2, 8am-7pm Mon, Aug 6, 10am-1pm (counselors available) 2-6pm Tues, Aug 7, 10am-1pm (counselors available) 2-6pm Wed, Aug 8, 8am-3pm Thurs, Aug 9, 8am-7pm Mon, Aug 13, 8am-7pm Tues, Aug 14, 5-8pm (counselors available) Wed, Aug 15, 5-8pm (counselors available) Thurs, Aug 16, 5-8pm (counselors available)		

SCHOOL	REGISTRATION	ORIENTATION	OPEN HOUSE
Westwood Middle	Tues, Aug 8, 8am-1pm Thurs, Aug 9, 8am-1pm Fri, Aug 17, 8am-1pm Tues, Aug 14, 4-7pm Wed, Aug 15, 4-7pm Thurs, Aug 16, 4-7pm		
Zoo	TBD	TBD	TBD

2018-2019 CALENDAR

August 20	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	January 31	Theme School/Centers of Innovation Application Deadline
August 22-30	NWEA/MAP K-8 Testing	February 4-8	NWEA/MAP K-8 Testing
August 27	First day for Great Start Readiness Program Preschool	February 13	COUNT DAY
August 31	NO SCHOOL	February 15	GRCC Dual Enrollment Application Due (Summer Semester)
October 1	FAFSA Application Opens for 2019-20 (studentaid.gov/fafsa)	March 22	End of 3rd Marking Period
October 1	Theme School/Centers of Innovation Application Period Opens	March 28	No LOOP Programming
October 3	COUNT DAY	March 29	NO SCHOOL, No LOOP Programming
October 8-12	PSAT 8/9	April 1	Grand Rapids Community Foundation Scholarship Applications Due
October 10	PSAT 10 and NMSQT	April 1-5	NO SCHOOL, Spring Break
October 15	GRCC Dual Enrollment Application Due (Winter Semester)	April 8-30, 2018	M-STEP 5/8/11 Testing
October 18	School Choice Expo & Family Harvest Festival	April 8-30, 2018	MI-Access 3-8/11 Testing
October 19	End of 1st Marking Period	April 9	SAT (with essay)
October 22	NO SCHOOL	April 9	PSAT 8/9 (grade 8 only)
October 25	National Lights on After School	April 9-11	PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 (grades 9-10 only)
November 1	First Round College Application Deadline for Colleges/Universities	April 10	WorkKeys
November 6	NO SCHOOL, Professional Development; No LOOP Programming	April 15	GRCC Dual Enrollment Application Deadline (Fall Semester)
November 19-23	NO LOOP Programming	April 15-30, 2018	NWEA/MAP K-10 Testing
November 21	NO SCHOOL	April 29-30	M-STEP 3/4/6/7 Testing
November 22	DISTRICT CLOSED, Holiday	May 1-3	M-STEP 5/8/11 Testing
November 22	Grand Rapids Turkey Trot (Van Andel Arena)	May 1-9	NWEA/MAP K-10 Testing
November 23	DISTRICT CLOSED	May 1-24	M-STEP 3/4/6/7 Testing
December 21	Half Day for Students (am); No LOOP Programming	May 1-24	MI-Access 3-8/11 Testing
December 24-January 4	NO SCHOOL, Winter Break	May 31	Preschool, Here I Come
January 14-18	NO LOOP Programming	May 16	Last Day of LOOP Programming
January 15	School Choice Expo & Winter Carnival	May 24	Half Day of School for Students
January 16-18	Half Day for Students; Secondary Exams (am)	May 27	NO SCHOOL, Holiday
January 18	End of 2nd Marking Period	May 29-31	Half Day for Students; Secondary Exams (am)
January 21	NO SCHOOL; No LOOP Programming	May 31	End of 4th Marking Period; LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
January 30	Kindergarten, Here I Come		

Want to Participate in Athletics?

You will need:

- A physical dated after April 15, 2018
- Supplemental insurance for each season: \$10 for high school and \$3 for middle schools

Need a Physical?

Cherry Health has health offices in the following schools to provide the opportunity for GRPS students to get physicals prior to the first day of practices. Call to make an appointment today!

Ottawa Hills High School
776-5110
Innovation Central
776-5120
Union High School
791-6593

Reasons to be a Multi-Sport Athlete

- Develop different skills that compliment other sports.
- Involvement in multiple sports minimizes sport burnout.
- Time management improves.
- Colleges/universities like to see that you can be multi-faceted.

Sportsmanship Corner

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

Because our community recognizes the importance, value, and positive impact on students and families that after school sports can have, we would like to thank the following supporters for their continued support of these programs:



Did You Know?

MHSAA High School Athletic Transfer Rule Changes

Currently MHSAA allows 15 exceptions for immediate eligibility when a student changes schools (e.g. residential change). These can be found on the MHSAA.org website.

Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, if a student athlete plays in a sport during the 2018-19 school year and then transfers to a new school and does not meet one of the 15 exceptions, they will be declared ineligible for that sport in the next season.

This change applies to:

- Students competing at any level beginning in 9th grade
- Students who played in a scrimmage or game
- Students who started but did not complete the season

Therefore, sports participation during the 2018-19 school year impacts the eligibility for transfer students in 2019-20.

Do You Have a Question Regarding Athletics Across the State?

MHSAA.org has a regulation summary page that answers your questions regarding transfers, academic eligibility, and concussion protocol.

What You Get as a GRPS Student Athlete:

- No pay-to-play fees. GRPS is one of few West Michigan school districts that do not have a pay-to-play fee. This is a savings of \$25-150 per student per sport for families.
- GRPS student athletes are able to waive the \$85 NCAA Clearinghouse and \$80 NAIA Eligibility Center application fee if they are interested in playing post-secondary athletics. We help student athletes make sure they are registered by the end of their junior year.
- GRPS student athletes have higher GPAs on average than their peers who do not participate in athletics.

Athletic Director Contact Information

Kurt Johnson – Executive Director of Athletics	johnsonk@grps.org	819-2010
Marcus Harris – Ottawa Hills HS Athletic Director	harrisma@grps.org	819-2879
Justin Walker – Union HS Athletic Director	walkerj@grps.org	819-3168
Middle School Athletic Office		819-3243
Middle School Athletic Directors/Coordinators		
Dan Covey - C.A. Frost Environmental Science Academy (Also responsible for Shawmut Hills, Blandford, and Zoo)	coveyd@grps.org	
Lanita Hobson – Burton Middle School	hobsonl@grps.org	
Ed Droski – City High Middle School	ebdroski@gmail.com	
George Zender – Gerald R. Ford Academic Center (Also responsible for Dickinson Academy)	zenderg@grps.org	
Rojeana Calvert – Harrison Park	calvertr@grps.org	
Jolinda Lucas – UPrep (Also responsible for GR Montessori and Museum School)	lucasj@grps.org	
Kellie Kieren – North Park Montessori and Aberdeen	kierenk@grps.org	
Kory Drake – Sherwood Park Global Studies Academy	kldrake1@yahoo.com	
James Peacock – Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy	peacockj@grps.org	
Don Zomer – Southwest Community Campus	zomerd@grps.org	
Westwood Middle School	vacant, contact 819-3245 for info	
Alger Middle School	vacant, contact 819-3243 for info	
Riverside Middle School	vacant, contact 819-3243 for info	

GRPS Middle School Athletics

All GRPS middle schools are members of and follow all MHSAA rules and regulations. This includes mandatory physicals dated after 4/15/18, concussion protocol, and academic requirements.

GRPS has a comprehensive middle school program for 6th graders and 7/8th graders. This program is funded in cooperation with the Student Advancement Foundation and GR8 Sports, GR8 Kids.

The MHSAA now allows middle school student athletes to participate in 2 non-school events during the season in all sports, except football. This will allow students to have all of the opportunities that school sports offer and still have the opportunity to participate in non-school sports on a limited basis.

Middle School Start Dates

Football – August 22nd
Volleyball, Cross Country, and Boys' Soccer – August 27th

Middle School Sport Seasons

FALL:

Football (7/8 grade only)
Volleyball, Boys' Soccer, and Cross Country (Aug 22-Oct 28)

WINTER 1:

Boys' Basketball, Co-ed Competitive Swimming, and Competitive Cheerleading (Nov 6 – Jan 27)

WINTER 2:

Girls' Basketball, Bowling, and Wrestling (Feb 5 – Mar 24)

SPRING:

Track and Field, Girls' Soccer, Softball, and Baseball (April 8 – May 23)

Elementary Fall Sports

Cross country practices will begin after September 10th. Please check with your elementary school athletic liaison for more information. Meet dates are October 2, October 9, and October 16 with the GRPS Cross Country Invitational on October 20th. Registration forms will be available on the GRPS website and at GRPS elementary schools. Watch the athletic website for more information on soccer coming soon!

Calling All Volunteers

Any parents, family, or community member interested in volunteering your time to support student athletes of GRPS, please contact the volunteer office at 819-2131 or go to <http://grps.org/volunteer> for the volunteer application

We are currently looking for:

- Elementary coaches for cross country, soccer, basketball, and track
- Turkey Trot volunteers

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

Interested in coaching? Contact the athletic office for more information on vacancies for the 2018-19 school year.

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