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## Get Active, Cool Off and Experience Nature in Our Parks this Summer



The 74 City-owned parks across our community are vital resources for you to enjoy throughout the year. They offer places to relax, celebrate, play, experience nature and get active. They also align with our strategic priority of a healthy community and environment through environmental stewardship, events and programming, and a growing network of multi-use trails and green spaces.

Grand Rapids voters voiced their support for our parks when they approved the parks millage in 2013, allowing for intentional and sustainable reinvestment in these important assets. These funds have provided improvements in 73% of our parks and they help keep our City-owned pools operational for tens of thousands of visitors every season. This summer, we have many opportunities for you to experience all that our parks system has to offer.

Parks provide great spaces to get active for a healthier mind and body. Your Parks and Recreation Department is hosting free outdoor fitness classes across the city every week through August 23. They include yoga, cardio and

dance-based workouts. You can learn more about these drop-in classes at [facebook.com/grparksandrec](https://facebook.com/grparksandrec). If you are looking for a self-paced outdoor workout, be sure to check out the new exercise equipment along the Grand River corridor at Sixth Street Park, 647 Monroe Ave. NW, and Canal Park, 941 Monroe Ave. NW.

I don't have to tell you that summer in West Michigan can get hot. We have three public pools and 13 splash pads across our city to help you cool off. For Grand Rapids residents, pool admission is \$2 for ages 18 and older and \$1 for children younger than 18. Splash pads are free and open to the public every day from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For additional information on open swim hours and pool and splash pad locations, visit [grandrapidsmi.gov/aquatics](https://grandrapidsmi.gov/aquatics).

After the pool season comes to a close on August 17, you and your dog are invited to the third annual Wag 'n' Wade Dog Swim at Richmond Park Pool. Owners and pets can experience a free evening at the pool from 4 to 8 p.m. More information will be available in late July on the City's Facebook page – [facebook.com/CityofGrandRapids](https://facebook.com/CityofGrandRapids) – and at [grandrapidsmi.gov/events](https://grandrapidsmi.gov/events).

Many of our parks offer a serene escape from the

energetic city center. Huff Park (2399 Ball Ave. NE), Ball Perkins Park (1675 Perkins Ave. NE), Plaster Creek Family Park (2401 Buchanan Ave. SW) and Ken-O-Sha Park (1353 Van Auken St. SE) offer trails ranging in surface and surroundings for scenic views of nature.

Your Parks and Recreation Department is offering kayak rentals at the Riverside Park lagoon, 2001 Monroe Ave. NE, on Fridays from 4 to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. You can experience an hour of exploration in our parks system's largest inland body of water for \$8. Learn more at [grandrapidsmi.gov/government/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation/kayak-rentals](https://grandrapidsmi.gov/government/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation/kayak-rentals).

I am excited about experiencing my first summer in Grand Rapids with you. I hope you will join me in celebrating our parks through the activities and programs happening throughout the season.

In partnership,

Mark Washington, City Manager

## Hey, Voters, You Have Two Chances to Exercise Your Right Over the Next Few Months

Your City Clerk's Office is reminding you of two upcoming elections:

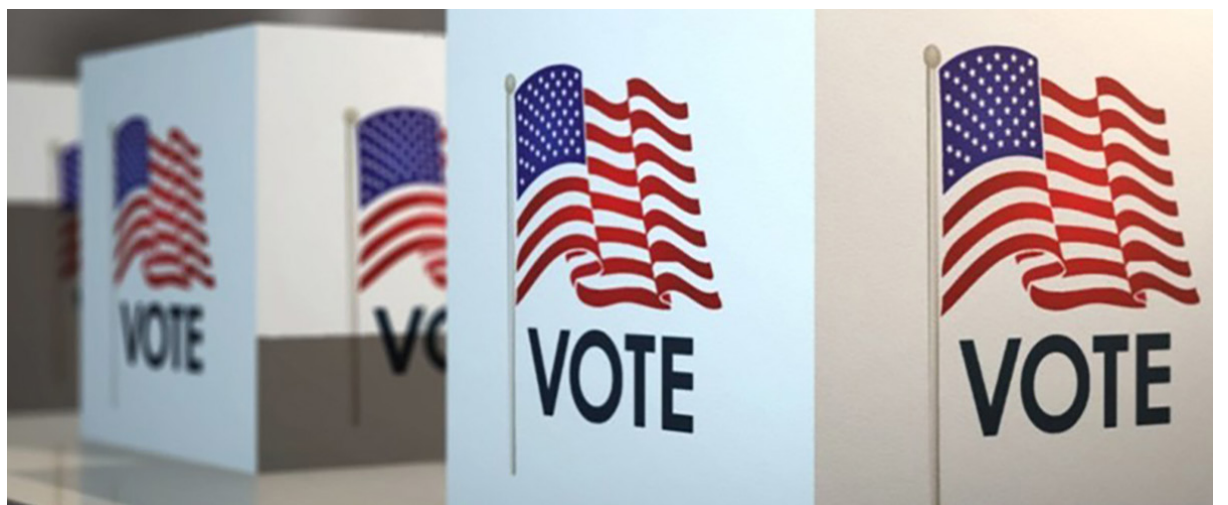
**August 6** is the primary election for a Second Ward seat on the City Commission and three full position seats on the Library Board.

**November 5** is the general election for Mayor, a First Ward City Commissioner, a Third Ward City Commissioner, possibly a Second Ward Commissioner (based on results of the August primary) and a partial term seat on the Library Board.

A host of new election laws impact how you can vote and register:

**Absentee Voting** – All registered voters are now eligible to receive an absentee ballot without a reason. To receive an absentee ballot, simply fill out an application before every election. If you want to automatically receive an absentee application before each election, sign up at [grandrapidsmi.gov/Services/Sign-up-for-the-Absentee-Voter-List](https://grandrapidsmi.gov/Services/Sign-up-for-the-Absentee-Voter-List) or contact your City Clerk's Office at 616.456.3010 or [cityclerk@grcity.us](mailto:cityclerk@grcity.us).

**Straight party voting** – The option to vote the partisan section of the ballot by selecting the party only is back.



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

For more on the upcoming elections and voter registration, visit [grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Departments/Office-of-the-City-Clerk](https://grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Departments/Office-of-the-City-Clerk).

## Before You Light Those Fireworks, Make Sure You Know the New Rules

Do you celebrate the holidays with a bang? If so, please take note of new fireworks rules approved by your City Commission. The new rules reflect recent changes to state law governing the use of consumer-grade fireworks.

**These are the dates and times you can set off fireworks:**

- 11 a.m. December 31 to 1 a.m. January 1
- 11 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. on the Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Memorial Day
- 11 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. June 29 to July 4
- 11 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. July 5 – if it's a Friday or Saturday
- 11 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. on the Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day

Violations are subject to a civil fine of \$1,000. For more information, visit [grandrapidsmi.gov/Our-City/News-Media/City-Commission-approves-changes-to-fireworks-rules](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/Our-City/News-Media/City-Commission-approves-changes-to-fireworks-rules).



## Want to Help Your Community? Join Your Police Department

Your Grand Rapids Police Department soon will open another sponsorship opportunity for the non-certified police officer position. This hiring process will select recruits for the Police Department to sponsor to attend Grand Valley State University's Police Academy in April 2020.

Sponsored recruits are paid a starting annual salary of \$45,369 and receive all the benefits provided by the City while attending the police academy. Upon completion of the police academy, recruits return to the Police Department for additional training and are sworn in as police officers.

This application process is open to those meeting these minimum qualifications:

- At least 18 years old
- U.S. citizen
- High school diploma or GED equivalent
- No felony convictions
- Valid Michigan driver's license
- Experience communicating effectively and engaging with a wide range of individuals under a variety of circumstances

Sign up at [governmentjobs.com/careers/grandrapids](http://governmentjobs.com/careers/grandrapids) to receive notifications about when the application process will open – tentatively set for July 29.



## City Clerk's Office is Your Source for Passport and Notary Services

Did you know your City Clerk's Office offers passport and notary services? If you want to apply for a passport, simply make an appointment by calling 616.456.3010. If you need a document notarized, our staff can assist with you. The fee for notarization is \$5 per signature.

You can learn more about these services and all that your Clerk's Office has to offer at [grandrapidsmi.gov/clerk](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/clerk).



**KEEP UP THE  
PAW-SOME WORK.**

Thanks for leashing  
and cleaning up  
after your pet so our  
neighborhoods and parks  
are great places for everyone.

## Calling All Youth Who Want to Show Off Their Musical Talents

Musicians at your Police Department are inviting youth with similar talents to warm their voices and tune their instruments for the second annual Reach Out with Cops and Kids (R.O.C.K.) event. R.O.C.K. is a free community concert – set for Saturday, September 14 at Rosa Parks Circle, 135 Monroe Center St. NW.

The event pairs musicians and singers from the Police Department with Kent County youth who want to display their musical talents onstage. Visitors to Grand Rapids can experience the downtown Project 1 by ArtPrize installations and then stay for some great entertainment.

Last year, 12 young performers took center stage during the concert, each providing a solo musical selection or choosing to have GRPD personnel provide backup. From bass guitar to drums to vocals, GRPD officers share their talents in this non-traditional way to help strengthen relationships between the department and youth in the community.

The 2019 call for singers, musicians and performers is open to all Kent County residents ages 17 and younger. Applicants are asked to submit a 1-minute or less video by August 19 via private message to the Police Department's Facebook page – [facebook.com/GrandRapidsPD](https://facebook.com/GrandRapidsPD). The community will vote for the top 10 musicians via "like" on the videos posted on the Facebook page. Selected musicians are required to attend at least one rehearsal before the concert – dates, times and locations will be announced.



R.O.C.K. was developed by musician and Community Police Officer Brian Grooms after he realized there were many musically talented youth in the community who simply needed a platform – maybe even a band – to make their dreams come true. He also recognized the Police Department had at least a dozen

talented musicians who could help local youth build on their musical abilities and boost their confidence.

For questions about the event, contact the Police Department's Community Engagement Unit at [GRPDrecruiting@grcity.us](mailto:GRPDrecruiting@grcity.us) or 616.456.3301.

# Let's Connect, GR.

**GR Connect** is YOUR source for neighborhood news and information about what's happening at the City of Grand Rapids.

Subscribe to this free monthly e-newsletter at [grandrapidsmi.gov/GRConnect](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/GRConnect).



## Give Back to Your Community – Become a Police Volunteer

If you have some free time and are looking for a meaningful way to improve quality of life for all who call Grand Rapids home, your Police Department may have just the opportunity for you. The department is looking for volunteers to help deliver key services to neighborhoods. Volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of eight hours each month between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays or weekends.

The department's volunteer program aims to strengthen relationships with community members by providing extra eyes and ears in neighborhoods across our city. As a citizen volunteer, you'll help relieve police officers of duties unrelated to crime, such as abandoned vehicle tags, parking violation enforcement, graffiti reporting, vacation house checks and senior resident visits. Duties also might include writing seasonal odd/even parking violations.

The volunteer qualifications include:

- Minimum age of 18 years old
- Good health
- U.S. citizenship
- Possession of a valid Michigan driver's license
- Successful completion of a background investigation

The volunteer program provides equipment, uniforms and training and offers flexible scheduling. To learn more or to register as a volunteer, visit [grandrapidsmi.gov/Services/Apply-for-the-Police-Volunteer-Neighborhood-Services-Program](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/Services/Apply-for-the-Police-Volunteer-Neighborhood-Services-Program).



COLLEGE

8/8/19

5:30 - 8:00 PM

BOOTCAMP

FREE FOOD  
FREE T-SHIRTS

For free bus passes to this event contact us at 616-304-8333.

CALLING ALL 2019  
GRADUATES, PARENTS &  
SUPPORTIVE ADULTS!

111  
LIBRARY  
STREET



## We Can Help Your Small Business Grow

If you own or manage a small business in Grand Rapids, we want you to be successful and grow. Here are two ways we can help:

### Small Business Expo

Consider attending our Small Business Expo on Thursday, August 29 from 3 to 7 p.m. at DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Ave. NW. We're partnering with Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. to host this event, which provides an opportunity for you to network with other local small businesses for resource sharing and brand exposure and to meet new customers.

### Micro-Local Business Enterprise certification

Did you know we issue hundreds of requests for bids and proposals each year? These awarded contracts could enhance your bottom line. Our free Micro-Local Business Enterprise certification offers small and local businesses the opportunity to bid competitively for City purchasing opportunities.

If you're interested in doing business with us or registering your business for the Small Business Expo, please contact Alvin Hills IV at [inclusion@grcity.us](mailto:inclusion@grcity.us) or 616.456.3449.



## Be Smart When Watering Your Lawn

Now that the cool, wet spring is over and the heat of the summer is settling in, we're breaking out the sprinklers to keep our lawns looking green.

Did you know outdoor water use accounts for about 30 percent of average household water use nationwide? That's according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

### Here are some tips to help you be more efficient in watering your lawn:

- Water your lawn in the early morning when it's cooler and less windy. This will prevent the water from quickly evaporating. Watering in the evening causes grass to retain too much moisture and may lead to fungal diseases.
- Water deeply and less often instead of lightly and more often. Allowing water to infiltrate deep into the ground is healthier for your grass and promotes deep root growth.
- Water your lawn only when it's needed. Upgrading to smart technology that monitors weather data will keep your irrigation system from watering when it rains.
- Maintain and evaluate your sprinklers often to make sure they're watering evenly and in the right places. A simple check and adjustment can keep your sprinkler from watering paved surfaces or operating at a higher water pressure than needed.

## Thrive Outside: 15 Minutes Outdoors Each Day Can Improve Your Health and Well-Being



Our Community's Children, a partnership of the City of Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Public Schools, is part of the Thrive Outside initiative aimed at getting children and families outdoors. Take time this summer to enjoy our parks and playgrounds. For a list, visit [grandrapidsmi.gov/Residents/My-Neighborhood/Parks-Directory](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/Residents/My-Neighborhood/Parks-Directory).

Learn more about Thrive Outside at [grandrapidsmi.gov/Our-City/News-Media/Grant-from-Outdoor-Foundation-to-get-more-kids-and-families-outside](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/Our-City/News-Media/Grant-from-Outdoor-Foundation-to-get-more-kids-and-families-outside)





**Parks and Recreation**  
CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

### General Information

- Ages 18 & up (all fitness levels welcome) for adult fitness
- 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 Facebook
- You are encouraged to consult with a physician prior to beginning an exercise program

### Three ways to register



ONLINE  
[grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation)



BY PHONE  
616.456.3696, option #1



IN PERSON  
201 Market Ave SW

### Two ways to save

- 1) Multiple classes equal a reduced rate!
- 2) Early bird registration Aug 5-August 29

### Register between Aug 5 - Aug 29

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

### Register on Aug 30, 2019 or after

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

### Looking for flexibility?

### **P** Adult Fitness Punchcards

Purchase a punchcard 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.

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

1 punch = 1 class



## YOGA

Register online: [grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation)

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
<b>BASIC YOGA</b> <b>P</b> Discover your inner yogi in a class that builds strength and body awareness. Begin with gentle stretching and move to flowing through and holding poses. Class will come to a restful end.	MON	5:30 - 6:25 PM	KEC OAKLEIGH	TERRI S.
	MON	6:30 - 7:25 PM	GARFIELD PARK GYM	SARA R.
	TUE	6:00 - 6:55 PM	N PARK PRESBYTERIAN	BETH H.
	WED	6:00 - 6:55 PM	PALMER ELEMENTARY	KATHY W.
	WED	6:30 - 7:25 PM	KEC OAKLEIGH	TERRI S.
	THU	12:15 - 1:00 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KAYE E.
	THU	4:30 - 5:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	MARLA F.
	SAT	9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	SARA R.
<b>GENTLE YOGA</b> <b>P</b> 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	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KAYE E.
	TUE	9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S.
	THU	9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S.
<b>TAI CHI EASY</b> <b>P</b> A gentle standing meditation, designed to encourage energy flow throughout the body. You will learn total-body movements that can be combined into forms that are unique to your needs. This practice is accessible to anyone wanting to invite calm and clarity into their life.	WED (SEP 18 - NOV 20)	10:30 - 11:25 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	ALESHEIA H.
	TUE (SEP 17 - NOV 19)	10:30 - 11:25 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	ALESHEIA H.
<b>QIGONG</b> <b>P</b> Pronounced "chee-kung", this qigong practice will be a very gentle movement class, focusing on harnessing the power of our own mind, correcting postural imbalances, and combining movement with breath. We will practice standing, seated, and/or lying down. This practice is accessible to anyone seeking to bring healing energy into their life.	TUE (SEP 17 - NOV 19)	10:30 - 11:25 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	ALESHEIA H.


## CYCLING

Register online: [grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation)









CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
<b>CYCLING</b> <b>P</b> 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	5:30 - 6:15 PM	P&R CYCLING STUDIO	CAROL S.
	TUE	6:15 - 7:00 PM		STEVE C.
	WED	4:30 - 5:15 PM		JOAN O.
	WED	5:30 - 6:15 PM		JOAN O.
	THU	6:00 - 6:45 PM		JULIE S.
	SAT	8:00 - 8:45 AM		CAROL S.
<b>CYCLE &amp; STRENGTH</b> A combination of high-intensity cycling intervals followed by strength exercises that target the arms, abs and lower back.	MON	6:30 - 7:25 PM	P&R CYCLING STUDIO	JULIE S.

# CARDIO & STRENGTH

Register online: [grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation) 




CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
<b>BOOTCAMP</b>  Get ready to push yourself harder than you would on your own. With a mix of strength and cardio, this class is developed to help you improve your body composition, strength and endurance. Each week's workout will vary, challenging your body in different ways.	MON	6:30 - 7:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	JULIE D.
<b>CARDIO &amp; CORE</b>  This class combines a variety of strength and aerobic conditioning exercises followed by Pilates-based core work and stretching. Using a variety of equipment and unique training circuits, participants will work all major muscle groups and stay inspired and energized.	WED	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	ZIYAH D.
<b>CORE CAMP</b>  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	6:00 - 6:55 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KRISTIN P.
<b>KICKBOXING</b>  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	VALERIE J.
<b>PILATES</b>  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.	TUE	5:30 - 6:25 PM	GARFIELD PARK GYM	ZIYAH D.
<b>POUND®</b>  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 - 6:15 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KRISTIN P.
<b>STRONG BY ZUMBA</b>  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	JUDITH V.
<b>WATER AEROBICS</b>  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.

# DANCE

Register online: [grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation) 

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
<b>BALLROOM DANCING</b> Learn the Salsa, Waltz, Foxtrot, East Coast Swing, Cha Cha, Rumba, and Tango.	MON	7:30 - 8:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	BYRON D.
<b>BALLROOM DANCING: THE NEXT STEPS</b> 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.
<b>GROOVE</b>  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.	MON WED	6:30 - 7:25 PM 5:30 - 6:25 PM	KEC OAKLEIGH KEC OAKLEIGH	TERRI S. TERRI S.
<b>NEW! GENTLE GROOVE</b>  If you like moving your body to a variety of music without complicated steps, this is the class for you. Boost your happiness level and gain confidence in your body and balance, while increasing your heart rate. Perfect for the 50+ crowd or those who prefer to move slower.	WED	9:30 - 10:25 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S.
<b>ZUMBA</b>  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 6:30 - 7:25 PM	GARFIELD PARK GYM P&R FITNESS STUDIO	BRI C. BRI C.

# We're on the Path to Park Excellence



These park projects and improvements are possible through the voter-passed parks millage approved in 2013.

Learn about the millage as well as all past, present, and future park projects by visiting [grandrapidsmi.gov](http://grandrapidsmi.gov) and searching "park projects"

## Making a Positive Impact Five Years of Parks Millage Results

**73%**  
parks improved  
(100% by the end of 2021)

**24<sup>1</sup>**  
playground renovations

**\$4,963,390**  
in new park improvements

**Over \$12 million<sup>2</sup>**  
leveraged in outside grants and funding

**\$10,908,601**  
in park rehabilitation  
and repairs

**\$3,741,565<sup>3</sup>**  
to fund pools

**20,401<sup>4</sup>**  
volunteer hours with 7,518 volunteers

**218,081<sup>5</sup>**  
total pool visits

**55+**  
community partners

### Footnotes:

1. Playground improvements at Alexander, Briggs, Campau, Cherry, Cheseboro, Coit, Caulfield, Dickinson, Douglas, Eastern, Fuller, Garfield, Highland, Huff, Joe Taylor, Lexington, Lincoln, MacKay-Jaycees, Martin Luther King, Mooney, Mulick, Ottawa Hills, Raspberry, Wilcox

2. Sources: Michigan DNR, CDBG, City Capital Improvement Fund, Friends of GR Parks, Herman Miller Cares Foundation, Peter C. and Emajean Cook Foundation, Patronicity/MEDC, Elizabeth Sanders, My GR City Points, National Parks and Recreation Association, DGRI, DDA, Brownfield, Wege Foundation, KaBOOM!

3. Through June 30, 2019

4. Source: Friends of Grand Rapids Parks

5. 2014-2018

RICHMOND PARK POOL



It wasn't long ago that we had broken drinking fountains, closed pools and rundown playgrounds. Grand Rapids residents entrusted us to do something about it when they passed the 2013 Parks Millage. We're making great progress so we can keep our promise.  
— Mayor Rosalynn Bliss

The improvements made through the voter-approved dedicated parks millage are transforming play experiences for children, social spaces for families and recreational opportunities for swimmers. The millage has also allowed the City to leverage significant outside funding that otherwise wouldn't be available.  
— David Marquardt, Parks and Recreation Director

With a focus on sustainability, accessibility and nature-based play, we're excited about the next set of projects made possible by the 2013 Parks Millage. We have a transparent process and are accountable for making sure all neighborhood parks benefit.  
— Ryan Walkes, Parks Advisory Board President

### 2019 Park Projects (construction)

Alger	Joe Taylor	MacKay-Jaycees
Belknap	Lexington	Martin Luther King
Briggs	Lincoln Place	Raspberry Field
Foster	Look Out	Reservoir

CHERRY PARK'S SLASH PAD





# SWIM LESSONS

Registration Fee: Resident \$50 Non \$60

Register online: [grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation)

SESSION I: CLASS MEETS ON SATURDAYS FROM SEPTEMBER 14 - NOVEMBER 2 (8 LESSONS TOTAL)	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
<b>PRESCHOOL LEVEL I (AGES 3-5)</b> Orients children in the pool and helps them gain basic aquatic skills.	SAT	11:30 AM - NOON	CITY HIGH POOL
<b>PRESCHOOL LEVEL II (AGES 3-5)</b> Kids gain greater independence in their skills and get more comfortable in the water.	SAT	11:30 AM - NOON	CITY HIGH POOL
<b>LEVEL I (AGES 6+)</b> Helps kids feel comfortable in the water.	SAT	10:30 - 11:15 AM	CITY HIGH POOL
<b>LEVEL II (AGES 6+)</b> Child must have passed or show skills required for Level I. Class builds on fundamental skills.	SAT	10:30 - 11:15 AM	CITY HIGH POOL
<b>LEVEL III (AGES 6+)</b> 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.	SAT	9:30 - 10:15 AM	CITY HIGH POOL
<b>LEVEL IV (AGES 6+)</b> 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.	SAT	9:30 - 10:15 AM	CITY HIGH POOL

# ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Register online: [grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation)

CLASS	DATE(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
<b>DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY 101</b> 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. <b>Ages 16+, Resident: \$75, Non: \$85</b>	SEP 17, 24, OCT 1 OCT 30, NOV 6, 13	6:30 - 8:30 PM 6:30 - 8:30 PM	PORTER HILLS VILLAGE MEETING ROOM
<b>DIGITAL EDITING 101</b> 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. <b>Ages 16+, Resident: \$50, Non: \$60</b>	NOV 12, 19, 26	6:30 - 8:30 PM	PORTER HILLS VILLAGE MEETING ROOM
<b>NEW CLASS! KOMBUCHA</b> You may have noticed a new beverage popping up in local grocery stores: Kombucha! This fizzy probiotic drink actually originated back in 220 BC, and it was deemed the "Immortal Health Elixir" by the Chinese. Want to learn how to make and flavor your own kombucha?  This course will include a live demonstration, step-by-step brewing instructions, and plenty of time to answer your questions. You will leave the class with knowledge of kombucha's history and origins, along with detailed recipes you can follow at home. There will also be a tasting of different kombucha flavors to inspire your own brews. <b>Ages 18+, Resident: \$35, Non: \$45</b>	SEPTEMBER 19 NOVEMBER 7	6:30 - 8:00 PM 6:30 - 8:00 PM	PORTER HILLS VILLAGE MEETING ROOM
<b>TREE CAMP</b> Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, in partnership with Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation, is hosting a tree camp - explore the forest in your backyard. Kids ages 9-12 (city resident) will explore and engage with unique forests that exist within the city's parks. Learn all about trees through daily guided hikes, field journaling, and tree-inspired arts and crafts. Each day will focus on a different theme including tree identification, tree biology, the ecosystem around trees, and the different threats that our city faces. In addition to completed arts and crafts, participants will also receive field journals to take home and continue their work. All participants will receive a badge certifying them as official Youth Neighborhood Foresters and are invited to help plant trees with Friends of Grand Rapids Parks in the fall. <b>Ages 9-12, FREE for Grand Rapids Residents</b>	JULY 29 - AUGUST 1 AUGUST 5 - 8	12:30 - 2:30 PM 9:30 - 11:30 AM	RICHMOND PARK PAVILION GARFIELD PARK SHELTER



## EVENTS AT INDIAN TRAILS GOLF COURSE

All events held at Indian Trails Golf Course (2776 Kalamazoo Ave SE). Visit [indiantrailsgc.org/events](http://indiantrailsgc.org/events) for more information and to register online.

EVENT	DAY	TIME
<b>PAR 3 SHOOTOUT</b> Registration for our annual par 3 shootout includes 18 holes with a cart, lunch, and prizes for the winning team. <b>Format: 18-hole, 2-person scramble, Cost: \$40/player</b>	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29	9:00 AM SHOTGUN START TIME

## 5K TRAINING PROGRAM

2 RUNS A WEEK FOR 7 WEEKS, 10 FITNESS CLASSES, AND 1 RACE DAY

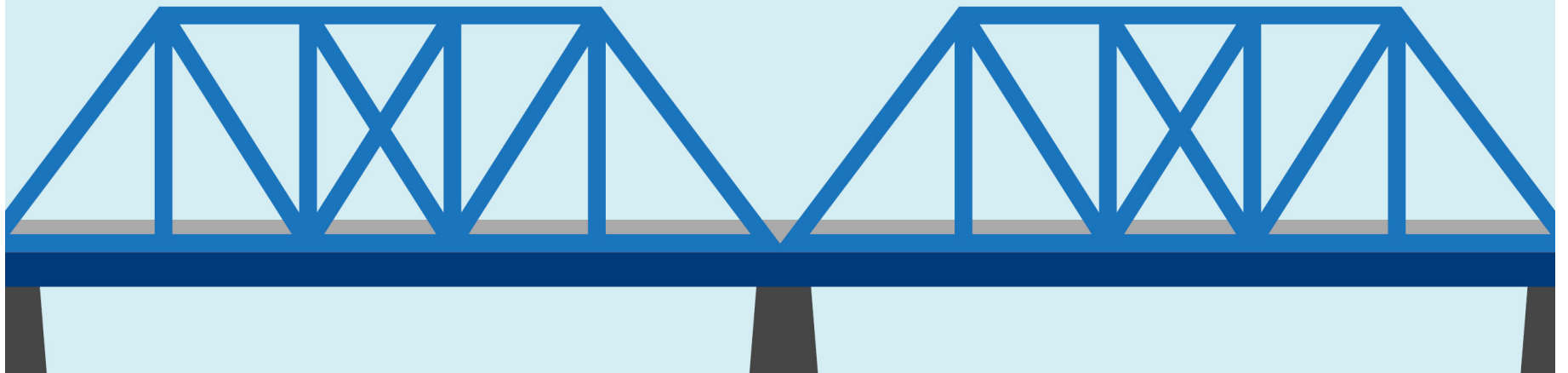
	Resident	Non
Registration Fee	\$60	\$70

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
The 5K training program is designed for first-time runners, casual runners, or those getting back into running after time off. The program meets twice a week (Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings) <b>beginning October 8 and ending November 23</b> . In addition, our running expert will hold "chalk talks" before Saturday runs to provide vital information on running topics (shoes, stretching, nutrition, clothing, hydration). Each participant receives a fitness punch card to attend 10 fitness classes throughout the time period to incorporate cross training in your program. Race fee included.	TUESDAYS, OCT 8 - NOV 19 SATURDAYS, OCT 12 - NOV 23	6:00 PM START 8:30 AM START	START/FINISH AT 201 MARKET AVE SW
	RACE DAY - NOV 28 (GRPS TURKEY TROT)	8:00 AM START	130 FULTON ST W

# Labor Day Community Bridge Walk

Monday, September 2 • 10:00 am • Ah-Nab-Awen Park

Stick around for West Michigan Labor Fest at 11:00 am! Food, games, music & more.



# YOUTH - DANCE

Registration Fee      Resident      Non  
    \$42              \$52

CLASS	SESSION(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
<b>CREATIVE MOVEMENT (AGES 3-5)</b> Children will gain confidence moving their bodies to music while practicing simple steps, repetitive sequences and balance. Stretching, silly songs and props will make the experience fun!	THURSDAYS SEP 12 - OCT 17	10:15 - 10:45 AM	201 MARKET AVE SW
	THURSDAYS OCT 31 - DEC 5	10:15 - 10:45 AM	201 MARKET AVE SW
<b>PRINCESS BALLET (AGES 3-5)</b> Stretch your imagination and your toes in the storybook dance class based on dances from your favorite fairy tales and ballet stories. Your child will explore elements of creative movement, ballet and jazz in this delightful trip to an enchanted kingdom. Ends with recital.	FRIDAYS SEP 13 - OCT 18	9:30 - 10:15 AM	201 MARKET AVE SW
	FRIDAYS NOV 1 - DEC 13	9:30 - 10:15 AM	201 MARKET AVE SW
<b>BALLET/TAP COMBO (AGES 3-5)</b> This class will develop coordination, balance and rhythm through basic ballet/tap moves and creative movement. Participants should wear ballet shoes. The end of the session recital will be a tap dance performance.	TUESDAYS SEP 10 - OCT 15	4:15 - 5:00 PM	201 MARKET AVE SW
	TUESDAYS OCT 29 - DEC 3	4:15 - 5:00 PM	201 MARKET AVE SW
<b>BALLET/TAP COMBO (AGES 6-8)</b>	TUESDAYS SEP 10 - OCT 15	5:05 - 5:50 PM	201 MARKET AVE SW
	TUESDAYS OCT 29 - DEC 3	5:05 - 5:50 PM	201 MARKET AVE SW

## RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT FEES:

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

## REFUND POLICY:

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

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

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

## CANCELLATIONS:

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

## FEE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE:

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

# YOUTH - GYMNASTICS

Registration Fee      Resident      Non  
    \$42              \$52

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
<b>GYMNASTICS I (AGES 4-6)</b> For the younger gymnast to encourage success and fun in the gym. Kids learn tumbling and balancing basics with emphasis on strength and flexibility.	SATURDAYS SEP 14 - OCT 19	10:30 - 11:15 AM	201 MARKET AVE SW
	SATURDAYS NOV 2 - DEC 3	10:30 - 11:15 AM	201 MARKET AVE SW
<b>GYMNASTICS II (AGES 5-9)</b> A follow-up to Gymnastics I. Activities increase strength, movement, coordination, agility and flexibility. Kids must be able to complete cartwheel and back bridge to sign up.	SATURDAYS SEP 14 - OCT 19	11:30 AM - 12:15 PM	201 MARKET AVE SW
	SATURDAYS NOV 2 - DEC 3	11:30 AM - 12:15 PM	201 MARKET AVE SW

## CLASS LOCATIONS:

- City High - 1720 Plainfield Ave NE
- Garfield Park Shelter/Gym - 2111 Madison Ave SE
- Indian Trails Golf Course - 2776 Kalamazoo Ave SE
- KEC Oakleigh - 2223 Gordon St NW
- N Park Presbyterian - 500 North Park St NE
- P&R Cycling Studio - 201 Market Ave SW
- P&R Fitness Studio - 201 Market Ave SW
- Palmer Elementary - 309 Palmer St NE
- Porter Hills Village - 3600 Fulton St E
- Richmond Park - 1101 Richmond St NW
- West MI Fencing Academy - 1111 Godfrey Ave SW

# YOUTH - FENCING

Registration Fee      Resident      Non  
    \$79              \$89

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
<b>OLYMPIC FENCING CAMP (AGES 7-17)</b> 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.	TUES - THURS AUGUST 13-15 AUGUST 13-15	1:00 - 2:30 PM 6:00 - 7:30 PM	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY



[grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation)



## PROGRAMS FOR AGES 50+ AT GARFIELD PARK GYM

These programs are designed for ages 50+, however, everyone is welcome to participate. In addition to these classes, we share community information and offer Cribbage Game Days, Book Club, Knitting Thursdays, and Explore the Neighborhood for everyone to participate in. Stop in to pick up a monthly calendar of activities or to check out any of our classes. Find more information at [grandrapidsmi.gov](http://grandrapidsmi.gov), keyword "50+", by calling 616-456-3696, option 1, or visiting our Facebook page at [facebook.com/GarfieldParkGym](https://facebook.com/GarfieldParkGym). **All classes are held at 2111 Madison Ave SE. Fall season begins September 3, 2019.**

PROGRAM	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	PRICE
<b>STRETCH AND FLEX</b> 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.	MONDAYS WEDNESDAYS	10:00 - 10:55 AM	\$3/CLASS
<b>ACTIVE ADULTS FITNESS</b> Class includes a warm-up, standing cardio and strength training. Classes are drop-in and ongoing.	TUESDAYS THURSDAYS	11:00 - 11:55 AM	\$3/CLASS
<b>WALKING CLUB</b> Come walk your way to health. New! Information on Senior Health and Fitness will be held on the last Monday of the month at 11:00 am.	MON - THU	10:00 AM - NOON	FREE
<b>PICKLEBALL</b> Get together to play this great court game! Never played? We'll teach you! We have equipment for new players to use. Come see what Pickleball is all about. We have two indoor courts available.	TUE & WED FRIDAYS	NOON -2:30 PM 9:30 - 11:30 AM	FREE

## 2019 FALL SOCCER

Team-building, friendly competition, and improving skills are all part of our youth soccer program. Choose from two Grand Rapids locations and six co-ed age divisions ranging from 4 to 15 years old.

### QUICK INFO

- Practices begin Sep 3 or 5
- Games begin Sep 14
- Season ends Oct 19
- Each team practices for one hour per week (except 4-5 age group)
- Each team plays one game per week on Saturdays
- Children of all abilities are welcome to play

### REGISTER BY AUGUST 16

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



ONLINE

[grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr)  
Search "soccer"



BY PHONE

616.456.3696  
Option #1



IN PERSON

201 Market Ave SW  
Grand Rapids, MI



**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

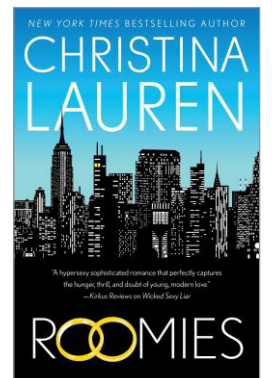
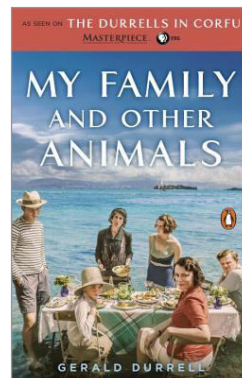
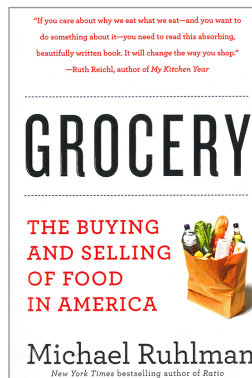
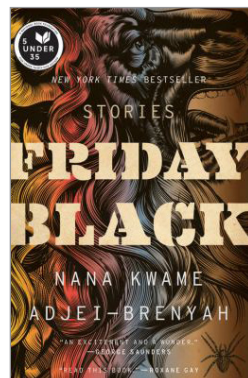
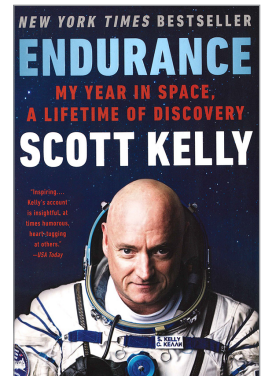
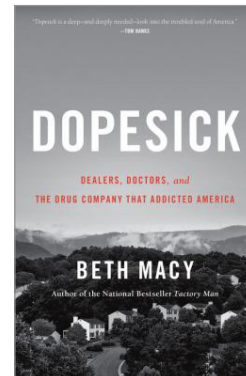
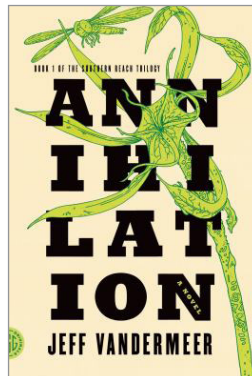
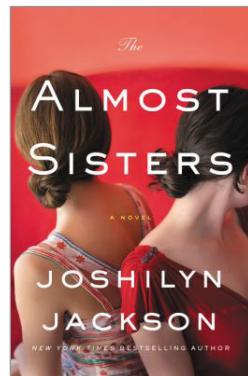
M-T 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
W-Th 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM  
Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM



616.988.5400 • WWW.GRPL.ORG

# GR Reads: Summer Reading All Grown Up!

Through August 31, 2019 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 ten interesting books that our smart staff have selected and join your neighbors for fun, informative programs that are inspired by the books. For a complete list of books, the fun, free events, and locations, visit [www.grpl.org/grreads](http://www.grpl.org/grreads) or stop by any GRPL location.

Sponsored by:



Media Sponsors:



## Events



### GR Reads Photowalk

Monday, July 22, 2019, 7:00 pm  
(Rain Date: July 29)  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE  
(meet on the front steps)

Grab your camera for a walking photography lesson with local professional photographer Dianne Carroll Burdick. Learn tips and tricks for shooting in an urban setting and discover interesting vantage points and framing techniques. All skill levels welcome. Wear comfortable shoes and don't forget your camera!



### Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum Tours

Wednesday, July 24, 2019, 11:00 am  
Thursday, August 15, 2019, 11:00 am  
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum – 303 Pearl NW

Curator Don Hollaway will led a tour of the museum and discuss the life of First Lady Betty Ford using museum exhibits and artifacts. The first 25 GRPL cardholders will get in free when they present their GRPL library card. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.



### Amazing UFO Cases

Tuesday, July 30, 2019, 7:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Every year, the Mutual UFO Network, the world's largest civilian UFO research organization, compiles the best cases it receives. Join State Director Bill Konkolesky as he shares stunning recent accounts of unidentified aerial phenomena. Learn about accounts of amazing maneuvers that startled people and animals, engaged with military aircraft, and much more.



### GR Reads Pop Up Market

Thursday, August 1, 2019, 3:00 – 8:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Inspired by Ayoola's fashion sense in *My Sister, the Serial Killer*, the library is hosting a pop up market. Come shop and support small local businesses that offer clothing, organic bath and beauty products, delicious food, and more.

Vendors include:

- African Fashions
- Afro Princess Publishing
- Barb's Bangles
- Flavorful Pound Cakes & Treats
- Loc Royalty LLC Apparel Brand
- Mosby's Popcorn
- Naturally ACT
- Rock Candy Earrings & Things
- Rooted Floral Company
- Savor the Flavor
- Shead LLC Company
- We are LIT



### Greek Cooking to Go

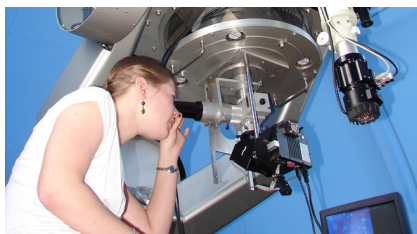
Monday, August 5, 2019, 7:00 pm  
Wednesday, August 7, 2019, 7:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Opa! Fresh, local fruits and veggies abound in West Michigan during the summer months. Why not try a new, fun take on all our local produce? Join Esther Koukios, owner of Greek to Go, to learn to make tourlou. Tourlou is a vegetable medley that can showcase the bright flavors of your garden with a Grecian touch. You will also learn to make tzatziki, a tasty cucumber yogurt dip that goes far beyond a gyro sandwich. You'll end your time on a sweet note with an authentic taste of baklava—a honey/walnut dessert that is layered in phyllo dough. Come enjoy a taste of Greece!

### GR Reads: The Movies – *Annihilation*

Tuesday, August 6, 2019, 8:00 pm  
Wealthy Theatre – 1130 Wealthy St SE

After her husband returns physically changed from a secret mission, a biologist decides to join a dangerous expedition into a zone where the laws of nature have been turned around. Tickets are \$3 with a valid GRPL library card. Use code GRPL2019 to purchase tickets online.



### An Evening at the Calvin Observatory

Tuesday, August 6, 2019, 9:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Professor Larry Molnar will present a tour of the August evening sky, highlighting Jupiter, Saturn, and the Moon. He will also discuss NASA's Mars exploration and discuss Scott Kelly's book *Endurance*. Following the presentation, there will be an opportunity to observe the night sky with Calvin's 16-inch telescope in the rooftop dome and with a portable telescope on the college lawn.



### Kombucha 101

Monday, August 12, 2019, 7:00 pm  
Sacred Springs – 1059 Wealthy St SE

Kom-bu-cha: A fizzy, fermented tea that is rich in probiotics. Geoff Lamden, co-creator of Sacred Springs, will present the history of kombucha, the possible health benefits, and how to brew kombucha. The first ten people to sign in at the program will receive a complimentary kombucha culture. The culture is not required to participate in the program, but it can be purchased at the event.



### Summer Foraging in the Midwest

Tuesday, August 13, 2019, 7:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Join herbalist, forager, and author Lisa Rose on a wild journey to learn about local plants that can be used for food and herbal medicine. Come away with tips on how to locate the wild edibles of summer and learn the safe harvesting rules of urban foraging. Proper identification, harvesting ethics, traditional uses and recipes will be discussed.

Photo credit: Johnny Q



### Books & Butchers

Monday, August 19, 2019, 7:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Do you know the difference between spare ribs and baby back ribs? Ever wonder where pork chops come from or what is the difference between bacon and pork belly? The butchers from E.A. Brady's will offer a unique demonstration of the process of butchering a half hog. As they work, they will share their experience and knowledge about preparing, cooking and serving quality meat products that are sourced in West Michigan. They will also discuss running a socially conscious small business in the Grand Rapids local economy.



### Shopping for Food: A Short History

Tuesday, August 20, 2019, 7:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

*Grocery* is an in-depth look at a shared American experience—shopping for food. The way we buy groceries has a colorful past and a future filled with change. Local grocer Hank Meijer looks at the evolving supermarket landscape through the over-lapping perspectives of Ruhlman's book and his own experience.

### A Community Conversation on Facing the Opioid Epidemic

Thursday, August 22, 2019, 7:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Recently declared a national public health emergency, opioid-related deaths kill more people in Michigan than car accidents or firearms. Local responses range from providing police with tools that counteract overdoses to opening safe injection sites. Join the library, along with Dirt City Sanctuary, the Kent County Opioid Task Force, and The Red Project for an important community conversation.

# 2019 Summer Reading Challenge

Through September 2, 2019 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 location between July 22 and September 2 to finish the Summer Reading Challenge and to pick up your prize.

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

## Event for Kids



### Final Approach at the Public Museum

Saturday, July 27, 2019  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Grand Rapids Public Museum  
272 Pearl St NW

After an exciting journey through the stars, you've almost made it back home. Join us at the Grand Rapids Public Museum to celebrate all that you've done so far. Show your GRPL card and get free admission to the Public Museum and kids get a free ride on the carousel! Stop by the library stations for snacks and space crafts. Limited planetarium tickets will be available. Parking is free with Kent County ID card.

## Event for Teens



### Modern Pop Art Experience and Collage Workshop

Thursday, July 25, 2019  
2:00 pm – Main Library

Michael Albert has been creating art since his college days at New York University. His art has evolved from pen & ink doodles, to wax oil drawings, to the cubist mosaic cereal box collages he has become known for. Michael will share his art and expertise in this hands-on event where you will make your own collage. All materials will be provided.

## Events for Little Readers



### Let's Play!

Let's Play is a four-week program for children 0-5 and their parents or caregivers and focuses on child-driven play. Children will explore different types of play. Each week an early childhood specialist will be available to answer questions parents may have about their child's development. Families are encouraged to attend all four sessions.

Tuesdays, August 6 – 27, 2019  
11:00 am – Main Library  
6:30 pm – West Leonard Branch  
Wednesdays, August 7 – 28, 2019  
10:30 am – Seymour Branch  
12:00 pm – West Side Branch



Sponsors:



Media Sponsors:



## Grand Rapids Public Library Eliminates All Children's Fines



We are excited to announce that we have eliminated all fines on youth materials. Overdue children and teen material (books, movies and music) will no longer accrue fines. Accounts with old fines on this material have also been forgiven.

“The decision to eliminate fines on youth material is about equity and access,” remarked GRPL Director John McNaughton. “We know that 75% of Grand Rapids Public School 3rd graders are not proficient in reading. This is a community problem that we can help solve. By removing a large barrier to using the library, we can get books in homes and help to develop a daily reading habit. Our goal is to emphasize the return of library material rather than penalizing our youngest patrons. Using the library should not be a source of stress for families. Life gets complicated. Take an extra day or two if needed. We will still be here for you.”

“This is great news for families in our city,” Mayor Rosalynn Bliss said. “It’s important that we remove barriers to ensure our children are reaching their potential and that this is a great place for everyone.”

Library patrons will still be responsible for the replacement cost of items that are lost or damaged.

To learn more, contact Customer Service staff at 616-988-5400 or [custserv@grpl.org](mailto:custserv@grpl.org).

### BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

William Baldrige  
President

Kent Sparks  
Vice President/Secretary

Rachel S. Anderson

James Botts

Sophia Ward Brewer

M. Jade VanderVelde

Caralee Witteveen-Lane

### LIBRARY LEADERS

John J. McNaughton  
Director

Marla J. Ehlers  
Assistant Director



616.988.5400 • [WWW.GRPL.ORG](http://WWW.GRPL.ORG)

## Summer Computer Classes

### Intro to Coding Workshop

Thursday, July 25, 2019, 6:30 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Looking to transition to a career in tech or curious about tech careers? This free workshop, taught by the Grand Circus community, is designed for those curious about coding but have little or no coding experience. This workshop will provide you with basic programming technology and give you the opportunity to practice basic programming ideas. This program is provided in collaboration with the City of Grand Rapids SmartZone and the Grand Rapids Public Library. Registration is required. Sign up at [www.grpl.org/intro-to-coding](http://www.grpl.org/intro-to-coding).

### Open Lab – Bilingual Computer Help

Wednesdays, July 3 – 31, 2019  
1:00 – 3:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Need help with your computer, tablet or smartphone? We’re here for you. Stop by during our drop-in computer help sessions and our bilingual staff can answer your questions.

## Labor Day Closings

The following branches will be closed on Saturday, August 31, 2019:

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

All library locations will be closed on Sunday, September 1 and Monday, September 2, 2019.

## Sunday Hours

The Main Library is closed on Sundays in the summer.

Sunday hours at the Main Library (1:00 – 5:00 pm) will resume on Sunday, September 8, 2019.





# WE ARE GR

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

## Welcome Interim Superintendent Dr. Ron Gorman

As of July 1, 2019, Dr. Ron Gorman has stepped in as interim superintendent of Grand Rapids Public Schools. Previously, Dr. Gorman was the Assistant Superintendent of Pre-K-12 Instructional Support. For more than two decades he has served the Grand Rapids Public Schools as an elementary teacher, a secondary teacher, a high school assistant principal, a high school athletic director, a K-8 principal, a high school principal, and the Executive Director of Secondary Schools.

“We have made tremendous gains under the leadership of Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal,” says Gorman. “I’m honored to serve our district during this time of transition. I will work tirelessly every day to ensure we continue to make transformational improvements.”

Dr. Gorman holds a Bachelor of Arts from Aquinas College, a Master of Educational Leadership from Michigan State University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University. He has also attended professional education programs at Harvard Graduate School of Education and New York City Leadership Academy. In addition to his educational accomplishments, he proudly

served eight years in the United States Army Reserves.

In support of former Superintendent Weatherall Neal’s Transformation Plan, Dr. Gorman collaborates with administrators, teachers, parents, and students to plan and facilitate research-based professional development opportunities that support quality instruction, school climate and culture, instructional leadership, assessment literacy, and high levels of student-achievement.

Dr. Gorman has dedicated his career to GRPS. He championed graduation rate improvement efforts which have led to a 26.29 percentage point increase in graduation rates from 2012 to 2018 (44.56% to 71.25%) and drop-out rate improvement efforts which decreased from a 22.60% drop-out rate in 2012 to 11.4% in 2018. Under his leadership, GRPS has seen an increase in college readiness and improvement on the Michigan Top-to-Bottom School Rankings list.

Dr. Gorman lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan with his wife Melissa Gorman, who is also an educator in the Grand Rapids Public Schools, and their two children who attend GRPS.



The We Are GR newspaper is a joint publication of Grand Rapids Public Schools and the City of Grand Rapids. We want to make sure that it is meeting the needs and wants of our community.

Take the brief survey and you can enter in a raffle for the chance to **win a \$50 gift card!**

Please visit:

[surveymonkey.com/r/WeAreGR2019](https://surveymonkey.com/r/WeAreGR2019)

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## AUGUST 2019

Aug 20	<b>FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL</b>
Aug 21-30	NWEA/MAP K-8 Testing (grades 9-10 optional)
Aug 23	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
Aug 27	<b>First Day of Great Start Readiness Preschool</b>
Aug 29	Football Season Opener - Ottawa Hills v Union
Aug 30	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>

## SEPTEMBER 2019

Sep 2	<b>DISTRICT CLOSED</b> - Labor Day
Sep 3-13	NWEA/MAP K-8 Testing (grades 9-10 optional)
Sep 3	<b>First Day of LOOP Programming</b>
Sep 20	Union HS Homecoming Football Game
Sep 27	Ottawa Hills HS Homecoming Football Game
Sep 28	Union HS Cross Country Invitational

## OCTOBER 2019

Oct 1	FAFSA Application Opens (studentaid.gov/fafsa)
Oct 1	Theme School/Ctrs of Innovation Application Opens
Oct 2	<b>COUNT DAY</b>
Oct 5	Ottawa Hills HS Girls' Swim Invitational
Oct 5	Middle School Volleyball Invitational (@ Union)
Oct 14-18	PSAT 8/9
Oct 15	GRCC Dual Enrollment Application Due (Winter)
Oct 16	PSAT 10 and NMSQT 11
Oct 19	Middle School XC Regional (@ GRPS University)
Oct 22	Middle School Football Championship (@ Houseman)
Oct 24	National Lights on After School
Oct 25	End of 1st Marking Period
Oct 28	Beginning of 2nd Marking Period
Oct 28	<b>NO SCHOOL, Records Flex; No LOOP</b>
Oct 29	School Choice Expo & Family Harvest Festival (Gerald R. Ford Academic Center)

## NOVEMBER 2019

Nov 1	1st Round College/University Application Deadline
Nov 5	<b>NO SCHOOL, No LOOP</b> - Professional Development
Nov 25-29	<b>No LOOP Programming</b>
Nov 27	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> - Conference Exchange Day
Nov 28	<b>DISTRICT CLOSED</b> - Thanksgiving, Turkey Trot
Nov 29	<b>DISTRICT CLOSED</b>

## DECEMBER 2019

Dec 1	GR Community Foundation Scholarship Apps Open
Dec 14	Holiday Basketball Tournament
Dec 20	<b>1/2 Day</b> - Students (am), Records Flex (pm) <b>No LOOP</b>
Dec 23-31	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> - Winter Break

## JANUARY 2020

Jan 1-3	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> - Winter Break
Jan 15-20	<b>No LOOP Programming</b>
Jan 15-17	<b>1/2 Day</b> - Secondary Exams (am), Records Flex (pm)
Jan 17	End of 2nd Marking Period
Jan 18	Floyd Mayweather Tournament
Jan 20	<b>NO SCHOOL, No LOOP</b> -Conference Exchange Day
Jan 21	Beginning of 3rd Marking Period
Jan 21-31	NWEA/MAP K-8 Testing (grades 9-10 optional)
Jan 23	School Choice Expo & Winter Carnival

## JANUARY 2020 (Continued)

Jan 29	GRPS HS Vocal Music Festival
Jan 31	Middle School Swimming Championship (@ City)
Jan 31	Theme School/Ctrs of Innovation Application Deadline

## FEBRUARY 2020

Feb 1	Union HS Showcase
Feb 1	Ottawa Hills HS Boys' Swim Invitational
Feb 3-7	NWEA/MAP K-8 Testing (grades 9-10 optional)
Feb 10-11	Pre-MSBOA K-8 Testing (grades 9-10 optional)
Feb 12	<b>COUNT DAY</b>
Feb 13-14	Middle School Vocal Musical Festival
Feb 15	GRCC Dual Enrollment Application Due (Summer)

## MARCH 2020

Mar 1	GR Community Foundation Scholarship Apps Due
Mar 6	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> - Professional Development
Mar 7	Middle School Wrestling Invitational (@ City)
Mar 18-19	GRPS Non-MSBOA Music Festival
Mar 20	End of 3rd Marking Period
Mar 23	Beginning of 4th Marking Period

## APRIL 2020

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

## MAY 2020

May 1	Preschool, Here I Come
May 1-8	M-STEP 5/8/11 Testing
May 1-15	NWEA/MAP K-10 Testing
May 4-29	M-STEP 3/4/6/7 Testing
May 4-29	MI-Access 3-8/11 Testing
May 6	<b>Last Day for Great Start Readiness Preschool</b>
May 21	<b>Last Day of LOOP Programming</b>
May 22	<b>1/2 Day</b> - Students (am), Records Flex (pm)
May 25	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> - Memorial Day

## JUNE 2020

Jun 1-3	<b>1/2 Day</b> - Secondary Exams (am), Records Flex (pm)
Jun 3	End of 4th Marking Period
Jun 3	<b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</b>

## Grand Rapids Public Schools

## WE ARE GR

July 2019  
Grand Rapids  
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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](http://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](mailto:savagem@grps.org) or at (616) 819-2028.

## WE ARE GR

## July 2019

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## 2019/2020 Bell Schedule

SCHOOL	DROP OFF/ BREAKFAST	AM BELL	PM BELL	1/2 DAY BELL
Aberdeen School (PK-8)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Alger Middle (6-8)	7:15	7:40	2:21	10:25
Blandford School (6)	7:50	8:10	3:06	11:20
Brookside Elementary (PK-5)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Buchanan Elementary (PK-5)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Burton Elementary (PK-5)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Burton Middle (6-8)	7:15	7:40	2:21	10:25
CA Frost Environmental Science Academy (K-5)	8:50	9:10	4:06	12:20
CA Frost Environmental Science Academy (6-11)	7:30	8:00	2:47	10:40
Campus Elementary (PK-5)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Center for Economicology (6)	7:45	8:00	2:41	10:45
Cesar E. Chavez Elementary (PK-5)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
City High Middle School (7-12)	7:45	8:00	2:41	10:45
Coit Creative Arts Academy (PK-5)	8:50	9:10	4:06	12:20
Congress Elementary (PK-5)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Dickinson Academy (PK-8)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
East Leonard Elementary (PK-5)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Gerald R. Ford Academic Center (PK-5)	8:50	9:10	4:06	12:20
Grand Rapids Learning Center (9-12)	--	7:45	4:15	11:45
Grand Rapids Montessori (PK-6)	8:50	9:10	4:06	12:20
Grand Rapids Montessori (7-12)	7:10	7:40	2:21	10:25
Grand Rapids Public Museum Middle (6-8)	7:50	8:10	3:06	11:20
Grand Rapids Public Museum High (9-10)	7:55	8:15	2:55	11:25
GR University Prep Academy (6-7)	7:35	8:00	2:41	10:45
GR University Prep Academy (8-12)	7:10	7:35	2:16	10:20
Harrison Park School (PK-8)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Innovation Central (PK-5)	7:10	7:40	2:21	10:25
Ken-O-Sha Park Elementary (PK-5)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Kent Hills Elementary (PK-5)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40

SCHOOL	DROP OFF/ BREAKFAST	AM BELL	PM BELL	1/2 DAY BELL
MLK, Jr. Leadership Academy (PK-8)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Mulick Park Elementary (PK-5)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
North Park Montessori (PK-8)	8:50	9:10	4:06	12:20
Ottawa Hills High (9-12)	7:10	7:40	2:21	10:25
Palmer Elementary (PK-5)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Ridgemoor Park Montessori (PK-6)	8:50	9:10	4:06	12:20
Riverside Middle (6-8)	7:15	7:40	2:21	10:25
Shawmut Hills Elementary (PK-8)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Sherwood Park Global Studies Academy (PK-8)	8:50	9:10	4:06	12:20
Sibley Elementary (PK-5)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Southeast Career Pathways (9-12)	--	9:00	2:39	11:46
Southwest Community Campus (PK-8)	8:50	9:10	4:06	12:20
Stocking Elementary (PK-5)	8:10	8:30	3:26	11:40
Union High (9-12)	7:10	7:40	2:21	10:25
Westwood Middle (6-8)	7:15	7:40	2:21	10:25
Zoo School (6)	7:50	8:10	3:06	11:20



\*The bell schedule is a working document and subject to change. To get the most up to date information, join our newsletter on [grps.org](http://grps.org)

### Asbestos Notice

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

The Grand Rapids Public Schools has an asbestos management plan that addresses contact persons, training, inspections, response actions, operation and maintenance activities, periodic surveillance, cleaning, disclosure efforts and school

building areas containing asbestos. Any person may review the management plan at the Grand Rapids Public School's Facilities Management Department, 900 Union, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503, during regular business hours (8:00 am to 4:00 pm). Plans may also be found on the district's website at [www.grps.org/facilities-asbestos-info](http://www.grps.org/facilities-asbestos-info).

Alternatively, any person may request a copy of the plan by writing the Grand Rapids Public Schools Facilities Management Department, 900 Union, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503. There is a cost involved in reproducing the document of approximately 10 cents per page. The Grand Rapids Public Schools will send a copy out of the management plan within 5 business days of receiving the request.

## 2019/2020 Orientation, Registration, Open House, and Ice Cream Social Schedule

SCHOOL	ORIENTATION	REGISTRATION	OPEN HOUSE	ICE CREAM SOCIALS
Aberdeen			8/15, 5:30 - 7 PM	8/15, 5:30 - 7 PM
Alger Middle		8/5 - 8/8, 9 AM - 3 PM		8/15
Blandford School	8/14, 6 - 8 PM			8/14, 6 - 8 PM
Brookside Elementary		8/5, 4 - 7 PM 8/6, 8/12 & 8/13, 8 AM - 3 PM	8/27, 5 - 6:30 PM	8/5, 4 - 7 PM
Buchanan Elementary	8/12, 9 - 10 AM 8/13, 5 - 6 PM	8/12, 9 - 10 AM 8/13, 5 - 6 PM	8/15, 4 - 6 PM	8/15, 4 - 6 PM
Burton Elementary			8/15, 5:30 PM - 7 PM	8/15, 5:30 - 7 PM
Burton Middle	8/6, 9 AM - 12 PM (6th Grade) 8/7, 9 AM - 12 PM (7th Grade) 8/7, 5 - 7 PM (Cultural Student Focus) 8/8, 9 AM - 12 PM (8th Grade)	8/15, 12 - 3 PM & 4 - 7 PM (Make up)		8/15, 4 - 7 PM
CA Frost Elementary	8/15, 5:30 - 7 PM			8/15, 5:30 - 7 PM
CA Frost High/Middle		8/7, 9 AM - 3 PM 8/8, 9 AM - 3 PM	8/19, 9 AM - 3 PM	8/19, 9 AM - 3 PM
Campus Elementary		8/5-8/8, 9 AM - 3 PM		8/15, 5 - 7 PM
Center for Economicology	8/8, 1 - 3 PM		9/18, 6 - 7:30 PM	8/8, 1 - 3 PM
Cesar E Chavez		8/13, 9 AM - 7 PM		8/15, 5 PM
City High/Middle	8/6, 9 - 11 AM (Returning families) 8/6, 1 - 3 PM (Returning families) 8/8, 9 - 11 AM (New families) 8/8, 3 - 5 PM (New families) 8/13, 9 - 11 AM (Make up)		9/18, 6 - 7:30 PM	8/8, 3 - 5 PM
Coit Creative Arts Academy	8/14, 5 - 7 PM	8/12-8/16, 10 AM - 12 PM & 1:30 - 3 PM	8/29, 5 - 7 PM	8/29, 5 - 7 PM
Congress Elementary	8/15, 5:30 - 7:30 PM	8/6, 9 AM - 4 PM & 8/7, 11 AM - 7 PM		8/15, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Dickinson Academy		8/6, 9 AM - 11 AM & 1 - 3:30 PM 8/7, 3 - 6:30 PM 8/8, 9 AM - 3 PM 8/12, 9 AM - 3 PM		8/14, 4 - 6 PM
East Leonard Elementary		8/5-8/8, 8 AM - 5 PM	8/15, 5 - 6:30 PM	8/15, 5 - 6:30 PM
Gerald R. Ford Academic Ctr.	8/6, 10 AM & 6 PM 8/13, 10 AM & 6 PM		8/13, 6 PM	8/13, 6 PM
GR Montessori	8/8, 1 - 3 PM & 4 - 6 PM (7-12) 8/13, 10 AM - 12 PM (PK-12)		8/14, 6 PM - 7:30 PM	8/14, 6 - 7:30 PM
Grand Rapids University Prep	8/8, 11 AM - 2:30 PM (MS only) 8/13, 11 AM - 2:30 PM (HS only) 8/14, 2 - 6 PM (Make up)		8/15, 3 PM - 5 PM	8/15, 3 - 5 PM
Harrison Park School			8/14, 5:15 PM - 6:30 PM	8/14, 5:15 - 6:30 PM
Innovation Central High School	7/29, 1-3 PM & 5-7 PM 7/30, 9-11 AM & 1-3 PM 7/31, 1-3 PM & 5-7 PM 8/1, 9-11 AM & 1-3 PM			7/29, 1-3 PM & 5-7 PM
Ken-O-Sha Park Elementary				8/15, 6 - 7:30 PM
Kent Hills Elementary		8/13, 9 - 11 AM & 1 - 4 PM	8/21, 4:30 PM - 6 PM	8/21, 4:30 PM - 6 PM
MLK Jr. Leadership Academy	8/6, 9 AM - 6 PM & 8/8, 9 AM - 6 PM		8/15, 5 - 6:30 PM	8/15, 5 - 6:30 PM
Mulick Park Elementary			8/15, 5:30 - 7 PM	8/15, 5 - 6:30 PM
North Park Montessori			8/15, 5 - 7 PM	8/15, 5 - 7 PM
Ottawa Hills High	8/10, 3 - 7 PM			8/10, 3 - 7 PM

## 2019/2020 Orientation, Registration, Open House, and Ice Cream Social Schedule (Cont.)

SCHOOL	ORIENTATION	REGISTRATION	OPEN HOUSE	ICE CREAM SOCIALS
Palmer Elementary	8/8, 10 AM - 2 PM 8/12, 10 AM - 2 PM		8/14, 5:30 - 7:30 PM	8/14, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Public Museum High School	8/14, 5:30 PM			8/14, 5:30 PM
Public Museum Middle School	8/14, 3 PM (6th Grade) 8/14, 4 PM (7th/8th Grade)			8/14, 3 PM (6th Grade) 8/14, 4 PM (7th/8th Grade)
Ridgemoor Park Montessori	8/14, TBA			8/14, TBA
Riverside Middle School	8/6, 9 - 11 AM 8/8, 1 - 3 PM		8/14, 3:30 - 5 PM	8/14, 3:30 - 5 PM
Shawmut Hills School	8/13, 6 - 7:30 PM (7th/8th Grade) 8/14, 5 - 6 PM (Kindergarten)	8/12-8/16, 9 - 10:30 AM & 2 - 3:30 PM	8/14, 6 - 7:30 PM (Elementary)	8/14, 6 - 7:30 PM
Sherwood Park Global Studies Academy				8/15, 5 - 7 PM
Sibley Elementary		8/6, 1:30 - 4:30 PM	8/15, 4 - 7 PM	8/15, 4 - 7 PM
Southeast Career Pathways		8/5-8/8, 9 AM - 12 PM & 1 - 3 PM	9/10, 5 - 7 PM	9/10, 5 - 7 PM
Southwest Community Campus	8/8, 9 AM - 3 PM 8/14, 9 AM - 3 PM			8/8, 9 AM - 3 PM 8/14, 9 AM - 3 PM
Stocking Elementary	8/13, 5 - 5:30 PM	8/5-8/9, 9 - 11 AM & 1 - 3 PM 8/13, 12:30 - 3:30 PM	9/5, 5:30 - 6:30 PM	8/13, 5:30 - 6:30 PM
Union High School		8/1, 8 AM - 7 PM 8/5-8/8, 8 AM - 3 PM 8/12, 8 AM - 7 PM 8/13-8/15, 5 - 8 PM	8/28, 5 - 7 PM	8/13, 5 - 8 PM
Westwood Middle School	8/6, 9 - 10 AM & 5 - 6 PM (6th Grade) 8/7, 9 - 10 AM & 5 - 6 PM (7th Grade) 8/8, 9 - 10 AM & 5 - 6 PM (8th Grade) 8/13, 12 - 3 PM & 4 - 7 PM (Make up)	8/6, 10 AM - 12 PM & 6 - 8 PM (6th Grade) 8/7, 10 AM - 12 PM & 6 - 8 PM (7th Grade) 8/8, 10 AM - 12 PM & 6 - 8 PM (8th Grade)	9/9, 4:30 - 7:30 PM	8/13, 4 - 7 PM
Zoo School	8/13, 6 - 8:30 PM			8/13, 6 - 8:30 PM

*\*This schedule is a working document and subject to change. To get the most up to date information, visit [wearegr.com/welcome/registration](http://wearegr.com/welcome/registration)*

## Back to School Safety Tips

As we prepare our PreK-12 children for another school year, we need to be constantly thinking about their safety. This applies to their safety to and from school and while on school grounds.

Drivers must remain watchful. Children dart unexpectedly into traffic, often from between parked cars. Young pedestrians face a variety of dangers while walking to and from school.

Here are a few basic safety tips for your child to follow:

- Mind all traffic signals and the crossing guard.
- Walk your bike through intersections.
- Walk with a buddy.
- Wear reflective material. It makes you more visible to street traffic.

Safety tips for entering and exiting the school bus:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten

steps away from the bus. Also, remember that the bus driver can see you best when you are away from the bus.

- Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus.
- Be aware of street traffic. Drivers are required to follow the rules of the road concerning school buses, but not all do. Protect yourself and watch out.

Safe bicycling tips:

- Always wear a helmet.
- Always ride on the right side of the road. Never ride against traffic.
- Ride single file. When passing other bikers or pedestrians, let them know your position by shouting out something like, "On your left!"
- Always check behind you before changing lanes.
- Watch out for dangerous things in the roadway. Litter, potholes, gravel and storm drains all can cause you to lose control.
- Stop at all stop signs and at all traffic lights. Be extra careful at crossroads.

- Always signal before making a left or right turn.
- Maintain control of your bike. Don't swerve or make sudden turns.
- Use caution when riding next to parked cars to avoid injury from someone suddenly opening a car door in front of you.
- Listen for cars approaching from the side or behind you.
- Don't follow a car too closely. You may be in the blind spot, where the driver cannot see you, and you may be unable to stop if the car comes to a sudden halt.
- Know your road signs and obey them.
- Always be prepared to stop.
- Wear brightly colored clothing.
- Don't wear headphones, loose clothing or inappropriate shoes.

These are only a few safety tips we want parents to remind their children of as they began to return to school. If we work together, we can continue to keep our children safe not only in school, but to and from school, as well.

## A New Teacher With a Passion for the Classroom: 'I Love Helping Kids'

*Shrinking teacher pool doesn't deter her dedication* By Charles Honey, Courtesy of School News Network

As she wrapped up her first full year as a teacher, Brittney DesLauries felt a bit buried in paperwork – report cards, progress reports, intervention plans for her students. But she also felt the same spark of enthusiasm that motivated her to be a teacher in the first place.

"I still love to be here," DesLauries said at the end of a recent school day at East Leonard Elementary School. "There's a little more exhaustion and the days seem longer, but I'm still super-excited."

She's also excited about the next school year, even after teaching her final day of this academic year last Friday. She's already planning ways to improve her work as a special education teacher, in a split class of kindergartners and first-graders at East Leonard, a neighborhood pre-K-5 school of Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Of course, she's also thinking about how to spend the coming summer. She will work part-time at a daycare and take a couple of road trips with her two sisters, including a week in Las Vegas.

But come mid-August she figures to be good and ready to resume doing the thing she wanted to do since childhood, when she would play teacher and tell her younger sisters to get their homework out.

"I just love seeing the tangibility of what I am doing every day," said DesLauries, a cheerful 24-year-old who smiles easily and speaks thoughtfully. "Working with the kids, when you finally see the light bulb go off and they're able to do something they weren't able to do before. It's so exciting, that thrill."

### A Growing Gap

Young teachers like her filled with the thrill of teaching are badly needed these days. In Michigan, the number of students enrolled in college teacher-preparation programs fell by about 70 percent between 2008-09 and 2016-17, according to Title II of the U.S. Higher Education Act. Superintendents reported teacher shortages around the state last fall, including a shortfall of 41 in GRPS.

East Leonard, however, saw a youth influx this year. DesLauries is one of eight teachers there, among 11 total, who have been teaching for three years or fewer. Five of them are first-year teachers. The young hires were a result of retirements, a teacher leaving the profession and a resignation, said Principal Adam Rusticus.

DesLauries said she was not deterred by the prospect of high stress, inadequate pay and lack of public respect that have plagued her profession in recent years. She always loved school as a student, and was drawn to special education "so people who struggle in school, love school," she said. "That's my goal is that my kids love school."

Her routine is demanding: typically arriving by 7:15 a.m., teaching until 3:30 p.m., staying until 5 or 5:30 and planning her lessons for the week on Sundays. But she is determined not to follow the burnout trend of 44 percent of new teachers leaving within five years, according to a long-term study by University of Pennsylvania scholar Richard Ingersoll. "That is not going to be me," she said firmly.

What fuels her fire? Simple: "I just love helping people, and I love helping kids.

"I really truly believe that education is our future," she said. "These (students) are the future of our country and



*Brittney DesLauries, a special education teacher at East Leonard Elementary, said she is already excited about resuming teaching next fall.*

of the world. It starts right here in kindergarten. They can come to school and they can love school and they can love learning, and that's a lifelong skill.

"I just feel what I do every day really makes a difference."

### Confirming her Calling

Her principal agrees.

"Brittney is a self-motivated, compassionate, and patient teacher," Rusticus said by email. "She perseveres through the barriers and hurdles that all first-year educators encounter. We are lucky to have found Ms. DesLauries, and every school strives to have teachers like her!"

Rusticus hired DesLauries as a long-term substitute in February 2018, then as a staff teacher that April. Though it was her first teaching job, she'd spent plenty of time in classrooms as part of her degree program at Grand Valley State University, including four student-teaching posts in Grand Rapids, Grand Haven and Muskegon.

Though she had occasional doubts if she was cut out for this, she said, "The more I was in the classroom, the more I was sure that, yes, this is where I'm meant to be. This is what I want to do for the rest of my life."

Her class this year consisted of six students in kindergarten or first grade, who had emotional, cognitive or physical impairments but the potential to be mainstreamed into general-education classes. They spent part of their days in her classroom and part in the next-door kindergarten of Lindsey Kaiser. Over the course of the year, some transitioned into general education classes either full- or half-time.



*DesLauries teaches her kindergartners and first-graders about letter sounds during story time.*

A Typical Day

One morning this semester, DesLauries worked more or less nonstop from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., teaching her “friends,” as she calls them, not only their A-B-C’s but how to mind their P’s and Q’s and, when needed, tying their shoes.

Helped by child care worker Angel Smeets, she covered the classic kindergarten basics: A is for apple; B says buh; here’s how you draw a D (“big line down, big curve”); let’s dance to a video about patterns; let’s have story time on the carpet.

She also tended to her students’ special needs, such as gently guiding a boy through a roller mechanism to calm his overstimulated senses. She constantly strived to keep them on task with a steady mix of praise and admonishment.

“Why do we come to school?” she asked them at an antsy moment. “We are here to learn, so let’s get to learning, everyone.”

“I love it when you do school,” she told a girl having an especially bad day. “It makes me so happy.”

After they left for lunch and recess, DesLauries said one-on-one attention can help students calm down and turn it around.

“I just want all my kids to know, you can be doing whatever .... but I still love you and I still care about you.”

Over the year, she saw students make big gains both in their work and their behavior. She got excited seeing a boy recognize the word “the” for the first time. And the girl having the very, very bad day has come very, very far, she said: “Those things just fill me with such joy.”



Time for recess: DesLauries helps a student with her coat.



DesLauries helps kindergartner get her shoes on as the school day begins.



DesLauries teaches which objects begin with which letters.

# Are Your Kids Falling Short On Nutrients They Need?

Maybe. One out of two kids ages nine and up aren’t getting enough **calcium, vitamin D and potassium\***. These nutrients are critical for kids’ growth.

**THE GOOD NEWS?** Real dairy milk is a great way for kids to get their bone-building nutrients including high-quality protein. Plus, they love the taste!

**3 SERVINGS OF REAL DAIRY MILK A DAY**  
(2.5 SERVINGS FOR KIDS AGES 4 TO 8).

\*Source: USDA’s Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2015-2020.

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**Serve milk at meal times** to ensure children get the vital nutrients they need.

**Add milk to a smoothie** as an easy way to add protein to breakfast or a snack (8g protein/8oz serving).

**When making oatmeal, swap out water for milk.** When you make old-fashioned oatmeal with milk instead of water, you add 8g of high-quality protein, plus eight additional nutrients.

**Use it to make creamier macaroni and cheese.** It’s a wholesome, simple ingredient that’s already the foundation of many meals kids love.

**MILK MEANS MORE**

Approved by the Michigan Dairy Market Program Committee.

Visit [www.MilkMeansMore.org](http://www.MilkMeansMore.org) for recipes and inspiration to add more dairy to your family meals.

## The Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation Celebrates Student Collaboration

The Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation (GRSAF) exists to ensure ALL Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS) students are afforded every opportunity to succeed. So, when a community-wide initiative led by two students shows up in the form of a grant proposal, the Foundation listens and celebrates!

Wanting an opportunity to teach her students at every level the art of preparing a grant proposal, the principal of Ridgemoor Park Montessori, Julie Reyers, guided students Bella and Naomi through the experience. Truly a community project, these Ridgemoor Park E2 students collaborated with their peers, prepared a proposal and submitted it to the newly renamed Teresa Weatherall Neal Principals Discretionary Fund (TWNPDF) requesting funds to improve an outdoor learning environment.

Previously known as the Principals Discretionary Fund, the TWNPDF is a designated fund which allows principals to determine what needs can be remedied quickly such as broken eyeglasses, outgrown school uniforms, winter attire and more. It's also a flexible fund in which principals can request dollars be applied to help promote positive behavior initiatives, end-of-year celebrations or in this case an outdoor improvement project.

Embarking on this new journey, Naomi and Bella wanted to make sure that whatever proposal they submitted would do the most good for their school. They began by asking their peers, their teachers and administration for ideas on where improvements were needed. As brains began to storm, and after several "community" meetings adjourned,

a brilliant idea was proposed by a student named Tigist. It was determined that to gather as many perspectives and ideas as possible, a suggestion box would help yield the best results!

Strategically placed in a high traffic area within the school, the suggestion box quickly became filled with many concepts and ideas, coupled with artistic renderings and explanations. Each submission was considered and vetted. And what transpired is now known as the RPM Outdoor Beautification Project.

This student-led, community-wide Ridgemoor Park Montessori initiative was celebrated. Outfitted with kazoos, balloons and a big check, the GRSAF team excitedly descended on the school. As the team celebrated the school's thoughtful proposal and acknowledged the hard work of all the students involved, a big check was presented accompanied by a roomful of cheers.

"It really was such a group effort all along the way," said Julie Reyers, principal of Ridgemoor Park Montessori. "I think the overall success and the community coming together to achieve a common goal is the big takeaway."

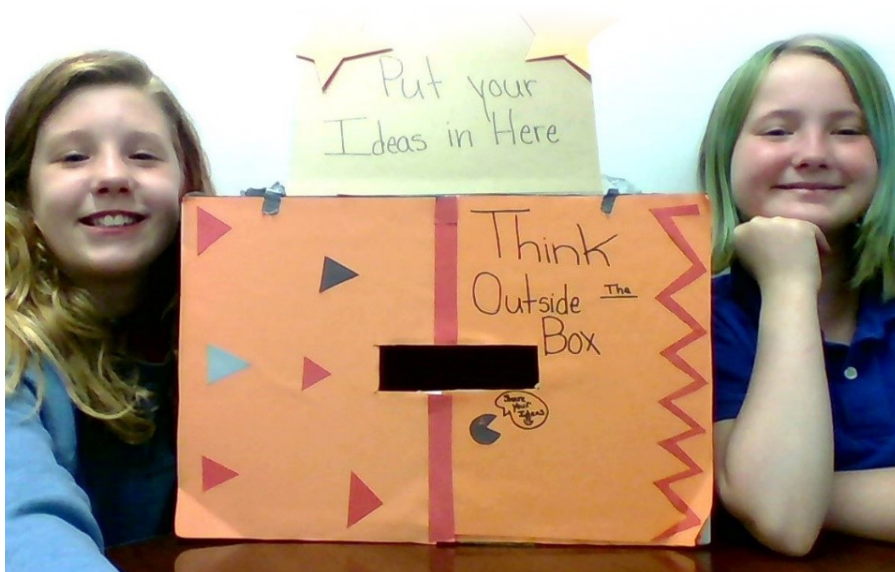
We couldn't agree more.

When students are given an opportunity to connect, great things transpire. And without the dedicated support of a generous donor community, projects like this wouldn't happen. It's because of the generosity of many the Foundation can cultivate, empower and inspire students.

**For more information on how you can make an impact, visit [www.grsaf.org](http://www.grsaf.org)**



GRSAF Team presenting a check to students Naomi (left) Bella and Tigist.



Naomi (left) and Bella pose with the suggestion box.



**Student  
Advancement  
Foundation**  
Grand Rapids

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GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SINCE 1993**

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## Now Enrolling for World-Class Preschool!

If your child will be 4 years old on or before December 1, 2019 sign up today for free preschool at GRPS! GRPS' world-class preschool programs provide students with the foundation for academic and social-emotional success!

Within our world-class preschool classrooms, students will have the opportunity to learn social-emotional, motor, cognitive, and academic skills in a developmentally appropriate play-based environment. Students focus on important Kindergarten readiness skills including letter recognition, letter-sound relationships, connecting numerals and quantities, and many more all through engaging, fun, hands on activities!

### GRPS' world-class preschool program offers:

- Safe and convenient locations inside ALL GRPS elementary schools throughout the city
- Amazing teachers trained and certified in Early Childhood Education
- Field trips and monthly parent engagement events
- Classroom learning environments inclusive to meet the needs of all students
- Nutritious meals provided at no cost
- Transportation available to eligible families

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



## Fund Newly Named for Retiring Superintendent Raises More Than \$200K

By Charles Honey, Courtesy of School News Network

GRPS students who need new school uniforms, mended eyeglasses and other schooling essentials just got a big boost from a fund newly named in honor of their retiring superintendent.

The Teresa Weatherall Neal Principals Discretionary Fund was announced at

the 16th annual MindShare celebration of the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation. Doug DeVos, board co-chair of Amway and its former president for 16 years, announced more than \$200,000 had been raised in Neal's honor for the fund, previously known as the Principal's Discretionary Fund.

Seeded with an initial gift from Amway in 2014, the fund has distributed approximately \$100,000 since then. The new infusion added to \$40,000 to its fund balance at the beginning of the school year. It may also be used for needs determined by principals, such as positive behavior initiatives and teacher training.

More than 575 community members witnessed the surprise announcement at MindShare in late April. The Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation is the fundraising partner of GRPS, granting more than \$20 million since 2003.



Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal at the recent MindShare celebration, where a fund named in her honor was announced (photo courtesy of Bryan Esler Photo).



Amway co-chairman Doug DeVos embraces Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal after announcing \$200,000 had been raised in her honor (photo courtesy of Bryan Esler Photo).

## Academy for Design & Construction Scholarship Fund Doubles Thanks to Wolverine Donation

On May 21, 2019, 11th grade students from Innovation Central High School's Academy for Design & Construction (ADC) were invited, along with Lead Teacher Kyle Jelens, to represent the ADC at the Wolverine Global Sales Conference at 20 Monroe Live. During the conference, they met a number of professionals who work for the Wolverine brand and also had the opportunity to model Wolverine's new line of work boots and apparel.

Wolverine surprised the ADC with a new step in their six-year partnership by announcing that the organization will match funding raised by the ADC scholarship committee for the 2018-19 school year. The scholarship fund, previously at \$7,500 thanks to the annual Rewind to Recess fundraiser, now has a total revenue of \$15,000 to support ADC students.

"We were all blown away," says Jelens about the donation. "This is an exciting time to be a part of a theme school with college/career focused academies because of the nationwide labor shortage. We are preparing our students for their careers, and our partner companies in west Michigan show a tremendous amount of support."

The scholarship fund helps students financially as they pursue vocational training, certifications, and college education. The fund also helps provide materials and equipment for ADC instructors. Wolverine is one of the major supporters of the ADC. The company makes annual donations of work boots, coats, hats, socks and shirts, which keeps students warm and protected while they build a full Habitat for Humanity House.

"Wolverine has been working with the Academy of



Photo courtesy of Jen VerMeulen.

Design & Construction for six years and we continue to partner together to shine light on the amazing career opportunities that exist within the industry," says Todd Yates, president of the Wolverine brand. "We are thrilled to support this program that is literally teaching students how to build their own future. Supporting students in their future endeavors with this donation helps change lives and perceptions of careers in the industry."

### About Wolverine

Wolverine is a Michigan-based footwear and apparel

company that has been making durable work boots with the highest-quality materials for more than 135 years. Committed to supporting those in the skilled trades, Wolverine's Project Bootstrap program visits job sites and trade schools, donating work boots to those who build America's houses, roads and valuable infrastructure. In 2018, they formed Team Wolverine to support individuals that personify the drive, grit and work ethic of those in the trades to help close the skills gap. For more information, visit [www.wolverine.com](http://www.wolverine.com).

## Grand Rapids Public Schools and Rotary Club of Grand Rapids Celebrate 25 Years of Mentoring Program Success

Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS) and the Rotary Club of Grand Rapids (Rotary GR) are thrilled to be celebrating the success of a mentoring program established 25 years ago.

STRIVE (Students Taking a Renewed Interest in the Value of Education) is a one-on-one mentoring program offered by Rotary GR at Ottawa Hills and Union High Schools. Mentors and mentees meet weekly to discuss academics, everyday life and to prepare for the future. Mentors and mentees also participate in several volunteer projects and attend Rotary lunches together. Mentors also help students navigate career options and arrange job shadowing opportunities.

"We are proud of our long-standing partnership with GRPS. STRIVE is a hallmark of our Club and we will continue to invest time, energy and dollars into these wonderful students," said Chelsea Dubey, Rotary GR President.

"One of the worst things we can do to our kids is start up an exciting new program, put in funding, begin to build relationships with students, and then walk away from it a year or two later," said Dr. Ron Gorman, Grand Rapids Public Schools Assistant Superintendent of PreK-12 Instructional Support. "Our students deserve better than that. The Rotary Club of Grand Rapids and the STRIVE program have supported us for 25 years! Rotary GR and STRIVE have stayed with our students – and stuck by them year after year."



“

I want to serve as a model for young high-potential students of color who have ability, but may not have someone to guide them on their path to success. My mentee, Najee, has a strong academic record earning a 3.97 GPA with several AP classes. My influence in his life has been to help him set his sights higher than what is familiar and to become more comfortable with change and growth.

-Arlen-Dean Gady, Director of Market Strategy, Erhardt Construction, STRIVE Mentor since 2018

“

Being a mentor is an extension of what I do in my professional life as a college educator and administrator. I am passionate about youth and especially at-risk youth. My mentee, Mootayaw, is a high performing student at Ottawa Hills. She's also attending GRCC to receive college credits before she graduates.

-Dr. Linda Goulet, Department Chair, Marketing & Sport Management, Davenport University  
STRIVE Mentor since 2010



## Grand Rapids to Receive Grant from Outdoor Foundation to Get More Kids and Families Outside

*Thrive Outside initiative brings together local organizations to make getting outside part of fabric of peoples' lives by providing repeat experiences of fun, joy and learning outdoors for kids and families of all backgrounds*

Grand Rapids has been chosen as one of four communities in the Outdoor Foundation's nationwide Thrive Outside Community Initiative. In Grand Rapids, the initiative will provide a multi-year capacity-building grant to strengthen partnerships between existing local organizations such as schools, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs and nonprofit conservation and outdoor organizations that create repeat and reinforcing positive outdoor experiences for kids and families.

Fewer than 18 percent of Americans recreate outside once per week and fewer than 50 percent report getting outside even once per year, according to the Outdoor Foundation's Outdoor Participation Report. Research also shows that outdoor activity participation does not mirror the overall demographics of our country. The core goal of the Thrive Outside Community investments is to create healthy individuals, communities, economies and environments by making the outdoors a habit for kids and families of all backgrounds.

"The City of Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Public Schools have a dynamic partnership and joint commitment to environmental education, parks and schoolyard activation and sustainability," said David Marquardt, the City's parks and recreation director. "The Outdoor Foundation's Thrive Outside Initiative is a perfect fit and remarkable opportunity for us to advance our mutually desired goals and outcomes. This award will kick-start a comprehensive outdoor program for Grand Rapids youth to connect with nature, play outdoors and serve as leaders in neighborhood and park projects that engage families and children."

The grant allows Grand Rapids to build on the foundation set forth through the Connecting Children to Nature initiative and brings to scale through planning and partnerships a citywide effort to engage children in nature. Grand Rapids intends to engage kids of all ages with an emphasis on those in 5th through 12th grades. This investment leverages additional foundation support, and its opportune timing will pave the way for further public and private investment.

The Thrive Outside Grand Rapids Community will be led by Our Community's Children – a partnership of the City of Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Public Schools – the City's Parks and Recreation Department and a close set of initial partners in the Grand Rapids Environmental Education Network, with more to come.

"We didn't become an indoor species overnight, and the decline of outdoor activity in the United States is a problem that requires collaboration, funding and scale," said Lise Aangeenbrug, Outdoor Foundation executive director.

"For a variety of reasons, the days when children were outside playing more than they were inside have passed – this has to change for the health of our children, families and communities. With this grant, we are helping to fuel an outdoor movement in and around Grand Rapids to bring back that connection by supporting local community partners to create a network focused on getting as many children and families as possible experiencing the outdoors in a positive way, so we don't have anything to lose.

"Over the next decade, the Outdoor Foundation will connect and engage a diverse constituency of participants, advocates and volunteers in at least 32 cities, with the goal



*Students participating in Canoemobile, a joint initiative between GRPS and the City of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department that provides water-based experiences for middle schoolers at Riverside Park.*

of getting 3 million people outside."

The inaugural Thrive Outside Communities – Atlanta, Grand Rapids, San Diego and Oklahoma City – were chosen by the Outdoor Foundation's board of directors based on written applications, location visits, in-person interviews and third-party consultant research. Each Thrive Outside Community grant requires the recipient community to provide a 1-to-1 funding match to ensure the long-term sustainability of the network. One backbone organization in each community will manage the grant and facilitate the work of the network partners.

The Outdoor Foundation's Thrive Outside Communities would not be possible without generous support from The VF Foundation, REI, Patagonia, Thule and Wolverine World Wide, Inc. In order to grow the number

of cities and regions that the Thrive Outside Communities Initiative is able to reach, the Outdoor Foundation is looking for additional funding partners in 2019. Please reach out to Michaela Gold ([mgold@outdoorfoundation.org](mailto:mgold@outdoorfoundation.org)) for more information.

### About Outdoor Foundation

The Outdoor Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Outdoor Industry Association, is a national 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to getting people outside for their health, the health of communities and the health of the outdoor industry. Through community investment and groundbreaking research, the Outdoor Foundation works with many partners to get more people outside more often. Visit [outdoorfoundation.org](http://outdoorfoundation.org) for more information.

## Train for a Rewarding Career Join the Dean Team!

Now hiring school bus drivers throughout Grand Rapids and surrounding areas. \$15.00 per hour, competitive benefits package, paid CDL training provided. Excellent driving history required. Must pass background check, physical exam and ongoing drug screening. Summer training begins soon - apply today! Apply online at [www.deantrans.com/jobs](http://www.deantrans.com/jobs) or in person Mon-Fri at one of our offices:

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900 Union Avenue NE, Grand Rapids 49503  
429 S Union Street NW, Sparta 49345



## Brother and Sister Work Hard for 'A Better Future, a Better Life'

*Siblings from Guatemala aspire to big dreams in America* By Charles Honey, Courtesy of School News Network

Anyelin and Yustin Vasquez Lopez are well aware of the Guatemala they came from, the America they came to, and what it will take to succeed here.

It will take hard work, which is just what they put in to graduate from Union High School in May. They're prepared to take on plenty more from here.

"We want a better future for all of us in our family," said Anyelin, who came to Grand Rapids with her brother three years ago.

As the first in their family to graduate from high school, she and Yustin bear an added responsibility, she added: "I feel like I want to be better for them and for me."

That's why she worked about 35 hours a week packing car parts while pulling down A's at Union and taking the certified nursing assistant program at the Kent Career Tech Center. It's why Yustin worked as a full-time cook while also going to the Tech Center and taking honors courses at Union. Both are working full-time this summer, she at Controlled Plating Technologies, he at the Latin American restaurant Luna.

"I want a better future, a better life," said Yustin, who plans to be an electrician and eventually start his own company. Anyelin is after a career as a pediatrician.

Both should attain their goals, given their work ethic and "a mindset in which they do not give up," said Halima Ismail, who oversees the Union High Newcomers program for immigrant students. She's seen them make great strides since arriving in 2016 with no English-speaking skills.

"I think they're going to be very successful," Ismail said. "They have learned how to interact and work within the American cultural system of education. Because they have a grit mindset, they will be lifelong learners."

### Leaving an 'Unsafe' Country

It was a dangerous life they left in Guatemala, where poverty, drug trafficking and gangs have prompted thousands of migrants to seek a better life in the United States. Their neighborhood in San Marcos was plagued daily by gang activity, they said.

"Every time in Guatemala when you go out, you feel unsafe," Yustin said. "Sometimes you go to different places, but there are people (who) want to do something bad to you."

Their mother, Janaly Lopez, unable to find work at home, had come to the U.S. eight years earlier. After living with their remarried father, they came to join her in the fall of 2016. Although she had a job when they arrived, she couldn't work after a car accident last year left her badly injured. It was a hard time financially, Anyelin said, adding, "That's why we started working."

It was also hard to adjust to Grand Rapids without knowing English. Anyelin recalled being in line at a store when a woman asked her a question. When she was unable to respond, the woman yelled, "Why don't you speak English?" Other times, she said, people would just ignore her.

"It was hard for us," she said. "You came here to feel better, and you just feel even worse. You feel like you don't



*Yustin and Anyelin Vasquez Lopez graduated from Union High School after leaving a difficult life in Guatemala.*

fit in this country just because of the language."

At first, they questioned whether they'd made the right move. Anyelin said she told her mother if things weren't going to get better for her, "I want to go back."

### 'Intrinsically Motivated'

However, brother and sister applied themselves, studying English two hours a day in the library after school and learning academic foundations in the year-long Newcomers program. They showed tenacity and took ownership of their work, Ismail said, calling them "intrinsically motivated. They learned very quickly how and who to work with for support."

They were also supported by their mother, who always attended parent-teacher conferences and came to special events celebrating their academic achievements, she added.

In time, the English got better and the learning came easier as they entered the regular academic program at Union. Still, their schedules were grueling. This year, Anyelin sometimes rose at 3 a.m. to do quizzes and homework before school. Yustin squeezed in his homework third hour and worked after school until 10 p.m. or later.

Both participated in the Yo Puedo organization for Latino youths. Yustin won academic awards for English-language learners, and Anyelin this spring was named student of the year in the certified nursing assistant program at the Tech Center. An accomplished artist, she designed a poster for the Yo Puedo youth conference, titled "The Power of Dreams."

She and her brother are powered by their dreams, as they go from their graduation ceremony at Calvin College toward Grand Rapids Community College this fall.

Yustin will continue his studies to become an electrician, while Anyelin will pursue an associate degree in



*Yustin and Anyelin Vasquez Lopez celebrate graduation with their mother, Janaly Lopez.*

nursing with an eye to med school in the future. He wants to eventually employ family members with his own business. She wants to serve disadvantaged children as a doctor, both in the U.S. and, she hopes, one day in Guatemala.

"In many places, many people don't have the money to pay for a doctor, and many children die because they don't have the necessary treatment," she said. "There is a lot of malnutrition and poverty."

## Outdoor Classroom, Natural Playscape Construction Begins at Plaster Creek Park

Improvements at Plaster Creek Family Park will connect Burton Elementary and Middle School students with nature through education and play

The City of Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Public Schools celebrated the groundbreaking of an outdoor classroom and natural playscape at Plaster Creek Family Park. Students at Burton Elementary and Middle School helped create plans for The Nest and The Meadows to transform areas of the park with new nature and learning experiences.

“This project reaffirms our commitment to making sure that children in our community have access to the outdoors and public parks that serve as natural classrooms where they can appreciate their environment through hands-on learning,” Mayor Rosalynn Bliss said. “It also gets us closer to our goal of having a park within a 10-minute walk of every resident in our city.”

The Nest will be an outdoor classroom with seating, raised planter beds for a vegetable garden, a rain garden, native meadow planting and community picnic area. The Meadows will feature a stump forest and log jam play feature made from local trees harvested and stored by the City’s Forestry Division. Other features of the project include accessible pathways, a picnic area with tables and grills, athletic field improvements and restroom improvements.

Six fifth-grade students helped shape the project by leading park audits and surveys and offering recommendations to the project team.

“It’s a community effort,” GRPS Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal said. “Burton students played an important role in this planning effort, and we are looking forward to bringing their ideas to life. This project is an



Students from Burton Elementary join officials from the City and GRPS in breaking ground at Plaster Creek Family Park.

example of how connecting children with nature can help develop future environmental stewards and leaders.”

The outdoor classroom and natural playscape fit in to the Connecting Children to Nature initiative, a dynamic partnership between the City and GRPS that is committed to environmental education, parks and schoolyard activation and sustainability. The partnership is leveraging additional public and private resources to maximize parks millage funding.

“This is the first project of its kind featuring nature play and it highlights our strong relationship with Grand

Rapids Public Schools,” said David Marquardt, the City’s parks and recreation director. “We are grateful for the many great partnerships making this project a reality. We deeply appreciate the input we have received from community members, including students, parents, teachers and neighbors.”

Burton School is one of four sites in park-deficient areas of the city that will benefit from green schoolyard projects over the next three years. The benefits of green schoolyards go well beyond serving students. The spaces provide countless benefits to the health and wellness of the community and environment.

## GRPS Chief of Staff Appointed to Michigan School Safety Commission



Grand Rapids Public Schools Chief of Staff and Executive Director of Public Safety & School Security, Larry Johnson, was appointed to the Michigan School Safety Commission by Governor Gretchen Whitmer on June 7, 2019.

Mr. Johnson will represent school administrators for a term expiring January 14, 2023.

The School Safety Commission reviews and makes recommendations to the office of school safety using model practices for determining school safety measures. The Commission was created by Act 548 of 2018 and requires the Governor to appoint the School Safety Task Force members appointed by Governor Rick Snyder under Executive Order No. 2018-05. These appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

“Mr. Johnson has a wealth of experience in school safety, which he shares with our local community, as well as several national organizations to help improve school safety and security around the country. On behalf of the Grand Rapids Public Schools, I want to congratulate him on this much-deserved appointment,” said Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal.

Mr. Johnson has been working for the Grand Rapids Public Schools Public Safety Department since 1997. He was a former police officer in Benton Harbor, MI; Lansing, MI; and Grand Rapids, MI. He is a retired Police Sergeant with the Grand Rapids Police Department, and currently serves as Vice President of the National Association of School Safety and Law Enforcement Officials.

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# GRPS ATHLETICS

Strong Minds, Future Champions

## WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS?

### You will need:

- A physical dated after April 15, 2019
- Cherry Health has health offices in the following schools that 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
- Supplemental insurance for each season: \$10 for high school and \$3 for middle schools
- Fall middle school athletics will have physical nights in August. Dates, times, and location TBD.

### Eligibility Rules:

- All students grade 6-12 MUST have achieved and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 prior to the official start of the season (including practices).
- You must also pass 66% of your classes before and during the season (Michigan High School Athletic Association).
- Students in grades K-5 must be in "good standings" at school with satisfactory attendance, grades and behavior. All students must be eligible to practice FIRST.

### Reasons to be a multi-sport athlete:

- Develop different skills that compliment other sports.
- Minimal sport burnout occurs when involved in multiple sports.
- Time management improves
- Athletics help to improve educational success
- Colleges and Universities like to see that you can be multi-faceted.

## ELEMENTARY FALL SPORTS

Season begins September 3

**Cross Country:** Practices will begin after September 9. Please check with your elementary school athletic liaison for more information.

- Meet dates: September 24, October 1, October 8, October 15
- GRPS Cross Country Invitational: October 19

**Soccer:** Practices will begin after September 9.

- Game dates (Saturdays): September 21, September 28, October 5, October 12, and possibly October 19

**Registration will be due in September. Look for more information at your school's orientation.**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL SPORTS

Season begins August 26

- Football (7th/8th grade only), Volleyball, Boys' Soccer, and Cross Country

## HIGH SCHOOL FALL SPORTS

Season begins August 12-14

- Football, Cross Country, Boys' Soccer, Girls' Golf, Girls' Swimming, Sideline Cheer and Volleyball

For schedules, highlights, and parent resources, visit [grps.org/athletics](http://grps.org/athletics)

## SPORTSMANSHIP

As a spectator of interscholastic athletics please respect the time and effort that these young participants have put forth to represent their schools. 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 by taking personal responsibility for keeping this contest at a high level of fair, clean and wholesome competition. Remember... SPORTSMANSHIP COUNTS!

## VOLUNTEERS

Any parents, family or community member interested in volunteering to support GRPS student-athletes, please contact the volunteer office at 819-2131 or go to [grps.org/volunteer](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 – Sign up now at: [volunteersignup.org/ALW3Q](http://volunteersignup.org/ALW3Q)

Interested in coaching? Contact the athletic office for more information! We have some vacancies for the 2019-2020 school year.

## ATHLETIC DIRECTOR CONTACT INFO

**Kurt Johnson** – Executive Director of Athletics ([johnsonk@grps.org](mailto:johnsonk@grps.org), 819-2010)

**Marcus Harris** – Ottawa Hills HS Athletic Director ([harrisma@grps.org](mailto:harrisma@grps.org), 819-2879)

**Justin Walker** – Union HS Athletic Director ([walkerju@grps.org](mailto:walkerju@grps.org), 819-7688)

**Brodie Larson** - Middle School Athletic Office ([larsonb@grps.org](mailto:larsonb@grps.org), 819-3243)

**Kathryn Cook** - C.A. Frost Middle School Athletic Director ([cookk@grps.org](mailto:cookk@grps.org))  
(Also responsible for Shawmut Hills, Blandford, and Zoo)

**Lanita Hobson** – Burton Middle School Athletic Director ([hobsonl@grps.org](mailto:hobsonl@grps.org))

**Ed Droski** – City Middle School Athletic Director ([ebdroski@gmail.com](mailto:ebdroski@gmail.com))

**George Zender** – G.R. Ford Middle School Athletic Director ([zenderg@grps.org](mailto:zenderg@grps.org))  
(Also responsible for Dickinson)

**Rojeana Calvert** – Harrison Middle School Athletic Director ([calvertr@grps.org](mailto:calvertr@grps.org))

**Jolinda Lucas** – U Prep Athletic Director ([lucasj@grps.org](mailto:lucasj@grps.org))  
(Also responsible for GR Montessori & Museum School)

**Kellie Kieren** – North Park Montessori & Aberdeen Middle School Athletic Coordinator ([kierenk@grps.org](mailto:kierenk@grps.org))

**Kory Drake** – Sherwood Park Middle School Athletic Director ([drakek@grps.org](mailto:drakek@grps.org))

**James Peacock** – Martin Luther King Academy Athletic Coordinator ([peacockj@grps.org](mailto:peacockj@grps.org))

**Don Zomer** – Southwest Community Campus Middle School Athletic Director ([zomerd@grps.org](mailto:zomerd@grps.org))

**Teresa Green** - Westwood Athletic Director ([greente@grps.org](mailto:greente@grps.org))

**Patricia Elliott** - Alger Athletic Director ([elliottp@grps.org](mailto:elliottp@grps.org))

**Tendai Reed** - Riverside Athletic Director ([reedt@grps.org](mailto:reedt@grps.org))

## GR8 SPORTS, GREAT KIDS

Our community recognizes the importance, value, and positive impact that after school sports can have on students. Thank you to the Student Advancement Foundation and GR8 Sports, Great Kids for their continued support of these programs!



ATTENTION ATHLETES:

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

# Sports Physicals

Innovation Central High School Health Center is now scheduling appointments for sports physicals.

Physicals received after April 15, 2019 will fulfill the requirement for next school year.

Call us at 616.776.5120 to schedule an appointment.

 Cherry Health

ATTENTION ATHLETES:

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

# Sports Physicals

Burton Health Center is now scheduling appointments for sports physicals.

Physicals received after April 15, 2019 will fulfill the requirement for next school year.

Call us at 616.247.3638 to schedule an appointment.

 Cherry Health

ATTENTION ATHLETES:

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

# Sports Physicals

Union High School Health Center is now scheduling appointments for sports physicals.

Physicals received after April 15, 2019 will fulfill the requirement for next school year.

Call us at 616.791.6593 to schedule an appointment.

 Cherry Health

ATTENTION ATHLETES:

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

# Sports Physicals

Ottawa Hills High School Health Center is now scheduling appointments for sports physicals.

Physicals received after April 15, 2019 will fulfill the requirement for next school year.

Call us at 616.776.5110 to schedule an appointment.

 Cherry Health



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**8.20.19**

