



Our Commitment to Equity and Our Strategic Plan Will Get Us Through These Challenging Times



It's no overstatement that we're in uncharted waters. It's been more than 100 years since our country has faced a health risk like COVID-19 – a pandemic that has had devastating impacts on our health and our economy. We've learned over the past few weeks how quickly things can spike to dangerous levels when we don't stay vigilant and take all

necessary precautions to ensure safety for ourselves, our loved ones and our neighbors. I appreciate everything you're doing at home, at work and while you navigate your day to keep people safe. Limiting time out, wearing a mask, regularly washing your hands and following safe physical distancing guidelines remain the most effective ways to stop the spread of the virus. As we've entered into our recovery phase, City buildings are open to the public. Visit grandrapidsmi.gov/COVID-19/Re-Entry-Services-by-Department to find out which departments are receiving walk-ins and which ones require appointments.

This virus has fully revealed something else – something we've known for some time. It has laid bare the disparities that persist for people of color in the 21st Century. Black and Latinx residents across the country have been disproportionately impacted by the virus. This can be traced back to a history of disinvestment in black and brown communities, where limited access to health services, healthy food and clean air have led to disparate health outcomes beyond the current crisis.

So when images of George Floyd's murder at the hands of police officers came to light, it rightfully added to the discussion of disparate life-or-death outcomes that people of color face in our country. The anger and frustration over a lack of progress spilled into the streets, and people of all backgrounds have demanded change. And justifiably so. Across the country, we must do better.

This conversation isn't new in Grand Rapids. In fact, it's why we explicitly called out equity as the foundation of the strategic plan we adopted last year. It's why we created an Equity and Engagement Office and why we now have a Director of Oversight and Public Accountability. We've invested more in community policing, expanding the program to evening shifts, and we've invested in body-worn cameras for our police officers. We've updated our policy on interaction with foreign nationals, adopted a human rights ordinance, increased protections against false crime reporting and published all of our police

policies online. And we did all of this before the most recent calls for change. We're committed to systemic changes in policing, accountability and justice.

That's further reflected in the commitments we've made to the community and to the City Commission. This includes being explicit about our use-of-force policies consistent with the 8 Can't Wait campaign, adopting a policy requiring officers to intervene to stop excessive force and formalizing community advisory roles for the Police Chief and Office of Oversight and Public Accountability. We've heard the concerns of our community and we've incorporated those in to 23 specific actions we intend to take to improve policing and address systemic and institutional racism.

The recent calls to immediately reduce and redirect police funding nationwide reflect a frustration with a slow pace of change and progress in some cities. I do believe that the steps we've taken over the past year are a reflection that Grand Rapids is committed to real and immediate change. Any discussions about funding should be thoughtful and deliberate and lead toward our goal of a city where all people feel safe and are safe at all times throughout our community. We'll continue to engage with you to design a future for public safety and public safety budgeting that can be an example for the nation. That's how we'll realize sustainable change.

Grand Rapids continues to be a great place to live and work. When faced with challenges and uncertainty, it's best to fall back on values. Circumstances change, but the values in our strategic plan persist. Accountability, sustainability, customer service, innovation and collaboration framed through equity will see us through this time.

It's an honor to serve you and our community.

Mark Washington, City Manager

What we've done

- Adopted a strategic plan with a strong equity lens for budgeting and operations
- Implemented equity training for leaders in every department
- Revised our Police Department's youth interactions policy
- Created a foreign national policy to prioritize safety over status
- Hired civilian staff to redeploy sworn staff per the staffing and deployment study
- Improved our weapons ordinance
- Created the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design ordinance
- Created biased crime reporting protections
- Created the Office of Oversight and Public Accountability
- Created the Office of Equity and Engagement
- Hired a new police chief
- Created a night shift of community police officers
- Updated our human rights ordinance
- Published all police policies online
- Implemented body worn cameras

What we plan to do

- Improve the use of force policy by explicitly banning chokeholds
- Improve our policy requiring officers to de-escalate situations, where possible, by communicating with subjects, maintaining distance and otherwise eliminating the need to use force
- Require police officers to give a verbal warning in all situations whenever possible before using deadly force
- Require officers to exhaust all other reasonable alternatives, including non-force and less-lethal force options, before resorting to deadly force
- Improve our policy by requiring officers to intervene and stop excessive force used by other officers and report these incidents immediately to a supervisor

What we plan to do (cont.)

- Update the policy on banning officers from shooting at moving vehicles – our Police Department previously banned this practice
- Make sure all uniformed officers have names on all uniforms while in public, including during events involving civil unrest
- Ensure the Office of Oversight and Public Accountability reviews and releases a comprehensive report regarding the status of all prior community-police relations studies, recommendations and commitments
- Continue to make structural changes to our Police Department to address recommendations made in the staffing and

deployment study, traffic stop study and 21st Century Policing report

- Increase the number of civilian employees in police public information and senior administrative roles
- Identify funding to expand the Office of Oversight and Public Accountability
- Establish a Community Police Advisory Council that provides ongoing support and advice to the Police Chief on plans, strategies and policies
- Increase and enhance training related to equity, justice, implicit bias and other critical topics for all City staff, including police
- Increase summer job opportunities for youth
- Collaborate with community members

to support programming that provides information, awareness and resources to be an ally to address systemic and institutional racism

- Improve resident engagement by creating more opportunities to represent groups to promote safety and accountability and prevent crime
- Host an event led by subject matter experts regarding processing and healing from trauma and vicarious trauma related to racism and use of force
- Create pathways for ongoing input and support from the community for the plan, strategies and tactics

Exercise Your Right to Vote Tuesday, August 4

Don't forget to mark Tuesday, August 4 as your next chance to vote. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for the statewide primary election.

On the ballot

This nominating primary for the Democratic and Republican parties will have the following offices on the ballot:

- U.S. senator
- U.S. representative
- State representative
- County prosecutor
- County sheriff
- County clerk
- County drain commissioner
- County commissioner
- Precinct delegate

You don't need to be a registered member of a political party to vote, but you can only vote in one party's election. So, you may only vote in either the Democratic column or the Republican column. You can't cross between parties.

Safety at the polls

Our City Clerk's Office staff is working to make sure polling places are safe amid COVID-19. Our election workers will wear personal protective equipment. We ask you to protect yourself and fellow voters by also wearing a face covering and keeping a 6-foot physical distance between you and others outside your household.

Absentee ballots

We're taking every measure to prevent and protect against the spread of COVID-19 at the polling place. But if you don't feel comfortable venturing out, another option is to vote from home by requesting an absentee ballot. All voters are eligible to vote by absentee ballot.

You should have received an application in the mail in June. The application is good for the August 4 primary Election, the November 3 general election or both. If you want to vote absentee, simply mail back that form or you can apply online at mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/avapplication.

Register to vote

You can register to vote up to and including Election Day. The last day to register to vote by mail or at a Secretary of State's office for the August election is July 20. Between July 21 and August 3, you'll need to register at the City Clerk's Office, second floor of City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave. NW. You'll need to prove residency with a photo ID or something with your address on it, such as a utility bill or pay stub. Validated parking is available in the Government Center Ramp off Monroe and Ottawa avenues. For more info, visit grandrapidsmi.gov/Residents/Elections/Current or call 616.456.3010 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Know before you go

Before you head to the polls, visit michigan.gov/vote to:

- Verify your voter registration
- Update your voter information if you've moved
- Register to vote
- View your sample ballot for the election
- Apply for an absentee ballot
- Track your absentee ballot
- Find your polling place
- Contact your local election official
- Fill out an application to become an election worker
- Find answers to frequently asked questions

We need you!

We need hundreds of people to work Election Day. Some of our workers have served you for decades and, now, they need you to serve them. Will you answer the call? To find out more on how to become an election worker, visit grandrapidsmi.gov/Services/Apply-to-Serve-as-an-Election-Worker, call 616.456.3177 or email electionworker@grcity.us.

Nine Simple Questions That Mean \$18,000 For Our Community

The census is important to all of us. Each of us needs to be counted — every person counted means \$18,000 for Grand Rapids over 10 years for health, education and emergency services. What does \$18,000 mean to our schools? It pays for 5,500 school lunches – just as one example. The census is super simple. There are only nine questions:

- Name, age and phone number of person completing the census on behalf of the household
- The number of people living or staying at your home on April 1, 2020
- Whether the home is owned or rented
- The gender of each person in the household
- The age of each person in the household
- The race of each person in the household
- Whether a person in the household is of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin
- The relationship of each person in the household to one another
- Whether each person lives or stays somewhere else

There is NO citizenship question. No confidential information is asked. Be counted – for our community.

Have questions or need help with the census? Call Kathi Harris, our census coordinator, at 616.340.2296.

NOW IS THE TIME TO BE COUNTED

Fill out your census at
2020Census.gov

We Count!
2020 CENSUS

¡AHORA ES EL MOMENTO DE SER CONTADO!

Completa tu censo en
2020Census.gov

We Count!
2020 CENSUS



Make Your Home Lead-Safe

Did you know that while some lead naturally occurs in soil, soil around your home can also become contaminated with lead and lead dust from other sources? Soil can be contaminated through:

- Lead paint chips and dust from deteriorating lead paint on the exterior of your home
- Past use of leaded gas in cars or from nearby businesses or factories that use lead
- Lead in soil can be breathed in or swallowed by kids when they play outside in the dirt. Lead in soil also can be tracked into your home.
- Lead can be in food grown in contaminated soil. Some fruits or vegetables can even absorb lead from the soil.

To protect your loved ones from lead in soil, be sure to:

- Remove your shoes before you enter your home
- Use raised beds when you plant fruits and vegetables, filling the bottom with at least 12 inches of clean soil
- Wash fruits and vegetables from your garden thoroughly before you eat them
- Wash your hands after you work or play outside, especially before you eat

Visit dontplayaround.org for more tips on how to make your home lead-safe.

City Tax Day is July 31

A reminder that your City of Grand Rapids tax return is due Friday, July 31. The U.S. federal income tax filing due date is July 15.

Our Income Tax Office is open to accept City individual and corporate tax payments 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. It's located on the third floor of City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave. NW. Validated parking is available in the Government Center Ramp off Monroe and Ottawa avenues.

If you need help with your City tax preparation, please bring the first page of your federal return, any W-2s and/or 1099s. Walk-ins are welcomed, but appointments are recommended to ensure physical distancing. You can make an appointment for tax preparation assistance by calling 616.456.3415, option 0 or emailing grincometax@grcity.us.

When you visit City Hall, you need to check in with an ambassador on the Calder Plaza level. You're strongly encouraged to wear a face covering – as long as it's safe for you to do so.

For more on City taxes, visit grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Departments/Income-Tax-Department or call 616.456.3415.



Street and Sidewalk Improvements Coming to a Neighborhood Near You

You again will see improvements to streets and sidewalks across the city this summer as part of our seventh season of ramped-up road construction. Your City Commission approved a \$12.7 road construction plan now through June 2021 that includes another 30 miles of street improvements this year. This will bring our total miles of streets improved over the past six years to 457.

Over 59 locations across the city will see a combined \$10.5 million in road investment. We're working to improve the PASER rating – 1 to 10 scale for road pavement condition – of our streets. Check out the graphic here to see how we've made progress over the years.

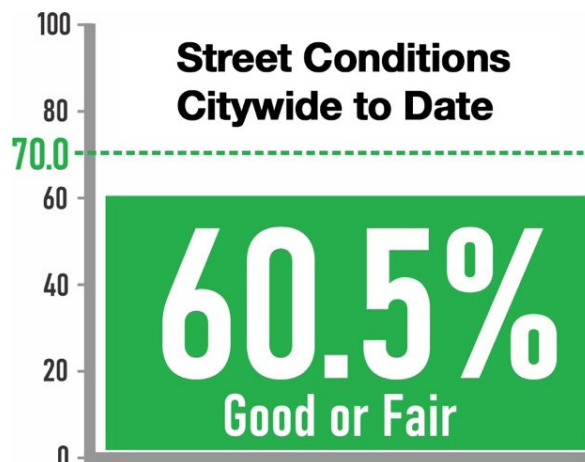
In addition, we're planning \$2.2 million in various sidewalk repair and construction projects across all three wards this year.

We've completed preventative maintenance and reconstruction on 427 miles of streets since 2014 as part of our Vital Streets initiative. Our streets have gone from 37 percent in good or fair condition to 61 percent thanks to our Vital Streets program. In addition, we've inspected and repaired roughly 30 percent of the 890-mile sidewalk network.

Funding for our Vital Streets projects comes from a 2014 voter-approved plan that extended a local income tax levy for 15 years. Vital Streets investment, along with a road funding commitment by the State of Michigan, ensures 70 percent of city streets reach fair to good condition within 15 years.

Below is a partial list of 2020 road construction projects with no start dates set to date. Street projects, listed in alphabetical order, may extend to the next construction season. There's also a partial list of street paving projects planned by our Public Works Department.

Updates on all our Vital Streets projects are at grandrapidsmi.gov/Residents/Road-Construction or by calling 311 or 616.456.3000 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.



Monday through Friday.

Rotomill/resurfacing

- Auburn Avenue NE – Sweet to north end and Palmer, Dale and Drexel
- Bates Street SE – Union to Eastern
- Benjamin Avenue NE – Bradford to Cedar
- Bradford Street NE – Plymouth to Perkins and Perkins – Bradford to Mason
- Capen Street NE – Eastern to Houseman
- Cass Avenue SE – Delaware to Franklin
- Chatham Street NW – Indiana to Straight
- Chester Street SE – Diamond to Carroll
- Corrine Street SW – Buchanan to Division
- Crescent Street NE – Grand to Fuller
- Davis Avenue NW – Seventh to Eleventh
- Dunham Street SE – Eastern to Fuller
- Eastern Avenue SE – Ardmore to Oakdale
- Eastern Avenue NE – Fountain to Crescent
- Eastern Avenue SE – Hall to Franklin
- Elliott Street SE – Thelma to Nelson

- Hake Road NE – Eastern to Diamond
- Hall Street SE – Division to Jefferson
- Hall Street SE – Plymouth to east city limits
- Henry Avenue SE – Franklin to Sherman
- High Street SW – Grandville to Century
- Holland Avenue NE – Fulton to Fountain
- Houseman Avenue NE – Grand Rapids/Eastern railroad to Hake
- Innes Street NE – Diamond to Fuller
- Jennette Avenue NW – Seventh to Ninth and 11th to 12th
- John Ball Park Drive SW – Butterworth to Park
- Kalamazoo Avenue SE – Hall to Alexander
- Madison Avenue SE – 28th to Burton
- Market Avenue SW – Westbound I-196 on-ramp to 200 feet west of Plaster Creek and Coit to Wealthy
- Mason Street NE – Fuller to Ball
- Meerse Street SE – Division to east end
- Merritt Street SE – Eastern to Blaine
- North Avenue NE – Shirley to Walnut
- Paris Avenue SE – Alger to Ardmore
- Pine Avenue NW – 12th to Leonard
- Prospect Avenue NE – Lyon to Michigan
- Race Street NE – Diamond to Fuller
- Stocking Avenue NW – Bridge to Second
- Third Street NW – Pine to Fremont
- Virginia Street SE – Eureka to Diamond
- Walker Avenue NW – Stocking to Leonard
- Walnut Street NE – North to Union

Other road projects

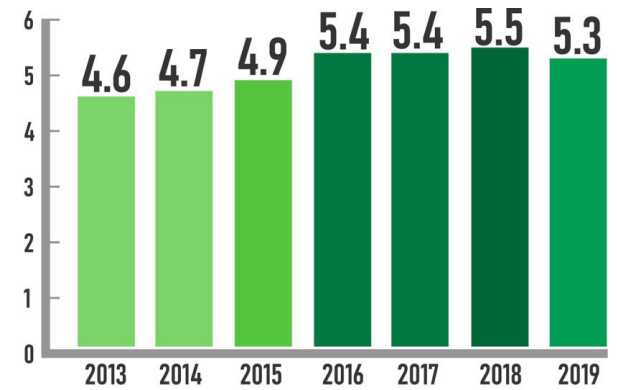
- Alger Street SE – Madison to Kalamazoo (water main, reconstruction)
- Division Avenue South – Wealthy to Cherry (reconstruction)
- Emerald Avenue NE – Arbor to Leonard (water main, reconstruction)
- Madison Avenue SE – Cottage Grove to Adams

- (reconstruction)
- Chestnut Street SW – 570 feet west of Godfrey to Godfrey (sewer separation, reconstruction)
 - Curve Street SW – Godfrey to E Avenue (sewer separation, reconstruction)
 - Eastern Avenue SE – Burton to Ardmore (water main, reconstruction)
 - Franklin Street SW – Division to east city limits (water main, resurfacing)
 - Fulton Street East – Benjamin to Wallinwood (water main, reconstruction)
 - Godfrey Avenue SW – South city limits to Market (sewer separation, reconstruction)
 - Griggs Street SE – Plymouth to Hutchinson (water main, reconstruction)
 - Hall Street SE – Kalamazoo to east of Sylvan (water main, reconstruction)
 - Hall Street SW – Godfrey to Underhill (sewer separation, reconstruction)
 - Hastings Street NE – Prospect to College (water main, sanitary and storm sewer, reconstruction)
 - Hastings Street NE – Coit to College (non-motorized pathway)
 - Trowbridge Street NE extension – North to College and Sinclair – Hastings to Trowbridge extension (new street construction, reconstruction)
 - Lake Drive SE – Atlas to east city limits (curb replacement, resurfacing)
 - Lake Eastbrook Boulevard SE – East Beltline to 28th Street (water main, reconstruction)
 - Lyon Street NE – Mack to Fuller (water main, rotomill/resurfacing)
 - Madison Avenue SE – Franklin to Wealthy (water main, sanitary sewer, rotomill/resurfacing)
 - Mason Street NW – Monroe to Division (water main, sanitary and storm sewer, reconstruction)
 - Norwich Avenue SW – Curve to Hayden (sewer separation, water main, reconstruction, resurfacing)
 - Ottawa Avenue NW – Hastings to Newberry (water main, sanitary and storm sewer, reconstruction)
 - Ottawa Avenue NW – Mason to Walbridge (water main, sanitary and storm sewer, reconstruction)
 - Oxford Street SW – Norwich to Godfrey (sewer separation, reconstruction)
 - Prince Street SE – Madison to Eastern (sewer separation, water main, reconstruction)
 - Rosewood Avenue SE – CSX railroad to Burton (water main, reconstruction)
 - Three Mile Road NE – Fuller to east city limits (bike lanes, sidewalk, resurfacing)
 - Tremont Boulevard NW – Covell to Mount Mercy (water main, reconstruction)
 - Valley Avenue NW – Fourth to Walker (reconstruction)
 - Woodward Lane SE – Sunnybrook to Fulton and Sunnybrook – Woodward to Fulton (water main, resurfacing)

Public Works Department resurfacing projects

- Arianna Street NW – Valley to Powers
- Batchawana Street SE – Rosewood to Dawes
- Belknap Avenue NE – Sligh to Conger
- Brenner Street NE – College to Union
- Burke Avenue NE – Malta to Capen
- Burke Avenue NE – Maybelle to Short
- Capen Street NE – Spring to Burke

- Carlton Avenue NE – Sweet to Knapp
- Carrier Creek Boulevard NE – Emerald to Diamond
- Cherry Run Drive NW – Moreland to Longmeadow
- Clover Crest NW – Leonard to Trail
- Coldbrook Street NW – Ottawa to Division
- Cottage Grove Street SE – Jefferson to Madison
- Dawes Avenue SE – Shangri-La to Batchawana
- Deloney Avenue SW – Park to Watson
- Eastern Avenue NE – Knapp to Eleanor
- Edgewood Avenue NE – Knapp to Eleanor
- Edmund Avenue NE – Leonard to Hubert
- Edwin Street NW – Turner to Will
- Emerald Avenue NE – Flat to Arbor
- Euclid Avenue SE – Hall to Home
- Ewing Avenue SE – Kalamazoo to Adams
- Fairbanks Street NE – Coit to Lafayette
- Fairlane Avenue NE – Sweet to N Kentview
- Fay Avenue NW – Leonard to Laughlin
- Fountain Street NE – Houseman to Diamond
- Fremont Avenue NW – Dorothy to Thornapple Court
- Graham Street SW – Oakland to Century
- Graham Street SW – Ionia to Buchanan
- Griggs Street SE – Eastern to Linden
- Hampshire Boulevard SE – Ridgewood to Edgewood
- Herrick Avenue NE – Kentwood Drive to north dead end
- Homer Street NE – Coit to Sligh
- Houseman Avenue NE – Knapp to Eleanor
- Hubert Street NE – Union to Edmund
- Jennette Avenue NW – Dorothy to Sylvia
- Jerome Avenue SW – Burton to Kirtland
- Labelle Street SW – Division to Jefferson
- Langdon Avenue NE – Fountain to Lyon
- Laurel Street SW – Oakland to Grandville
- Lincoln Avenue NW – Leonard to Twelfth
- Lincoln Avenue NW – Walker to Eleventh
- Lincoln Avenue NW – Walker to Atlantic
- Lynch Street SW – Clyde Park to Century
- Matilda Street NE – Ball to Plymouth
- Mason Street NE – Ball to Plymouth
- Maumee Drive SE – Burton to Menominee
- McReynolds Avenue NW – Richmond to north end
- Mount Mercy Drive NW – Bridge to Valley
- Mount Vernon Avenue SW – Fulton to Pearl
- Newark Avenue SE – Elliott to Johnston
- North Avenue NE – Leonard to Page
- Norwood Ave SE – Wealthy to Robinson
- Palace Avenue SW – Burton to Griggs
- Paris Avenue SE – Franklin to Thomas
- Pine Avenue NW – Third to Fourth
- Pleasant Street SW – Grandville to Century
- Powers Avenue NW/Arianna Street NW intersection
- Prince Street SE – College to Union
- Ramona Street SE – Kalamazoo to Silver Creek
- Quarry Avenue NW – Crosby to Webster
- Quigley Boulevard SW – Division to Buchanan
- Richmond Street NW – Walker to Bristol
- Ridgewood Avenue SE – Hampshire to north end
- Rosewood Avenue SE – Batchawana to Shangri-La
- Shamrock Street SW – Grandville to Hall connector
- Shangri-La Drive SE – Kalamazoo to Dawes
- Spring Avenue NE – Malta to Capen
- Spring Avenue NE – Maybelle to Short
- Sylvan Avenue SE – Griggs to Boston
- Tamarack Avenue NW – Walker to Eleventh



Average Street Condition (PASER Rating) by Year

- Towner Avenue SW – Burton to Kirtland
- Trail Drive NW – Trailside Court to Hillburn
- Trowbridge Street NE – Fairview to Clancy
- Valley Avenue NW – Lake Michigan to Bridge
- Whispering Way Drive SE – East Paris to private street
- Will Avenue NW – Ann to Nason

The repair and replacement of sidewalks throughout our neighborhoods are an important part of the Vital Streets program. This summer, we will:

- Invest \$450,000 in the installation of sidewalks on Plainfield Avenue NE from I-96 to the city limits at Salerno. The total Vital Streets investment is \$909,391.
- Dedicate \$250,000 for American Disabilities Act-compliant ramp improvements on sidewalks across the city
- Reserve \$580,000 to address miscellaneous sidewalk repairs and requests
- Focus on systematic sidewalk inspection and repairs totaling \$900,000 – \$300,000 in each ward – as part of an effort to upgrade complete neighborhoods and improve the existing sidewalk network. Current conditions of sidewalks will dictate how many miles can be inspected and repaired in each ward.

2020 contract areas include:

- First Ward – West Grand neighborhood: Sidewalk repairs in the general area bounded by north city limits, Leonard Street NW, Alpine Avenue and the Grand River.
- Second Ward – Highland Park neighborhood: Sidewalk repairs in the general area bounded by Leonard Street NE, College Avenue, Eastern Avenue, Diamond Avenue and I-196. Work scheduled September through November.
- Third Ward – South East Community and Heritage Hill neighborhoods: Sidewalk repairs in the general area bounded by Franklin Street SE, Hall Street, Jefferson Avenue and Eastern Avenue.

Our inspectors will be in each neighborhood marking out the damaged sidewalks. Properties that have sidewalk repairs in sections that cross through their driveways will get 48-hour notice posted to their property informing of them of the upcoming work and expected duration the driveway will be unavailable. The duration of work in front of any home will average one week, which includes removal, forming of sidewalks, pouring of concrete and restoration of lawns.

We're Offering Free Parking and Social Zones to Help Local Businesses

Did you know we're offering free parking and helping to establish social zones as part of our COVID-19 economic recovery and resiliency efforts? That's because we're committed to doing what we can to support our local businesses as they reopen – and help you do the same.

We're supplying up to \$25,000 in Motu parking

validations to encourage community members to support local shops, restaurants and entertainment venues. Check with your favorite businesses to see if they're taking part in the program. If not, make sure they know they can request up to 100 Motu parking validations. They're available at grandrapidsmi.gov/Services/Request-Parking-Validations-for-Businesses-Recovery or by

calling 311 or 616.456.3000 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

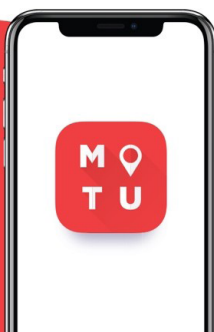
Our social zones allow businesses to offer expanded outdoor seating while adhering to physical distancing guidelines.

So get out and support our local shops, restaurants and small businesses. Our community depends on it.

Motu

Download the **Motu** app and enter the code on the back for a discount

motu.ppprk.com



\$3.00 Off Your Parking

1. Download the app: **Motu**
2. Start your parking session
3. Tap **Redeem** and enter the following **validation code**:

XXXXXX

Good for one time use only. Terms and Conditions may apply. No cash value except where required by law.



Make sure your toys look like toys. Don't fake it.

The new weapons ordinance that took effect in the city of Grand Rapids on April 1 is designed to prevent the fear, confusion and unsafe situations that these pneumatic and imitation weapons can create.



Learn more at grcity.us/weapons or call 616.456.3000

Need Help? We've Got You Covered With Only Three Numbers

Our community has many resources that offer assistance to make your life a little easier:

- For community and social services such as food and shelter, bill pay assistance and cybercrime support, call United Way 211 or 800.887.1107 or visit hwmuw.org.
- For City services such as trash, recycling, water and City bill pay, call 311 or 616.456.3000 or visit grandrapidsmi.gov.
- For emergency services such as police, fire and paramedics, call 911.

MAKE THE RIGHT CALL

211	311	911
COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES HWMUW.ORG	CITY SERVICES GRANDRAPIDSMI.GOV	EMERGENCY SERVICES
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  FOOD & SHELTER </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  BILL PAY ASSISTANCE </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  TRASH, RECYCLING & WATER </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  CITY BILL PAY </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  AMBULANCE SERVICES </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  POLICE </div> </div>
 CYBERCRIME SUPPORT	 POTHoles & TRAFFIC LIGHTS	 FIRE

Live, Work or Own a Business in the South Division Area? We Want to Hear From You

A community-local government partnership is under way to foster affordable housing, accessible employment and diverse transportation options along the South Division corridor. Our team is working with The Rapid along with the cities of Kentwood and Wyoming on a transportation and development plan for South Division from Wealthy Street in Grand Rapids to 60th Street in Kentwood.

The project – called Division United – will build off our South Division Corridor plan and connect with master planning efforts in Kentwood and Wyoming to create a united vision for the future of South Division.

Division United seeks broad and active participation from residents like you to help shape a vision for the corridor. We're interested in involving people who live, work or own a business in the South Division corridor.

There will be many opportunities to participate in the coming months, including in-person meetings and events, online surveys and other digital opportunities. Visit divisionunited.org for more info.

The project is funded through a Federal Transit Administration grant and supported by state and local match funding from the Michigan Department of

Transportation and the cities of Grand Rapids, Kentwood and Wyoming. The goal is to encourage equitable and sustainable development along South Division supported directly by the Silver Line – The Rapid's express bus line that connects the three partner cities.

Questions? Contact Layla Aslani, our planning

project manager, at laslani@grcity.us or 616.456.4134 or Nick Monoyios, The Rapid's planning manager, at nmonoyios@ridetherapid.org or 616.774.1153.

For more on public transportation in the greater Grand Rapids area, visit ridetherapid.org.

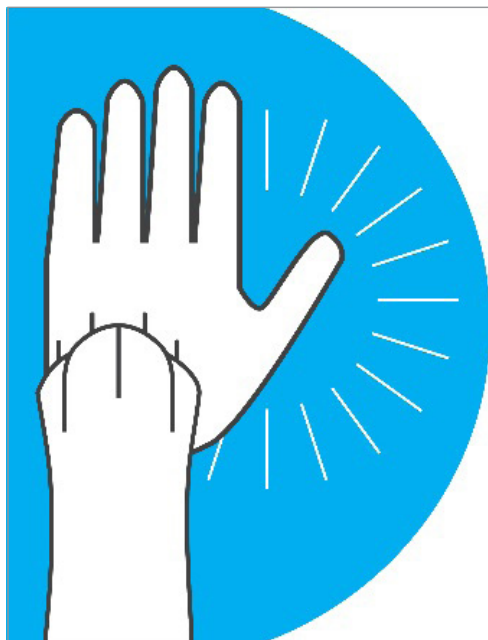


Attention, Mygrcitypoints Participants: Redeem Your Points Before August 31

Are you a mygrcitypoints participant? Please note you have until August 31 to redeem your points. That's because the program is ending September 1. You can continue to earn points through August 8.

We're grateful for your partnership and we encourage you to continue to recycle and volunteer in our community. Recycling helps to reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill and incinerator and creates a cleaner, more sustainable community.

Since the program's inception in 2011, recycling in our city has increased nearly 80% and waste has been reduced by nearly 13%. Thank YOU for being part of this success. We're grateful for your dedication to our community and helping us be an environmentally green city.



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.



VIRTUAL FITNESS SESSIONS

Join us online for the classes and instructors you know to stay fit and connect with fellow community members. All classes will be held on a secure Zoom video conference. **Additional classes will be added monthly at grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation.**

PRICING: \$10 per 4-week session

THREE WAYS TO REGISTER



Online
grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation



By Phone
616.456.3696, option #1



In Person
201 Market Ave SW

YOGA

CLASSES RUN FOR 4 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 3

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
BASIC YOGA Discover your inner yogi in a class that builds strength and body awareness. Begin with gentle stretching and move to flowing through and holding poses. Class will come to a restful end.	TUE WED SAT	6:30 - 7:25 PM 12:00 - 12:55 PM 9:00 - 9:55 AM	VIRTUAL VIRTUAL VIRTUAL	SARA R. KATIE V. SARA R.
GENTLE YOGA A balanced practice that will center you, leaving your body feeling open and relaxed. Basic poses and a slower flow unlock body tension, strengthen your core and help you tune into personal peace.	TUE THU	9:00 - 9:55 AM 9:00 - 9:55 AM	VIRTUAL VIRTUAL	TERRI S. TERRI S.
VITAL MOVEMENT Strength, flexibility and balance are vital to our well-being. This class combines yoga stretches and poses (from the chair and standing only), along with light core work. No mat required. Perfect for anyone needing to stretch, improve their range of motion, or modify their practice as they recover from injuries. This class is great for any age, especially those 50+.	WED	9:00 - 9:45 AM	VIRTUAL	TERRI S.

DANCE

CLASSES RUN FOR 4 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 3

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
GROOVE Sweat away stress and dance some joy into your heart while following simple steps and easy toning moves. Groove is perfect for anyone who wants to add some fun into their current workout routine.	WED	5:15 - 6:10 PM	VIRTUAL	TERRI S.
ZUMBA A fusion of Latin and International music. This class combines high-energy and motivating music with unique moves and combinations.	THU	6:30 - 7:25 PM	VIRTUAL	AMY K. & BRI C.

CARDIO & STRENGTH

CLASSES RUN FOR 4 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 3

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
BOOTCAMP 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	5:15 - 6:10 PM	VIRTUAL	VALARIE J.
STRONG NATION Strong Nation is a HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training) class that includes body weight strength exercises, fast cardio moves, plyometrics, and agility training. Music and moves sync together to help push you past your limits to reach your fitness goals.	WED	6:30 - 7:25 PM	VIRTUAL	AMY K.
POUND® Using Ripstix®, lightly weighted drumsticks engineered specifically for exercising, POUND® transforms drumming into an incredibly effective way of working out. Instead of listening to music, you become the music in this exhilarating full-body workout that combines cardio, conditioning and strength training with yoga and pilates-inspired movements. Designed for all fitness levels, POUND® provides the perfect atmosphere for letting loose, getting energized, toning up and rockin' out! The workout is easily modifiable, and the alternative vibe and welcoming philosophy appeals to men and women of all ages and abilities. POUND® approved sticks required for everyone. Punch card holders must have their own Ripstix®. Ripstix® available at registration for \$20.	THU	5:30 - 6:15 PM	VIRTUAL	KRISTIN P.
STRONG30 STRONG30 packs a total body workout into 30 minutes. It combines HIIT (high intensity interval training), body weight exercises, and cardio moves. In every class, the music and moves sync together in a way to help push you past your limits and reach your fitness goals.	SAT	9:00 - 9:30	VIRTUAL	AMY K.

INTRODUCING: THE NEW VIRTUAL RECREATION CENTER

It's important to stay active and healthy, even when you're at home. We've created a Virtual Recreation Center with ways for you and your family to safely stay active, explore nature, connect with others and learn about the world around you.

Visit grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation to explore.



Stay Active



Stay Connected



Stay Informed



Exercise your Brain



FREE OUTDOOR FITNESS RETURNS FOR ITS FIFTH CONSECUTIVE SUMMER

Get outside, get moving and have fun with our awesome instructors! We're bringing free fitness to parks and public spaces across Grand Rapids this summer. **Classes will be held Monday - Thursday and Saturday through August 29.**

All classes are free and registration is not required. Weather-related cancellations will be announced on our Facebook page (@GRParksandRec) and our cancellation hotline: 616.456.3699.



Photo from POUND on the Blue Bridge (2017).

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
BASIC YOGA Discover your inner yogi in a class that builds strength and body awareness. Begin with gentle stretching and move to flowing through and holding poses. Class will come to a restful end.	MON TUE TUE WED THU	12:15 - 1:00 PM 6:30 - 7:15 AM 7:00 - 7:45 PM 6:00 - 6:45 PM 7:15 - 8:00 PM	COIT PARK INDIAN TRAILS GOLF COURSE LOOKOUT PARK THE BLUE BRIDGE MLK PARK	KAYE E. KATIE V. AMY K. SARA R. MELISSA T.
GROOVE Sweat away stress and dance some joy into your heart while following simple steps and easy toning moves. Groove is perfect for anyone who wants to add some fun into their current workout routine.	THU	6:00 - 6:45 PM	THE BLUE BRIDGE	HEATHER W.
KICKBOXING Mix up your routine with balance, coordination, and strength-building moves. Strengthen your legs, upper body, abs, and burn calories.	WED	6:00 - 6:45 PM	555 MONROE AVE NW	VALARIE J.
POUND® Using Ripstix®, lightly weighted drumsticks engineered specifically for exercising, POUND® transforms drumming into an incredibly effective way of working out. Instead of listening to music, you become the music in this exhilarating full-body workout that combines cardio, conditioning and strength training with yoga and pilates-inspired movements. Designed for all fitness levels, POUND® provides the perfect atmosphere for letting loose, getting energized, toning up and rockin' out! The workout is easily modifiable, and the alternative vibe and welcoming philosophy appeals to men and women of all ages and abilities. POUND® approved sticks required for everyone. Punch card holders must have their own Ripstix®. Ripstix® available at registration for \$20.	THU	5:30 - 6:15 PM	THE BLUE BRIDGE	KRISTIN P.
SOULFUL MOTION SoulfulMOTION is a high intensity interval training (HIIT) class set to Christian and inspirational music. Designed for anyone regardless of age or fitness level.	WED SAT	6:30 - 7:15 PM 9:30 - 10:15 AM	GARFIELD PARK 555 MONROE AVE NW	CHRISTINA O. & AMBER M. SAMANTHA T.
ZUMBA A fusion of Latin and International music. This class combines high-energy and motivating music with unique moves and combinations.	MON	6:30 - 7:15 PM	ROSA PARKS CIRCLE	AMY K. & BRI C.
YOUTH DANCE Enriching the lives of youth by getting active outdoors and teaching them the fundamentals of dance. We will focus on fitness with healthy tips on how to stay active. Ages 10+	MON	6:00 - 6:45 PM	MLK PARK	JAMICA T.

SAFETY GUIDELINES AMID COVID-19

- Participants must maintain 6 feet of distance from others
- Bring your own yoga mat, water bottle and towel if needed
- There will be no public restrooms available in parks
- Masks are not required during fitness sessions, but are recommended when arriving and leaving
- If you are feeling ill, please do not attend

STAY COOL THIS SUMMER: YOUR 2020 GUIDE TO GRAND RAPIDS CITY SPLASH PADS



Alger



Joe Taylor



Mulick



Roosevelt



Aberdeen

LOCATIONS

Aberdeen Park
2230 Eastern Ave NE

Alger Park
921 Alger St SE

Campau Park
50 Antoine St SW

Cherry Park
725 Cherry St SE

Fuller Park
300 Fuller Ave NE

Gerald R. Ford Academic Center
851 Madison Ave SE

Heartside Park
301 Ionia Ave SW

LOCATIONS CONT.

Highland Park
700 College Ave NE

Joe Taylor Park
1038 Bemis Ave SE

Lincoln Park
1120 Bridge St NW

Mary Waters Park
1042 Lafayette Ave NE

Mulick Park
1632 Sylvan Ave SE

Roosevelt Park
739 Van Raalte Dr SW

Wilcox Park
100 Youell Ave SE

MORE INFO

Hours:
Daily, 10:00 am - 9:00 pm

Admission:
Free

Closure Information:
[facebook.com/grparksandrec](https://www.facebook.com/grparksandrec)
and 616.456.3699

Learn More:
[grandrapidsmi.gov/aquatics](https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/aquatics)

Partnership Creates New Play Opportunities at Ted Rasberry Field

The City of Grand Rapids celebrated the completion of a new playground at Ted Rasberry Field in southeast Grand Rapids, made possible thanks to partnerships with the Junior League of Grand Rapids and KOMPAN Inc.

The new recreation space added to the memorial baseball field at 1050 Sheldon Ave. SE includes a climbing structure, swing set, picnic shelter and grill, accessible pathways with “tot track” designed for young children on bikes, and new entryway with rain garden.

Original funding for improvements at Rasberry Field from the 2013 voter-approved Parks Millage would have allowed for minor improvements only, but members of the Junior League of Grand Rapids came together to fundraise \$50,000 towards the project.

With Junior League funding in place, the Parks & Recreation Department was able to leverage an additional \$50,000 in playground equipment donation through Kompan Inc.’s Matched Funding Grant Program, doubling the size of the project.

“We are grateful for the Junior League’s participation and generosity in this important project,” said David Marquardt, Director of the Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department. “Through their partnership we have doubled the impact of this investment and we are excited to see how these improvements will activate the park in new ways for children and families in the neighborhood.”

The Junior League of Grand Rapids is a nonprofit organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing women leaders and improving children’s physical health. The playground at Rasberry Field is their third Wellness Adventure Yard (WAY) installation, an effort to improve children’s physical health by increasing access to play spaces that encourage creativity and confidence.

The Parks Department has leveraged over \$14 million of grants and outside funding to support investments from the 2013 voter-approved Parks Millage. *Note: City playgrounds are now open with guidelines on physical distancing and hygiene.*



Project groundbreaking at Ted Rasberry Field.



The new recreation space includes a climbing structure, swing set, picnic shelter and grill, accessible pathways with “tot track” designed for young children on bikes, and new entryway with rain garden.

Collaboration for Coffee Shop at Veterans Memorial Park

Upcoming renovations at Veterans Memorial Park will create a coffee shop and community space where Veterans and civilians can connect over coffee. Plans for the restoration and future use of the historic building has been a collaboration with [HAS HEART], the City of Grands, Madcap Coffee, and Ghafari Associates.

[HAS HEART] is a Michigan-based nonprofit that pairs Veterans with designers for the shared mission to tell their story through the mediums of art, design, and fashion.

Planned improvements to the historic building include an indoor café and retail space, restrooms, and

outdoor patio seating. Renovations will complement improvements to the park monuments, reflecting pool, and walkways completed in 2017.

For more information and to donate, visit hasheart.us/coffeeshop.

Concept art below courtesy of Ghafari Associates.



GRPL To Go SERVICE HOURS

MAIN LIBRARY

111 Library St NE | 616.988.5400

Monday | 3 – 7 pm
Tuesday | 10 am – 2 pm
Wednesday | 3 – 7 pm
Friday | 12 – 4 pm
Saturday | 12 – 4 pm

MADISON SQUARE BRANCH

1201 Madison SE | 616.988.5411

Wednesday | 12 – 4 pm
Thursday | 3 – 7 pm
Friday | 10 am – 2 pm

OTTAWA HILLS BRANCH

1150 Giddings SE | 616.988.5412

Wednesday | 3 – 7 pm
Thursday | 12 – 4 pm
Wednesday | 10 am – 2 pm

SEYMOUR BRANCH

2350 Eastern SE | 616.988.5413

Monday | 3 – 7 pm
Tuesday | 12 – 4 pm
Wednesday | 10 am – 2 pm
Saturday | 12 – 4 pm

VAN BELKUM BRANCH

1563 Plainfield NE | 616.988.5410

Wednesday | 3 – 7 pm
Thursday | 12 – 4 pm
Wednesday | 10 am – 2 pm

WEST LEONARD BRANCH

1017 Leonard NW | 616.988.5416

Monday | 3 – 7 pm
Tuesday | 12 – 4 pm
Wednesday | 10 am – 2 pm

WEST SIDE BRANCH

713 Bridge NW | 616.988.5414

Wednesday | 12 – 4 pm
Thursday | 3 – 7 pm
Friday | 10 am – 2 pm

YANKEE CLIPPER BRANCH

2025 Leonard NE | 616.988.5415

Monday | 3 – 7 pm
Tuesday | 12 – 4 pm
Wednesday | 3 – 7 pm
Saturday | 12 – 4 pm

WWW.GRPL.ORG/TOGO

Get Your Library Materials with GRPL To Go



GRPL To Go is a safe and easy way to get physical books, movies, and music from the library.

To get started, browse the online library catalog and place holds on the items that interest you. You can have up to 25 holds at one time.

Obtenga los materiales de su biblioteca con GRPL To Go

GRPL To Go es una forma segura y fácil de obtener libros físicos, películas y música de la biblioteca.

Para comenzar, explore el catálogo de la biblioteca en línea y coloque las retenciones en los artículos que le interesan. Puede tener hasta 25 retenciones a la vez.

Cuando los artículos que puso en espera estén disponibles y listos para recoger, la biblioteca le notificará por mensaje de texto, correo electrónico o teléfono.

Conduzca, monte en bicicleta o camine hasta la ubicación GRPL que seleccionó para recoger sus artículos. Si conduce, estacione su vehículo en unos de los estacionamientos que dicen GRPL To Go y llame o envíe un mensaje de texto al número que aparece en el letrero. Indique su nombre

When the items you placed on hold are available and ready for pick up, the library will notify you by text, email, or phone. You have up to 14 days to pick up your items after you are notified that they are in.

Drive, bike, or walk to the GRPL location you selected to pick up your holds. If you are driving, park your vehicle in a GRPL To Go spot and call or text the number on the sign. Please give your full name and a description of your vehicle. If there is more than one person with your name, we may also need your date of birth or library card number. A staff member will bring out your library material to you.

If you are walking or biking, there is a walk-up kiosk where you can pick up your items.

Our staff are using Personal Protection Equipment like face masks and are practicing social distancing to ensure that GRPL To Go is safe for both patrons and staff.

When you are done with your items, please return them to any outside GRPL book drop. All returned material will be heat treated and quarantined for 72 hours. GRPL has eliminated late fees on overdue material, so don't worry if you need an extra day or two to finish your book.

To learn more about GRPL To Go and our Reopening Plan, visit www.grpl.org/reopen.

completo y una descripción de su vehículo. Si hay más de una persona con su nombre, es posible que también necesitemos su fecha de nacimiento o número de tarjeta de biblioteca. Un miembro del personal le traerá el material de la biblioteca.

Si camina o monta en bicicleta, hay un quiosco disponible al que puedes ir para recoger sus artículos.

Nuestro personal está utilizando equipos de protección personal, como máscaras faciales, así como distanciamiento social para garantizar que GRPL To Go sea seguro tanto para los clientes como para el personal.

Disfruta de todo el material de su biblioteca. Cuando haya terminado con sus artículos, devuélvalos a cualquier depósito de libros externo de GRPL.

Todo el material devuelto será tratado térmicamente y en cuarentena durante 72 horas. GRPL ha eliminado los cargos por materiales atrasados, por lo tanto, no se preocupe si necesita uno o dos días adicionales para terminar ese libro.

Para obtener más información sobre GRPL To Go y nuestro Plan de reapertura, visite www.grpl.org/reopen.

Grand Rapids Public Library Announces Reopening Plan

Grand Rapids Public Library has developed a four-phased plan to reopen its eight buildings after being closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan was developed to ensure that staff and library patrons remain safe while using the library. GRPL will move to a new phase when key criteria are met. The criteria include information from the Kent County Health Department, the State of Michigan, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

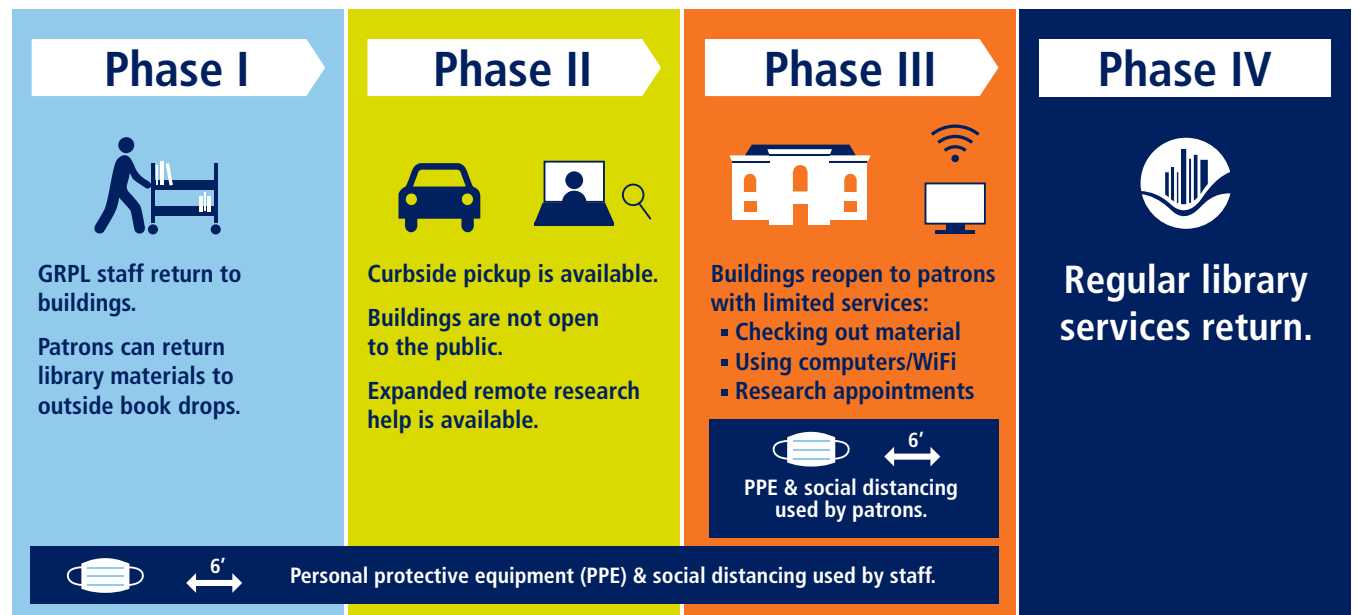
“My primary concern is the health and safety of our patrons and staff,” said GRPL Director John McNaughton. “Because of this, I am taking a cautious approach to reopening our buildings. We know people want to use their library and we are committed to providing services to them with minimal risk to public health.”

GRPL entered Phase I on June 8. During this phase, the library began accepting material returned to outside book drops. Returned material is heat treated and quarantined for 72 hours to prevent the spread of germs and other contaminants.

Phase II launched on June 29 with the new curbside holds pick up service, GRPL To Go. Library patrons can place up to 25 holds in their GRPL account and pick them up at the location of their choice. The no-contact pick up

can be done via their vehicle or walk-up. The library also offers free printing services for patrons. Patrons submit a document through an online form and the library will print it and make it available for curbside pick up.

For more information on GRPL's Reopening Plan, visit www.grpl.org/reopen. Library staff are available Monday-Friday from 9 am to 5 pm to answer questions and provide remote services. Call 616.988.5400 or email askus@grpl.org for help.



Grand Rapids Public Library Eliminates All Overdue Fines



Grand Rapids Public Library has eliminated fines on all overdue materials. Overdue material will no longer accrue fines and accounts with old fines have been forgiven.

11,700 library accounts are currently blocked from using the library because of overdue fines. Library accounts with over \$10 in fines are not able to check out materials or use digital collections. Revenue from overdue fines in 2019 was approximately .7% of the library's budget.

In 2019, GRPL eliminated all fines on youth material. Since then, there has been a 19% increase in the return of long overdue youth material and the average length of checkout only increased by one day.

84% of all checked out library materials are returned before the due date. 74% of overdue material are returned within the first week of being overdue. Library patrons will still be responsible for the replacement cost of items that are lost or damaged.

“The decision to go fine free is about equity and access,” remarked GRPL Director John McNaughton. “Neighborhoods most impacted by library fines are also the neighborhoods with the lowest median income. Fines disproportionately affect those in the community that could use the library the most.”

In some areas of Grand Rapids, nearly 20% of residents are blocked from using the library because they have over \$10 in fines.

“Now, more than ever, we need to make sure that everyone in the city can use their library,” continued McNaughton. “The library shouldn't be a source of stress or a burden. It should be the antithesis of that. So if you have never used the library—welcome. If fines have been keeping you away—welcome back.”

GR Reads: Summer Reading All Grown Up!

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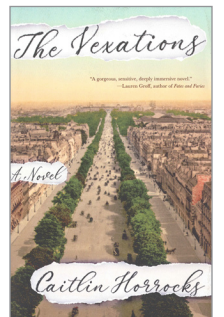
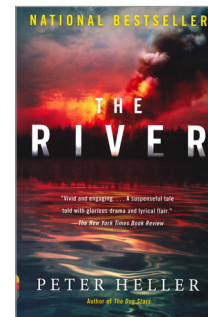
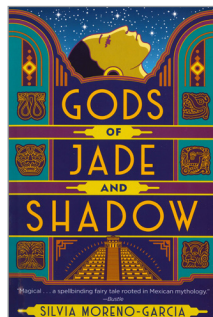
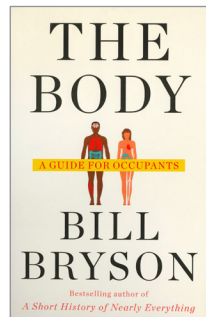
Kathryn Dilley

LIBRARY LEADER

John J. McNaughton
Director



616.988.5400 • WWW.GRPL.ORG



Grand Rapids Public Library has partnered with area organizations to present GR Reads, a summer reading program designed for adults. Our expert staff have selected six engaging titles that can be downloaded directly to your digital device or picked up through GRPL To Go, our curbside holds pick up service.

Want an extra reading challenge? Fill out a GR Reads BINGO card for your chance to win a gift certificate to local businesses. BINGO cards are available at www.grpl.org/grreads.

Sponsored by:



Virtual Events

All 2020 GR Reads events will be online, and available on GRPL's Facebook Page and YouTube Channels.

The Human Body: A Modern View of Health

Thursday, July 16, 2020, 6:00 pm

Join us for a discussion on the master control system of the human body and how we can keep it free from stress or disease.

Film Club: Hunt for the Wilderpeople

Thursday, July 30, 2020 | 6:00 pm

Use the library's streaming service Kanopy to watch *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* and then join our panel of experts as they discuss their favorite parts of the film through Wealthy Theatre's Facebook page.

Inspired by Wu-Tang: A DJ Set with Governor Slugwell

Tuesday, August 11, 2020 | 7:00 pm

Join us on National Hip Hop Day for a virtual DJ Set featuring local MC, Governor Slugwell.

Film Club: The Mystery of Chess Boxing

Thursday, August 20, 2020 | 6:00 pm

Use the library's streaming service Kanopy to watch *The Mystery of Chess Boxing* and then join our panel of experts as they discuss how the kung-fu genre has impacted American culture. Join the discussion on Wealthy Theatre's Facebook page.

The Comedy Project's Intro to Improv

Tuesday, August 11, 2020 | 7:00 pm

Learn some of the basic building blocks of improvisation and then take those skills for a test drive by participating in improv games adapted for an online format with The Comedy Project.

Grand Rapids Public Library Collecting Local COVID-19 Stories



Grand Rapids Public Library is asking West Michigan residents to share their personal COVID-19 stories. These stories will be preserved in the library's archival collections to be used by future researchers to understand the local impact of the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic is something that most people have not experienced in their lifetime. While there are many news reports, GRPL would like to capture the personal stories about what is happening in our community to help create a shared memory of this time. Submitted stories will become a part of the Grand Rapids Public Library's

permanent archival collections and will give scholars, historians, and medical researchers a record to study in the future.

Anyone is welcome to participate. Most of the questions are optional, and people can answer what they are comfortable with. Participants can also share images, audio, or video. Quotes from submitted stories will be shared on our website, with any personally identifying information removed.

"We usually think of our history as something in the past, but right now it's clear that we're living through a historic moment. Sharing our own

stories can help us process some of the rapidly changing emotions we're feeling. Hearing about other people's experiences is powerful. I hope it builds empathy in our community and encourages us to provide real, tangible support to our neighbors," said Julie Tabberer, Grand Rapids History & Special Collections Supervisor.

To learn more about the project and submit your story, visit www.grpl.org/covid-19-stories or contact the library at stories@grpl.org or 616.988.5492.

Summer Reading Challenge



Choose your own summer adventure with Grand Rapids Public Library!

Do you like to move? Do you like puzzles? Are you an artist? Pick your favorite activities this summer to reveal which of our four teams inspires you. Get ready to be part of an epic quest for summer reading fun. Check out our exciting online events to inspire and entertain you all summer long.

1. Sign up at grpl.org/summerreading to start your adventure!

2. Download a game board. Choose your activities from anywhere on the board. Game boards are available for Little Explorers (ages 0 – 5), Kids (ages 5 – 11), and Teens (ages 11 – 19).

3. Claim your prize. When you complete nine or more activities, claim your prize (beginning August 10, 2020). This year's prize is a book from Books & Mortar Bookstore's special Summer Reading Challenge collection! Available while supplies last.

4. Join us for virtual events for kids and teens. These digital programs will be offered on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/GrandRapidsPublicLibrary) and YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/grpublib).

For kids (ages 0 – 11)

Kevin Kammeraad and the Cooperfly Puppet Troupe

Mondays, June 29 – July 27, 2020
10:00 am



Comedy Magic with Cameron Zvara

Mondays, June 29 – July 27, 2020
10:30 am

Get Outside with Blandford Nature Center

Mondays, June 29 – July 27, 2020
11:00 am

Just Breathe! Parenting with Mindfulness

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 | 2:30 – 4:30 pm

For teens (ages 11 – 19)



Alex Thomas and Friends Virtual Animation Workshop

Sunday, July 12, 2020 | 11:00 am

Teens Just Breathe!

Middle School – Mindfulness & Stress Reduction
Wednesday, July 22, 2020
3:00 – 5:00 pm

High School – Mindfulness & Stress Reduction

Thursday, July 23, 2020
3:00 – 5:00 pm

High School – Mindfulness & Self-Compassion

Saturday, July 25, 2020
3:00 – 5:00 pm

Reto de Lecturas de Verano

Escoge tu propia aventura de verano con la Biblioteca Pública de Grand Rapids (GRPL).

¿Te gusta moverte? ¿Te gustan los rompecabezas? ¿Eres artista? Escoge tus actividades favoritas este verano para revelar cuál de nuestros cuatro equipos te inspira a ti. Prepárate para participar en una búsqueda épica de diversión este verano leyendo. Échales un vistazo a nuestros emocionantes eventos en línea para inspirarte y entretenerte durante el verano entero.

1. Inscríbete en línea en www.grpl.org/summerreading.

2. Rellena un tablero de juego. ¡Completa por lo menos nueve actividades para ganar tu premio! Escoge tus actividades de cualquier parte del tablero. Hay tableros de juego disponibles para Pequeños Exploradores (0 – 5 años), Niños (5 – 11 años), y Adolescentes (11 – 19 años).

3. Reclama tu premio. Cuando completes nueve o más actividades, ¡habrás terminado con tu reto! El premio este año es un libro de la colección especial del Reto de Lecturas de Verano de la Librería Books & Mortar. Disponibles hasta agotar existencias.

4. Únete con nosotros para los eventos virtuales en nuestra Página de Facebook (www.facebook.com/GrandRapidsPublicLibrary) y Canal de YouTube (www.youtube.com/grpublib).

Para niños (0 – 11 años)



Kevin Kammeraad y La Compañía de Títeres Cooperfly

Los lunes, 29 de junio – 27 de julio de 2020 | 10:00 am

Comedia Mágica con Cameron Zvara

Los lunes, 29 de junio – 27 de julio de 2020 | 10:30 am



Sal al aire libre con Blandford Nature Center [Centro de la Naturaleza Blandford]

Los lunes, 29 de junio – 27 de julio de 2020 | 11:00 am

¡Respira no más! La Crianza de los Niños con Mindfulness [Atención Plena]

Martes, 21 de julio de 2020
2:30 – 4:30 pm

Para adolescentes (11 – 19 años)

Taller Virtual de Animación de Alex Thomas y Amigos

Domingo, 12 de julio de 2020 | 11:00 am



¡Los adolescentes – Sólo Respira!

Escuela Media – “Mindfulness” [Atención plena] y Reducción de estrés
Miércoles, 22 de julio de 2020
3:00 – 5:00 pm

Escuela Superior – “Mindfulness” y Reducción de estrés
Jueves, 23 de julio de 2020
3:00 – 5:00 pm

Escuela Superior – “Mindfulness” y Reducción de estrés
Sábado, 25 de julio de 2020
3:00 – 5:00 pm

Sponsors:



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Books & Mortar BOOKSTORE





WE ARE GR

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

Stepping Into Leadership at a Time of School Change, Social Upheaval

By Charles Honey, Courtesy of School News Network

On her way to becoming the new superintendent of Grand Rapids Public Schools, Leadriane Roby ran into two storms: the coronavirus and the public outrage over George Floyd's death.

That's on top of completing her work as assistant superintendent of Richfield Public Schools in Minnesota and transitioning to her post at GRPS, which she officially begins July 1 but has been preparing for since being hired Feb. 24 to succeed the retired Teresa Weatherall Neal.

Just three weeks after her hiring, the COVID-19 pandemic prompted the closure of Michigan schools, followed shortly by those in Minnesota, forcing both Richfield and GRPS to adopt distance learning.

Then came Floyd's death on Memorial Day, for which a Minneapolis police officer who knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes was charged with murder, followed by a huge rolling wave of protests across the nation and world.

Roby found herself at the eye of the storm in Richfield, a Minneapolis suburb, tending to the academic and emotional needs of her district's 4,400 students, about 70 percent of them

students of color. Many of them live not far from the intersection where Floyd was killed. "Starting in my own backyard, in the Minneapolis area, it has been a very tough spring," Roby said in a Zoom interview.

But she struck an aspirational tone even while acknowledging the emotional toll Floyd's death and the protestors' confrontations with police have taken on her students.

"I always want to believe in hope, and with that, change," Roby said. "The events surrounding George Floyd and his death, and just even watching that, is nothing I ever want to get used to, nor do I want others to get used to, to see the violence around that. But this is an opportunity to really make some lasting changes, from the standpoint of, we cannot accept and feel like this is OK."

Changes are coming fast as well to schools, and Roby said she is eager to begin implementing them as part of the GRPS leadership team.

■ SEE LEADERSHIP / A2



Leadriane Roby says she has worked closely with GRPS leaders while completing her work for Richfield Public Schools in suburban Minneapolis.

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Setting Out With a Camera to Change the World for the Better

By Charles Honey, Courtesy of School News Network

When Mariah Barrera sat for an interview in early March, in a coffee shop crammed with students, her head was spinning with all the things she needed to do before graduating: finishing her senior course work at City High Middle School; waiting to hear back from college applications and lining up scholarship interviews; traveling to Houston, Washington, D.C. and New York City for awards and recognitions.

"My whole senior year has been deadlines," she said a little wearily. "I don't even know how I do it."

Less than two weeks later schools shut down, the deadlines eased up and her travel plans were canceled. Although distressed by the pandemic, she welcomed the letup from the nonstop pace.

"Honestly, it's been very nice," she said by phone recently. "I'm used to being stressed about everything. With this break I've been able to take a breath and give myself time to regroup, spend time with family and do the things I want to do."

In the interval she'd also cleared up where she'll attend college: Columbia University in New York City, where she's long dreamed of beginning her career as a filmmaker, on a full



Mariah Barrera has been accepted at Columbia University in New York City, where she will major in media studies.

scholarship in the school's media studies program. She would be the first in her family to graduate from college.

■ SEE CAMERA / A2

Leadership

Continued from A1

Working in Partnership

Roby has been communicating daily with GRPS interim Superintendent Ron Gorman and other district administrators, as well as sitting in on virtual meetings of the Board of Education. Calling Gorman “a phenomenal partner,” she said she’s had input into the district’s planning for how to restructure schools come this fall, whether that be distance learning, in-school instruction or a hybrid of both.

“We do anticipate school will look very different than what it has in the past,” said Roby, with Richfield since 2014 and a former administrator with Minneapolis Public Schools. “Ultimately it’s about, how do we engage our students in meaningful learning so they can continue to grow and thrive in this environment.”

She said GRPS and Richfield have handled the school closure in similar ways including distributing computer devices, work packets and providing meals. Here as there, some families have had problems accessing online work.

GRPS has done “a solid job” so far, but now must strategically plan for making fundamental changes in how schools work, she said, noting GRPS is entering its 150th anniversary year.

“We kind of paper-clipped the system

together in a very short period of time, turning a 150-year system on its heels in a matter of two to three weeks. Now it’s time to do some long-range planning around ‘What does this look like?’

“We know that we are able to do it,” she added. “We’ve seen some of our barriers and hiccups. How do we provide support to ensure that learning still occurs?”

The district must also ensure that teachers have “confidence and competence” in how they deliver instruction, she said.

‘A Seminal Moment’

These challenges of teaching and learning come amid the social upheaval of the Floyd protests around police brutality and its impact on students. In Richfield, students have reached out to social workers and teachers for help with processing their emotions, Roby said. She called this a “seminal moment” of needed changes in “how we view our men, African American men in particular, and also how are we supporting our young people.”

“Our students of color, our young boys are terrified, as they should be. There’s a sense of, ‘Am I next? Is this going to happen to me? Is this going to happen to someone I know?’”

The school system has connected families with community resources they can call on over the summer, she added: “We want to make sure we are providing a brave space ... where people can be vulnerable and say, ‘I’m struggling with this, I need some help processing it.’”



Leadriane Roby has been assistant superintendent of Richfield Public Schools in Minnesota.

Roby, 53, plans to arrive in Grand Rapids June 29 with her husband, Steven. They have found a temporary residence near the GRPS administration building on Franklin Street SE until they purchase a home. She looks forward to visiting school campuses, meeting with staff and exploring Grand Rapids.

Citing the strong community support of schools she’s seen on her previous visits, she said, “I’m excited to help continue the energy around that and bring it to fruition.

“I really want to get there and get to work in person.”

Camera *Continued from A1*

“It’s such a hard thing to wrap my mind around,” Mariah said. “I didn’t think this was going to happen. I’m super happy and excited. It’s just really unbelievable.”

Given how much she’s already been recognized for her film and photography work, perhaps it’s not so unbelievable after all.

Garnering Awards in Film & Photography

Her artistic drive is matched by her passion for social justice, informed by her own family’s experience of homelessness. She’s planning on a career of raising important conversations through her films, which already have won her plenty of honors.

Those include “Red, White & Green,” a short film about being told as a girl she was white, not Mexican, which won a \$1,000 prize in the 2019 Mosaic Mobile film contest. She also won \$1,000 in a Spectrum Health version of that contest, for her video “Behind the Wall” about societal divisions offering opportunities



City High graduate Mariah Barrera, shown here in a music video she shot in New York City, aims to become a professional filmmaker.

for empathy.

Her work was also recognized this year by the National YoungArts Foundation and the Hispanic Heritage Foundation Youth Awards. And her photos earned her a dozen honors this year from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

Despite the massive societal setback of the pandemic, Mariah is more determined than ever to spark needed change through her art, especially film.

“There are so many things going on in our world right now, and there’s so many stories and issues that don’t get enough attention,”

Grand Rapids Public Schools

WE ARE GR

July 2020

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.

To comply with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student’s classroom teachers.

Please contact Micky Savage, Director of Human Resources, in Human Resources via email savagem@grps.org or at (616) 819-2028.

WE ARE GR

July 2020

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John Helmholdt, *Executive Director of
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she said. “(Film is) one of the best tools to get these stories out and start important conversations that people otherwise wouldn’t be having.

“Everyone can change the world in their own way,” she added. “I think my way of doing that is going to be through art.” Mariah is well on her way toward that goal, said Ryan Huppert, her principal at City High Middle School.

“Her work has themes of social and environmental justice, and is truly moving,” Huppert said by email. “I believe her award-winning work serves to motivate people to create a better world, and I admire her for that.”

A Child’s Own TV Show

Mariah has been passionate about becoming a filmmaker since ninth grade, when she collaborated on an inspiring video promoting Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss’ “Greening Initiative” to increase the city’s tree cover. As a student at the West Michigan Center for Arts & Technology, an after-school enrichment program, she was asked by other students to direct the project. The next day they began shooting at Riverside Park.

“It was that day that solidified, ‘This is what I want to do,’” Mariah recalled. “I got so much fulfillment out of doing that – making a film, being the person who has a vision and being able to work with all these other people to bring that vision to life.”

She’s stayed with WMCAT through high school, honing video and photography skills she first tried out as a child. That’s when she started hosting “The Mariah Show,” wherein she interviewed her sisters and friends, videotaped by her mother, Sherry, and edited by her father, Robert.

After her parents gave her an iPad for her 10th birthday and she downloaded a video app, she was really on her way. She was also going great guns as a fifth grader at Mulick Park Elementary School, where she was a star student and started a monthly school newspaper, 5 Star News.

Teacher Helen Gillespie remembers her as a child with “a bright light in her eyes and a smile that lit up a room.”

“Her leadership skills were evident, and it didn’t take me long to recognize her as the self-motivated trailblazer that she is today,” said Gillespie, who’s stayed in touch with Mariah and still teaches at Mulick Park. Hardship Fuels Motivation

Mariah’s bright light hit a darker reality in high school, when her family was priced out of its Southeast Side home and had to live for two years in relatives’ basement – six of them stuffed into one room. She remembers reading her homework by the light of her phone after the others went to bed.

She transformed their experience into a short film, “Metamorphosis,” likening herself to a butterfly leaving a cocoon – an artistic statement of the determination she forged then. Her family’s hardship motivates much of her artistic concern over housing affordability and other justice issues.

“That’s where my inspiration was consistently coming from: I don’t ever want to see my family in this position again, and I’m going to do something about it,” said Mariah.

Her determination – and inspiration – are evident as well in her response to the pandemic. Although she laments the loss of prom, the class trip and other long-anticipated events, she sees glimmers of promise in people’s acts of kindness, and in the



Mariah Barrera directs a shoot in Riverside Park for a video promoting a City of Grand Rapids greening initiative.

lessons learned for her generation.

“I think I and members of my generation will come out of this with a clear mindset of what it is that is important to us, and what it is we want to do,” she said. “If everyone can figure out ways to have good humanity during this time, once we’re out of this I think things have the potential of being better.

“I think a lot of us are going to come out being more grateful.”



Mariah Barrera shooting in New York City for a music video about the Washington Heights neighborhood.

**“EVERYONE
CAN CHANGE
THE WORLD
IN THEIR OWN
WAY. I THINK
MY WAY OF
DOING THAT IS
GOING TO BE
THROUGH
ART.**

- Mariah Barrera, City High Middle School Graduate

AUGUST 2020

Aug 25	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
Aug 28	Varsity Football Season Opener - Ottawa v Union (Houseman Field, 6:00 pm)

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sep 1	First Day of Great Start Readiness PreK Program
Sep 4	NO SCHOOL
Sep 7	DISTRICT CLOSED - Labor Day
Sep 25	Ottawa Hills Varsity Football Homecoming v Kenowa Hills (Houseman Field, 7:00 pm)
Sep 26	Red Hawk Cross Country Invitational (Richmond Park, 9:00 am)

OCTOBER 2020

Oct 1	FAFSA Application Opens for 2020-21 (studentaid.gov/fafsa)
Oct 1	Theme School/Ctrs of Innovation Application Opens
Oct 3	Union High School Varsity Football Homecoming v Wyoming (Houseman Field, 7:00 pm)
Oct 3	Ottawa Hills Swim Invitational (Ottawa Hills Pool, 9:00 am)
Oct 7	COUNT DAY
Oct 15	GRCC Dual Enrollment Application Due (Winter)
Oct 16	NO SCHOOL - Records Flex Day; End of 1st Marking Period
Oct 19	Start of 2nd Marking Period

NOVEMBER 2020

Nov 1	1st Round College/University Application Deadline
Nov 3	NO SCHOOL - PLC Exchange Day
Nov 25	No LOOP Programming
Nov 26	DISTRICT CLOSED - Thanksgiving, Turkey Trot
Nov 26	NO SCHOOL
Nov 27	Theme School/Ctrs of Innovation Application Closes

DECEMBER 2020

Dec 1	GR Community Foundation Scholarship Apps Open
Dec 5	I-96 Holiday Basketball Tournament (Ottawa Hills)
Dec 12	Ottawa Hills Boys Basketball Scrimmages
Dec 16	Half Day for Students - Secondary Exams (am); Records Flex (pm)
Dec 17	Half Day for Students - Secondary Exams (am); Records Flex (pm)
Dec 18	Half Day for Students - Secondary Exams (am); Records Flex (pm); End of 2nd Marking Period
Dec 21-31	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

JANUARY 2021

Jan 1-3	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
Jan 4	Start of 3rd Marking Period
Jan 18	NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

FEBRUARY 2021

Feb 10	COUNT DAY
Feb 11	Ottawa Hills Boys' Swim Invitational
Feb 12	Half Day for Students (am); Mid Winter Break (pm)

FEB 2021 (Continued)

Feb 12	NO SCHOOL - Mid Winter Break
Feb 15	GRCC Dual Enrollment Application Due (Summer)

MARCH 2021

Mar 12	End of 3rd Marking Period
Mar 15	NO SCHOOL - Records Flex Day
Mar 16	Beginning of 4th Marking Period

APRIL 2021

Apr 2-9	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
Apr 15	GRCC Dual Enrollment Application Due (Fall)

MAY 2021

May 7	Preschool, Here I Come
May 11	Last day of Great Start Readiness PreK Program
May 28	Half Day for Students (am); NO SCHOOL (pm)
May 31	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day

JUNE 2021

Jun 7	Half Day for Students - Secondary Exams (am); Records Flex (pm)
Jun 8	Half Day for Students - Secondary Exams (am); Records Flex (pm)
Jun 9	Half Day for Students - Secondary Exams (am); Records Flex (pm); End of 4th Marking Period
Jun 9	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

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 be managed.

The Grand Rapids Public Schools has an asbestos management plan that addresses contact persons, training, inspections, response actions, operation and maintenance activities, periodic surveillance, cleaning, disclosure efforts and school building areas containing asbestos. Any person may review the management plan at the Grand Rapids Public School's Facilities Management Department, 900 Union, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503, during regular business hours (8:00 am to 4:00 pm). Plans may also be found on the district's website at www.grps.org/facilities-asbestos-info.

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

OUR NAME HAS CHANGED.
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FORMERLY THE GRAND RAPIDS STUDENT ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION

The Grand Rapids Public Schools Foundation, formerly known as the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation, exists solely to bring individuals, organizations, and the community together to help meet the needs of Grand Rapids Public Schools. As the Foundation for GRPS, we strive to strengthen the educational experiences of every single student, by working alongside the district in recognizing and identifying needs. In doing so, we bring a community together who are driven to make an impact on student's educations.

Our journey began many years ago in 1993. Through the vision of dedicated community members, our Foundation took shape. There was a need, and we wanted to help be a solution. That vision has not changed. With education constantly morphing, a world-wide pandemic and government funding continuously being pared down, our purpose is more important than ever!

We know the key to providing the highest caliber academic opportunities for students is the community. Through philanthropy, we can help make education at GRPS more advanced and meaningful than students in classrooms and far more equitable to neighboring districts. How can we, as a community, accomplish this?

It means the generosity of individuals, corporations, organizations, community leaders and the like must come together to give of their resources. It means existing outside ourselves to ensure we provide every student, from every walk of life, an education that surpasses expectation.

When we bring people together to apply their gifts toward a greater purpose, the Grand Rapids Public Schools Foundation can provide funds that support and create robust and equitable academic environments. The Grand Rapids Public Schools Foundation believes every single GRPS student deserves to thrive without limits and receive an education that feeds and nourishes unlimited potential. Our students are worthy of this.

For more information on how you can be a part of something greater than yourself – visit www.grpsf.org.



Students explore West Michigan watersheds through the Teach for the Watershed program. An enrichment experience supported by the Grand Rapids Public Schools Foundation.

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Whether children are busy exploring with magnifying glasses in the classroom's exploration station, building intricate creations in the construction zone, letting their imaginations run wild in dramatic play environments, or making masterpieces in the art center, children in GRPS preschools are building skills and developing the attitudes of life-long learners!

For those students who will be 4 years of age by December 1, 2020, we are now accepting PreK applications for the 2020-2021 school year. Apply online today for this great program at preschool.kentisd.org/apply. Contact the Early Childhood office of Grand Rapids Public Schools today at (616) 819-2111 to learn more about PreK options for your child!



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After being recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School last fall, City High Middle has been named the top high school in Michigan

Best of the Best: City High Middle Rated Tops in Michigan

By Phil de Haan, Courtesy of School News Network

City High Middle School is the top-ranked high school in the state of Michigan in the 2020 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools guidebook. It is also the 21st-best high school in the entire country and one of just four schools in the state in the top 100.

With an enrollment of 534 students, a minority enrollment of 53% and an economically disadvantaged enrollment of 41%, City High Middle has long been an academic leader in Grand Rapids Public Schools and highly ranked nationally for years. In 2020, it topped 645 schools ranked in Michigan with an overall score of 99.88. The score reflects achievements in math, reading, graduation rate and the school's International Baccalaureate program.

"Being a diverse, urban public school that provides the International Baccalaureate model to all its students is challenging," said Principal Ryan Huppert. "However, our students and staff rise to that challenge and take full advantage of the high level of academics we offer."

The news came at a good time, Huppert told School News Network.

"Not being able to celebrate in person definitely makes this a bittersweet moment," he noted. "That being said, this recognition is a well-timed piece of positive news when all of us could use something to make us smile and help us to stay as engaged as possible given the challenging circumstances. We are announcing the rankings far and wide via social media, but we honestly can't wait to be together again in school to have a real party!"

In a statement, Grand Rapids Public Schools Interim

Superintendent Ronald Gorman congratulated City's staff and students. "This year," he said, "they can proudly say they are the top school in Michigan!"

For City High Middle, it was the second high honor this school year. Last fall it was named a National Blue Ribbon School, the first in GRPS to earn that recognition.

In 2020, 54 of the top 100 public high schools in the country are either charter or magnet schools, according to U.S. News & World Report. But in Michigan, three of the four in the top 100 are traditional public schools, including City High Middle. The other three in the top 100 are in Ypsilanti, Bloomfield Hills and Clinton Township. East Grand Rapids, Forest Hills Northern, Forest Hills Central and Byron Center ranked in the top 30 in Michigan.

U.S. News said its annual guide is meant "to provide a clear, unbiased picture of how well public schools serve all of their students – from the highest to lowest achieving – in preparing them to demonstrate proficiency in basic skills as well as readiness for college-level work."

Its methodology ranks almost 18,000 public high schools nationwide on such measures as college readiness, college curriculum breadth, reading and math proficiency, reading and math performance, underserved student performance and graduation rate. All the nation's public high schools were eligible, and almost all were evaluated.

In Michigan, City High Middle was first in math and reading performance – and tied for first nationally – based on test-score expectations given student demographics. The school was also third in Michigan in math and reading proficiency

on state assessments, fourth in college readiness and college curriculum breadth, and 24th in graduation rate.

Huppert was especially pleased to see his school tied for first nationally in math and reading performance, calling it "potentially the most amazing piece of this recognition."

"Being a diverse, urban public school that provides the International Baccalaureate model to all its students is challenging. However, our students and staff rise to that challenge and take full advantage of the high level of academics we offer.

- Principal Ryan Huppert

Your Bond Dollars at Work for Our Children

We want to provide another update to our community regarding the progress of our bond projects. The bond pledged to secure, connect, and transform our district and that is exactly what it is doing.

TRANSFORM

Southwest Community Campus and Plaza Roosevelt

Status: In progress

If you drive by the Clinica Santa Maria located on the corner of Grandville and Franklin, you will see that work has already begun. Construction is underway for the new Southwest Middle/High School, and the \$20 million project was scheduled to be completed for the start of school in August 2020. However, the Covid-19 shutdown has impacted the schedule. We are now looking for Southwest Middle/High School to begin the 2020/2021 school year in the SWCC building and move into the completed new building sometime in September 2020.

Ottawa Hills High School

Status: In progress

Home of the Bengals, Ottawa Hills High School is receiving \$17 million in investments to renovate the school for students and incoming career academies. Starting fall 2019, the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism will be the first of 6 planned academies for Ottawa Hills. Along with aesthetic upgrades, including flooring, paint, and a newly located main entrance, the building will be reimagined to align with the planned academies. Other programs located at Ottawa Hills will benefit from the renovation, including the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) partnership, which provides students support, school visits, and scholarships; and the Early Middle College program, which allows students to graduate after one additional year with both their high school diploma and an associate of arts degree. The \$17 million project has been underway since April 2019. The new gymnasium and locker rooms were completed and opened for competitive play in January 2020. The remainder of the project is expected to be completed in phases beginning in August 2020.

Union High School

Status: In progress

Covering nearly a quarter of a mile, Union High School is receiving \$17 million in investment to renovate classrooms, offices, update and replace heating systems, add classroom air conditioning, renovate the gymnasium, and create an identifiable, secure entry. The project has been underway since September 2019 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

City High Middle School

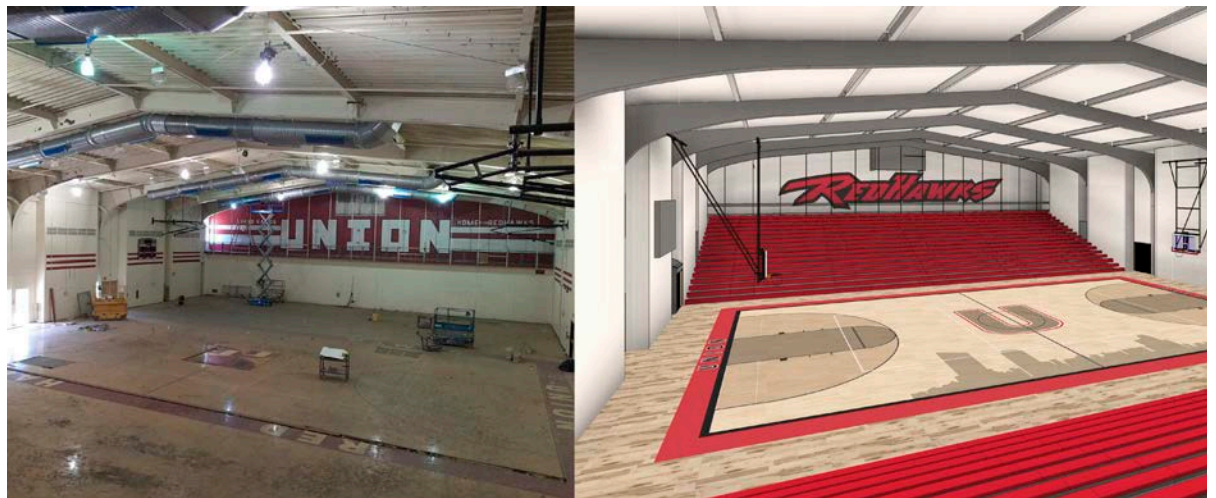
Status: Completed

The \$17 million renovation was completed in August 2019.

Buchanan Elementary

Status: Completed

The \$13 million renovation was completed in August 2018.



Union High School Gymnasium



SWCC Topping Out Ceremony

Museum School

Status: Completed

The \$10 million renovation was completed in August 2018.

Ridgemoor Park Montessori

Status: Completed

The \$1.5 million renovation was completed in August 2017.

SECURE

Status: 2019 Completed

Student and staff safety is our greatest concern. Although our schools have had secure entrances and requirements for all visitors to sign in through the office, many of our buildings were not built for the complex security concerns of the 21st Century. In 2019, Aberdeen, Brookside, CA Frost Elementary,

Coit, Palmer, Riverside and Sherwood had reconfigured entrances and offices to meet today's security standards. 2020 security will be addressed at Alger, Kent Hills, Ken-O-Sha, Sibley and SWCC by modifying entrances and offices.

Air Conditioning

Status: Completed

Brookside, Campus Elementary, CA Frost Elementary, East Leonard, North Park and Shawmut received a combined \$10 million investment to add classroom and office air conditioning, upgrade and replace heating systems, and upgrade and replace electrical power feeds. The \$10 million renovation was completed in August 2019.

We look forward to continuing to share the progress as we continue to break ground, cut ribbons, and celebrate our transformation!

A GRPS Education Can Take You Anywhere

New Facebook group features stories of alumni, including those on COVID-19 frontlines

By Charles Honey, Courtesy of School News Network

A new Facebook group aimed at Grand Rapids Public Schools alumni wants to honor the great work GRPS grads are doing, including in response to COVID-19.

Launched this week, the group already had 621 members signed up as of Thursday. They stretched as far back as a 1965 graduate of the former South High School, President Gerald R. Ford's alma mater.

Salina Bishop is director of development and marketing for the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation, which has made more than \$20 million in grants to support programs and initiatives of GRPS in the last two decades.

She said GRPS and the SAF have for a long time now wanted to better connect with and engage GRPS alumni. Coming together around frontline COVID-19 efforts became a chance to share stories and create points of connection.

"Now more than ever we want to connect," Bishop said. "As we highlight stories, our hope is that we will bring people together. We also know that there is a lot of difficult news that people are seeing on social media, and we feel it is so important that we share the good news as well."

Bishop said GRPS alumni are invited to not only join the Facebook group but also connect and share their stories at grsaf.org/alumnistories.

"We'd love for them to use the link to submit their stories," she said. "Then as we post the stories to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, we encourage everyone to share. We want social media flooded with good."

And, she added, the definition of "frontline" stories is pretty broad.

"It can mean doctors or teachers," she said, "or moms who are balancing a professional workload on top of now homeschooling their children. What we wanted to do here is highlight GRPS alumni who are working hard during this crisis and making a difference."

Idea for COVID-19 Stories Came from Alum

The idea for telling GRPS COVID-19 stories came from Dr. Colleen Lane, a 2002 City High Middle grad who is leading the COVID-19 testing efforts at Whitman-Walker Health in Washington, D.C. Madelaine Lane, her sister and a 2000 City grad, is vice president of the SAF board of directors, and understandably proud not just of her sister but all of her fellow GRPS alumni working in the fight against the pandemic.

"Our alumni are doing incredible work every day, and especially during this exceptional time," said Madelaine Lane, a partner in the Litigation, White Collar Criminal Defense and Investigations, and eDiscovery Practice Groups at Warner Norcross + Judd, where she's been since 2007.

"We need to highlight the work of these alumni not just to celebrate their contributions to the community, but also to serve as an inspiration to our current GRPS students. A GRPS education can take you anywhere."

For Lane, GRPS teachers were a critical part of her education. Lessons learned from English teacher JoAnne Peterson, she said, "have helped to make me the lawyer and the person I am today."



Madelaine Lane is a 2000 City High Middle grad, vice chair of the SAF board of directors and a partner at Warner Norcross + Judd.

Such sentiments, Bishop added, are why the new efforts to tell the stories of GRPS include not just alumni but also former and retired teachers and coaches.

"They are just as much part of education as the students who attended the school," Bishop said. "We look back on our time in high school, and more often than not, we connect memories with teachers and coaches."

Students Speak Out On Protests, Call For 'A Better America Tomorrow'

Commenting on racial injustice, other issues underlying demonstrations *Courtesy of School News Network*

Thousands of protestors chanting "I can't breathe." Passionate calls to curb police brutality. Windows being smashed and police cars set afire.

These scenes played out in downtown Grand Rapids Saturday night, May 30, in a peaceful demonstration turned violent, just as the school year was coming to an end for students throughout Kent County. The protests here and nationwide following the death of a Minneapolis black man, George Floyd, shook the consciousness of young people already shaken by the closing of schools due to the coronavirus.

For area students, the ongoing protests could be a teachable moment, a call to action or both. School News Network spoke to five newly graduated seniors, as well as an educator, about the impact the protests have had on them, and what they think is needed to address the root causes.

Midian Johnson, City Middle High School

Midian vividly remembers watching TV coverage of Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old shot dead by a neighborhood watch volunteer, and "trying to figure out why is this happening to someone who looks like me?"

That 2012 killing is part of a long history of violence and

injustice against African Americans that has culminated in the mass protests sparked by the killing of yet another black man, Midian says.

"I definitely support every ounce of rage that Grand Rapids citizens are feeling and that citizens of America are feeling across the country right now," she said, recalling her own family's history. "It hurts that I'm 18 years old and I have to still fight for human rights. And it hurts that my grandmother, who lives in the South, had to fight for her rights just to integrate school."

For her, the downtown protests were "the culmination of every injustice Grand Rapids residents have seen or heard in their own city, and across the nation." A member of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation Youth Grant Committee, she says she's experienced many "micro-aggressions" of people prejudging or ignoring her because she's black.

While she doesn't condone the vandalism and rioting, she invokes the words of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who in a 1967 speech, while condemning rioting, called it "the language of the unheard," the causes of which must also be condemned. She sees the protest rioting as the build-up of racial injustice and other underlying issues "after years of neglect by the public.



... It's hard to see destruction happening in our community, but it can bring about change."

She plans to work for change at Spelman College, a historically black women's college in Atlanta, and aims to become a doctor in maternal fetal medicine.

Her hope for this precarious moment? "The issues we're having now and the protests we're having now are just going to help us have a better America tomorrow."

[Read the full story](#)

schoolnewsnetwork.org/2020/06/05/students-speak-out-on-protests-call-for-a-better-america-tomorrow/

To Our Students, Families, Staff, and Community,



Events of the past few months have again brought to the forefront the harsh reality of what it truly means to be Black and live in American society. We acknowledge that the reality of devaluing Black lives is not a new phenomenon and in doing so, we acknowledge, once again, the need and urgency for actions that will bring about lasting change.

Over the past two months, we have been inundated with graphic scenes, impassioned words and cries, and bold opposition to the status quo via news outlets, social media, and statements from individuals and organizations that consider themselves allies. This awakening has had unique and unexpected outcomes. The voices which have supported Black lives have grown increasingly louder; and words and actions of support appear to be matching stated beliefs. What continues to be an unfortunate part of our history, however, is that we find ourselves here again. The events of the past two months closely echo events of centuries past when Black men, women and children were not viewed for their humanness. The long history of exploitation, systemic oppression, disenfranchisement from many various parts of the American dream and access to educational, political, social and economic opportunities has been a dream deferred and largely held captive by a system designed to maintain white supremacy.

Over the last 30 days, we have either heard or read countless times that many systems by which our country operates are broken, things must change, and the Black community stands supported. All of these words offer some promise IF those who are willing to stand up and speak out ensure all populations whose voices are largely ignored are heard. An important fact must be acknowledged: the system is not broken at all; it is operating just as it was designed. Action must support our

“awakened” beliefs.

The Grand Rapids Public Schools is dedicated to our mission that ALL GRPS students are educated, productive and self-directed members of society by ensuring access to an equitable educational experience that celebrates and capitalizes on the diversity of our students, staff, and community. We are committed to becoming:

- A space where students learn to actively participate as productive members of a democratic society.
- A model school district where equity and inclusion are infused in every aspect of our district landscape for all students and staff.
- An organization where biases are recognized, challenged, and eliminated to create a supportive and inclusive environment so barriers to success are removed.
- A community in which our diversity is understood, valued and respected by all.

Working to ensure that we truly meet our goals, we have established the GRPS Equity team. Our equity team is a subset of GRPS educators committed to equity and action. We study the practices that perpetuate injustice and inequity so that we can disrupt pervasive attitudes, beliefs, and actions that prevent us from true change--a change that will positively affect life outcomes for our students. We are tired of having the same conversations! We want change, which is dependent upon action!

To that end, we will do the following:

- Work to ensure that messaging to and about our students, families, and community are appropriate and helpful,
- Evaluate the written and taught curriculum to mitigate culturally biased instructional materials, assessments, and pedagogies while ensuring the true inclusion of

marginalized populations,

- Ensure that staff has ongoing, embedded, and actionable professional learning opportunities;
- Examine the history of GRPS and acknowledge how we have created processes and systems that discriminate against our students, eliminating them when found,
- Establish a set of declaratory statements that express non-negotiables with reference to practices and policies that negatively impact marginalized populations,
- Closely review and refine district policies and procedures that negatively impact marginalized populations,
- Conduct equity audits to collect data, use data to make and monitor change, and assess progress, and
- Examine district collaborations to ensure GRPS partners share our same commitment to equity and inclusion.

We understand the importance of not only expressing that we stand with our Black students and families but equally important is making our intentions public to our students, families and the community from whom we receive support.

Our students’ Black lives matter and until we truly address the inequities inherent to and present in our system, the Equity Team is afraid that not only will we fail to realize our mission, but we, in fact, will become yet another system telling them that their lives don’t matter.

We are enlisting your trust and support as we continue along this journey.

Yours in Service,

Leadriane Roby, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

Maleika Joubert Brown, Ed., Director of Equity and Inclusion

GRPS Equity Leadership Team Members



First RealTalk Session with staff members



Student Equity Leadership Team



THANK YOU TO OUR FRONT LINE WORKERS!

FROM GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



BACK TO SCHOOL 8.25.20

Get ready for another great year at GRPS!
We go back to school on Tuesday, August 25!

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Grand Rapids Public Schools

REGRESO A LA ESCUELA 8.25.20

¡Prepárense para otro gran año en GRPS!
¡Regresamos a la escuela el Martes, 25 de Agosto!

grps.org

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GUSUBIRA KU ISHURI 8.25.20

Itegere undim waka mwiza muri GRPS! Ku wa kabiri tariki 25 Kanam turasubira ku ishuri!

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Grand Rapids Public Schools

TURUDI SHULENI 8.25.20

Jitayarishe kwa mwaka mwingine murwa kwenye GRPS! Tunarudi shuleni mnamo Jumanne, Agosti 25!

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Want to Participate in Athletics?

Afterschool athletics is a very important part of the educational development of our children. It provides a safe positive learning environment for students that extends beyond the regular school day. Athletic experiences equip students with social skills, emotional development and life-long knowledge attainment that prepares them for larger future endeavors. We encourage participation of all students to come out and try sports whether you are an experienced athlete or just trying sports for the first time. We are here for your benefit and would like to see you this school year.

COVID-19 Response:

- We are currently and will continue to be following all mandates and requirements outlined by the State of Michigan, Kent County Health Department, Michigan High School Athletic Association and GRPS to re-start any athletic activities that include practices, contests, scrimmages, workouts and conditioning.
- All safety protocols will be used and followed with engaging in any athletic activities involving students, coaches, staff and parents.
- All decisions and guidelines have not been yet determined on how sports seasons will reconvene.

Eligibility Rules:

- MHSAA has suspended eligibility requirements for Fall (only) 2020. You must check with your athletic director on your individual eligibility status.
- Standard eligibility requirements are that 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.

Official Start Dates:

- High School Football: August 10
- High School other sport: August 12
- Middle School Football: August 10
- Middle School other sports: August 24 (sign up at your school)
- Elementary Cross Country/Soccer: August 24 (sign up at your school)

Elementary Fall Sports

Cross Country:

- Please check with your elementary school athletic liaison for more information.
- Meet dates: TBD (due to COVID-19)
- GRPS Cross Country Invitational: TBD (due to COVID-19)

Soccer:

- Please check with your elementary school athletic liaison for more information.
- Game dates (Saturdays): TBD (due to COVID-19)

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

Middle School Fall Sports

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

High School Fall Sports

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

Parent Meetings

Parents/Guardians should attend any and all meetings requested by the athletic directors and/or coaches for a more in depth and clearer understanding about how the team or program will operate.

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 for the volunteer application.

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!

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!



Events

Disclaimer: All listed events are subject to change based on information from the state, health department or school district.

Aug 28	Varsity Football Season Opener Ottawa vs Union; Houseman Field (6 pm - free event)
Sep 18	Ottawa Hills Cross Country Invitational; Riverside Park (4 pm)
Sep 25	Homecoming Ottawa Hills vs Kenowa Hills; Houseman Field (7 pm -\$5 at the gate, promo or discount tickets may be available at the school prior to game day)
Sep 26	Red Hawk Cross Country Invitational; Richmond Park (9 am – free event)
Oct 2	Homecoming Union vs Wyoming; Houseman Field (7 pm - \$3-student, \$5-adults)
Oct 3	Ottawa Hills Swim Invitational; Ottawa Hills Pool (9 am - \$5 at the door)
Oct TBD	Middle School MHSAA Cross Country Regionals; GRPS University (free event)
Oct TBD	Middle School Volleyball Tournament; City High School
Oct 21	Middle School Football Rival Orange vs Red; Houseman Field (6 pm)
Nov TBD	Red Hawk Boys' Basketball Scrimmage; TBD
Nov 26	28th Annual Grand Rapids Turkey Trot; Downtown Grand Rapids
Dec 5	Ottawa Hills Boys' Basketball Scrimmages; Ottawa Hills and other sites (9 am – free event)
Dec 12	I-96 Holiday Basketball Tournament; Ottawa Hills (game times TBD)



Important Contact Information

Ottawa Hills Fall Sport Coach Information

Fall Sport	Coach	Phone	Email
Football	Christian Verley	616-648-1991	verleyc@grps.org
Volleyball	Stacy Beebe	616-309-8303	stacy.m.beebe@gmail.com
Girls Swimming	Alex Brinks	616-634-2044	coachalex@grnsa.org
Boys Soccer	William Osborne	616-498-2683	coachoz@sbcglobal.net
Sideline Cheer	Kierra Gardner	616-438-3540	gardner.kierra92@gmail.com
Boys Tennis	Andre Posey	616-821-2393	dreposey@sbcglobal.net
Girls Golf	Craig Kooienga	616-635-0995	cmkooienga@gmail.com
Cross Country	Dan Ebright	616-608-2209	dan.s.ebright@usdoj.gov

Visit the Ottawa Hills Athletics website at ottawahillsbengals.com

Union Fall Sport Coach Information

Fall Sport	Coach	Phone	Email
Football	Don Fellows	616-916-7786	donf@fieldhousegroup.com
Volleyball	Jana Ross	616-293-3618	janaross38@gmail.com
Girls Swimming		616-819-3168	walkerju@grps.org
Boys Soccer	Juan Zavala	616-485-7955	jmzavala323@gmail.com
Sideline Cheer		616-819-3168	walkerju@grps.org
Boys Tennis	Bill Schaefer	616-214-1476	schaeferbill@yahoo.com
Girls Golf	Jason Stachura	269-830-3530	stachuraj@grps.org
Cross Country	Dan Droski	616-260-2669	droskid@grps.org

Visit the Union Athletics website at unionhighschool1.bigteams.com

Athletic Department Contact Information

Name/Title	Email	Phone
Kurt Johnson – Executive Director of Athletics	johnsonk@grps.org	616-819-2010
Marcus Harris – Ottawa Hills HS Athletic Director	harrisma@grps.org	616-819-2879
Justin Walker – Union HS Athletic Director	walkerju@grps.org	616-819-7688
Brodie Larson - Middle School Athletic Coordinator	larsonb@grps.org	616-819-3243

Middle School Athletic Directors

Name/School(s)	Email
Kathryn Cook – C.A. Frost Middle School (Also responsible for Shawmut Hills, Blandford, and Zoo)	cookk@grps.org
Lanita Hobson – Burton Middle School	hobsonl@grps.org
Ed Droski – City Middle School	ebdroski@gmail.com
George Zender – G.R. Ford Middle School (Also responsible for Dickinson)	zenderg@grps.org
Rojeana Calvert – Harrison Middle School	calvertr@grps.org
Jolinda Lucas – U Prep Middle School (Also responsible for GR Montessori & Museum Schools)	lucasj@grps.org
Kellie Kieren – North Park Montessori & Aberdeen Middle Schools	kierenk@grps.org
Houston Glass – Sherwood Park Middle School	glassh@grps.org
James Peacock – Martin Luther King Academy	peacockj@grps.org
Don Zomer – Southwest Community Campus Middle School	zomerd@grps.org
Teresa Green - Westwood Middle School	greente@grps.org
Patricia Elliott - Alger Middle School	elliottp@grps.org
Tendai Reed - Riverside Middle School	reedt@grps.org



CALLING ALL ATHLETES!

SPORTS PHYSICALS

It's that time of year again! Now scheduling Sports Physicals for GRPS 2020/2021 Season. Physicals received wafter April 15, 2020 will fulfill the requirement for the upcoming school year.

¡LLAMADO A TODOS LOS ATLETAS!

EXAMEN FISICOS PARA DEPORTES

¡Es la época del año otra vez! Es tiempo de programar exámenes físicos para deportes para la temporada 2020/2021. Exámenes recibidos después del 15 de abril, 2020 cumplen con el requisito para el próximo año escolar.

MWITO KWA WANARIADHA WOTE!

MIKAGUO MWILI YA SPOTI

Umewadia tena muda ule wa mwaka! Sasa tunaratibu Mikaguo Mwili ya Spoti ya Msimu wa 2021/2020 wa GRPS. Mikaguo mwili inayopokewa baada ya Aprili 2020, 15 itakidhi mahitaji ya mwaka ujao wa shule.

GUHAMAKAZA ABARUSHANWA MU
KWIRUNKANKA BOSE!

IKIZAMINI KIKWEMERERA KWITABIRA SIPORO

Cya gihe ngarukamwaka cyageze nanone! Ubu turi gutegura ikizamini kimwemerera kwitabira siporo muri gihe cy'imikino cya GRPS 2021/2020. Ibizamini byemerera abanyeshuri kwitabira imikino nyuma ya tariki 15, 2020 bizaba byujuje ibisabwa mu mwaka w'amashuri tugiyeye gutangira.

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT | PARA PROGRAMA UNA CITA | ILI KURATIBU MIADI | GUTEGURA GAHUNDA



Innovation Central High
School Health Center

616.776.5120



Union High School
Health Center

616.791.6593



Ottawa Hills High
School Health Center

616.776.5110



Burton
Health Center

616.247.3638



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