

July 2023 | Section B

City News: 1 - 7

Community Recreation: 8 -12

Public Library News: 13-15

Infrastructure, Facilities, Recreation and Safety Improvements on Tap in City's New Budget and State Funding



Dear resident:

I am excited to share great news with you regarding the recently adopted 2024 fiscal plan by the City Commission. The fiscal plan will have a positive impact on our community and enables us to elevate quality of life through excellent City services. This fiscal plan, totaling \$643 million, is a testament to our dedication to achieving multiple strategic objectives in the coming year. With a balanced approach to investment, we have allocated resources to ensure the continued fiscal sustainability of our city while addressing pressing needs and opportunities. This plan is responsible and forward-thinking. We have considered the diverse needs and aspirations of our residents, businesses, and recreational spaces. Through strategic investments in key areas and our commitment to upholding current service levels, our aim is to preserve the exceptional quality of life that distinguishes Grand Rapids as a truly remarkable place to live, work, and engage in recreational activities.

In our own FY2024 budget, the City Commission has approved funding that will help us to move our city forward and address many important issues related to safety, health, environment, mobility, economic prosperity, housing and community engagement. Specifically, the fiscal plan...

- **Continues all basic services** – along with prioritized service enhancements that include expansion of the sidewalk snowplow program, communications and engagement, development plan review and permitting, special events and grants management.
- **Continues residential refuse and recycling services** – along with an enhanced “Clean Community” program that includes expanded cleaning of downtown and neighborhood business corridors and an added community clean-up day in each neighborhood.
- **Makes investments in existing capital assets** like utilities, roads and buildings – along with transformational capital investments related to the river restoration and redevelopment of the 201 Market property. This includes the relocation of City services from 201 Market to allow for development of the planned amphitheater in this key location. Other facilities funded for improvements include the Martin Luther King Park Lodge, Roosevelt Park Lodge, and trail connections within the Third Ward to the Grand River Greenway.
- **Provides sustained funding for core public safety services** including policing and fire suppression – along with preventive approaches including mental health co-

response, the homeless outreach efforts, fire prevention initiatives like the Residential Safety Program (smoke and carbon monoxide detector checks and installs), and recognition that future deposits into the Affordable Housing Fund will contribute to safety by meeting the basic need for shelter.

- **Offers competitive wages and benefits to sustain a capable City workforce** – along with initiatives to “grow our own” next generation of diverse and talented City employees including innovative programs in the Public Services, Water, Environmental Services, Fire, Police and other departments.
- **Continues sustainability practices** – along with improvements including the Grand River Greenway (to include trail expansions in the Third Ward), enhancement of tree planting and trimming services, purchase of Renewable Energy Credits to meet the City’s commitment to achieve 100% of municipal energy consumption from renewables by June 30, 2025, and infrastructure improvements to pave the way for a future solar installation at Butterworth Landfill that will support the City’s commitment to local renewable electricity generation.
- **Continues focus on reducing barriers and enhancing equitable outcomes across the City’s portfolio of services** – along with increased investments in training for employees around language access, increasing commitments to use Micro-Local Business Enterprise contractors, a \$1 million investment in the Third Ward Equity Fund, and significant capital investments in parks and trails in the Third Ward, including Martin Luther King Park Lodge, Roosevelt Park Lodge, and trail connections within the Third Ward to the Grand River Greenway.

Development of the FY2024 budget was guided by the City’s six over-arching strategic priorities that serve as a guide for all City decision-making, including the budget. Those priorities include Governmental Excellence, Economic Prosperity and Affordability, Engaged and Connected Community, Health and Environment, Mobility, and Safe Community.

Embedded in all our work is a seventh value, that of Equity. The FY2024 budget includes approximately \$49 million toward equity efforts, with a variety of funding sources ranging from General Operating funds to over \$36 million in grants. Additional highlights of the budgeted investments under each strategic priority include:

Economic Prosperity and Affordability – appropriations of \$14.5 million and an additional \$46.5 million for Corridor and Special Authorities

These investments ensure residents, employees and businesses have pathways to financial growth and security. Investments include two positions and support for special events, \$6 million in funds to support the Grand River Greenway and \$100,000 to support the New Community Transformation Fund. Investments will also be made to increase affordable housing options and to help prevent and reduce homelessness. In total, more than \$9.5 million will be dedicated to affordable housing, street outreach, homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, eviction prevention, winter sheltering, existing housing improvement, access to housing resources, and providing fair housing/legal services. What’s more, an additional \$1.5 million of funding will be used for affordable housing initiatives. In addition, a portion of proceeds from sale of the property at 201 Market Ave., expected to be \$10 million, will be deposited into the Affordable Housing Fund.

Health and Environment – appropriations of \$201 million

These investments ensure the health of all people and the environment are advocated for, protected and enhanced, including \$18.95 million in Park and Park Amenities improvements related to Martin Luther King Lodge, Roosevelt Lodge, Plaza Roosevelt, Sullivan Field, Richmond Park, Highland Park, Ottawa Hills Park, Otsego Drain Basin conversion, Canal Street Park, Camelot Park and Roberto Clemente Park; \$16 million to remediate PFAS contamination at the Ash Lagoon; \$10.40 million in lead service line replacements and \$1.8 million for the Lead Hazard Control Program. The City will continue to invest in a co-response partnership with Network180 to integrate social worker expertise in both the Police Mobile Crisis Response team as well as the Homeless Outreach Team.

The City will continue to align its work across multiple departments in addressing its environmental and sustainability goals; acknowledging that how it operates has a direct impact on meeting the challenges of climate change. In total, the FY2024 budget includes nearly \$27 million that addresses greenhouse gas/carbon mitigation and climate adaptation. Significant investments include \$4.25 million for tree removal and maintenance, \$3 million to update infrastructure to support installation of solar at the Butterworth Landfill, \$551,250 to purchase low to no emissions fleet vehicles, continued support for stormwater management and green infrastructure, and materials management (refuse, recycling, composting) programs that staff an additional material collection day per Ward as part of the “Clean Community”

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

initiative. There is also \$625,000 dedicated to the work of implementing the Equitable, Healthy and Zero Carbon Buildings Initiative (E.H.Zero), creating a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and purchasing additional renewable energy credits to accelerate the City's performance on renewable energy and carbon reduction goals.

Mobility – appropriations of \$100.3 million

These investments ensure that innovative, efficient, low-carbon and equitable mobility solutions are safe, affordable and convenient to the community including \$27.6 million in Vital Streets projects, which supports 81 projects for 32 miles of streets and \$100,000 in e-bike and e-scooter contracts. Mobile GR will be investing \$3.2 million toward DASH expanded hours and service area, \$740,000 to purchase a new compressed natural gas DASH trolley bus, over \$1 million in Neighborhood Greenways that will improve biking with traffic calming, signage and pavement marking measures, \$500,000 for an electric vehicle carshare program in the MLK Park and Burton Heights neighborhoods and \$400,000 for transit stop improvements. The City will also expand the sidewalk snow assist program by 50 miles for a total of 200 miles and invest \$2.5 million in various sidewalk projects.

Safe Community – appropriations of \$139.7 million

These investments ensure that all people feel safe and are always safe throughout the

community. The City will invest \$3 million to purchase land for a future Fire Training Center; \$1.3 million for two GVSU Police Academy recruit classes and third-party recruiting services to improve police staffing and responsiveness. The City will continue to invest \$696,768 to support the Fire and Police Department's participation in the Homeless Outreach Team. Over \$1.6 million in crime prevention efforts will be invested through programs such as Cure Violence, SAFE Task Force for community solutions, neighborhood crime prevention programs, continuations of community informed police officer training, a Traffic Stop study, Know Your Rights Campaign, I AM THE DREAM youth academy, DICE – Data Informed Community Engagement, and the Residential Safety Assessment Fire Prevention Program, among many others. Furthermore, the City continues to support Emergency Management and is leveraging grant dollars to retain a new staff member to increase community engagement activities for emergency response.

Engaged and Connected Community – \$20.6 million in investment city-wide

Focus will be given to Citywide engagement guidance and strategies, development and tracking of performance metrics and training for City departments. A new engagement framework will include reimagining and streamlining how the City partners with community and neighborhood-based organizations; leverage existing activities like Commission Night Out, Neighborhood

Match Fund and Neighborhood Summit. It will also embed applicable recommendations from the Welcome Plan for immigrant and refugees. Other critical investments include the Develop with Us and Wi-Fi in public parks programs.

Governmental Excellence – appropriations of \$167.1 million

This category includes support for City employees including funding the second year of the negotiated labor contracts, additional funding for an employee wellness application, organizational development, and further support for human resources recruiting, hiring and retention which includes a partnership with GVSU and MSU for an executive internship program. We will be continuing the GRow1000 youth employment initiative and the Fire Cadet Program and Candidate Physical Agility Test. New investments this year include a staff position to support grant management and leveraging ARPA grant dollars specifically the PFAs remediation at the Ash Lagoon and support for the implementation of city-wide enterprise software implementation.

There is much to be proud of in the budget but we also are appreciative for new funding contained in the State of Michigan's recently approved bipartisan Fiscal Year 2024 budget. The "Make it in Michigan" budget includes \$35 million for construction/development of two new Grand Rapids fire stations, \$6 million for construction of a new MLK Community Lodge and more than \$1 million for Sullivan Field.

In addition to specific funding for the capital projects, we also are pleased to see State budget funding totaling over \$50 million going to non-profits and community partners for projects in Grand Rapids. Funding will be dedicated to projects to improve infrastructure, affordable and middle housing, lead pipe replacement, closing health equity gaps and expanding skills training, and other programs that will directly impact Grand Rapidians.

I am grateful to legislators for this significant investment in public safety our community.

We are making significant investments in the future of our community through these funding priorities aligning with our core values. Our commitment extends to navigating the complex and diverse challenges we face by striking a balance between safety and compassion, prosperity and equity, growth and sustainability, practicality, and transformative change. It is imperative for Grand Rapids to embody all these aspects to realize our vision of being "nationally recognized as an equitable, welcoming, innovative and collaborative city with a robust economy, safe and healthy community, and the opportunity for a high quality of life for all."

In partnership,



Mark Washington, City Manager

\$42 Million in Vital Streets and Sidewalk Projects Underway

We are in the midst of our tenth season of ramped-up road construction, with a total investment of \$42 million in street and sidewalk improvements throughout Grand Rapids this summer.

According to our Vital Streets Oversight Commission, the Vital Streets millage has allowed us to complete preventative maintenance and reconstruction of 557 miles of streets since 2014. This year, we are working on an additional 32 miles.

Vital Streets projects not only improve the streets and sidewalks for drivers, but they also concentrate on improving these spaces for pedestrians and cyclists. Last year, we added 1.95 miles of new bicycle facilities. We also have emphasized the increase of green infrastructure by adding over 375 street trees, and 4,267 square feet of bioswales. This year, we're adding four more miles of bicycle facilities in addition to making changes to existing bicycle facilities for better signage and cyclist access.

Vital Streets projects are backed by a



voter-approved plan in 2014 that extended a local income tax levy for 15 years. Vital Street investment, along with a road funding commitment by the State of Michigan, ensures that 70 percent of Grand Rapids city streets reach fair to good condition by 2030. Since 2014, Grand Rapids has gone from 37 percent of streets in good or fair condition to 61 percent thanks to the Vital Streets program.

Below is a partial list of 2023 road construction projects with no start dates set to date. Street projects, listed in alphabetical order, may be carried over to the next construction season. A partial list of street paving projects planned by the City's Public Works Department also is included. Other locations may be added.

Sidewalk Repair

The repair and replacement of sidewalks throughout Grand Rapids neighborhoods are an important part of the Vital Streets

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

program. The sidewalk program is focusing resources in a single Ward each year over three years to increase investment and total amount of sidewalk that can be inspected and repaired in a single construction season. In the 2023 construction season, City inspectors will be in the Third Ward marking out the sidewalks to be replaced. Next year, the First Ward will be prioritized and the third year the Second Ward will be prioritized.

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.

First Ward – Will be prioritized for systematic sidewalk replacement in fiscal year 2025 (FY 2025).

Second Ward – Will be prioritized for systematic sidewalk replacement in fiscal year 2026 (FY 2026).

Third Ward – Will be prioritized this fiscal year (FY 2024). The contract will be partially in the Southeast End and Madison neighborhoods. Work is scheduled for May through October.

Updates on the City's Vital Streets projects are available at grandrapidsmi.gov/roadconstruction or by calling 311 or 616.456.3000.

Rotomill and Resurfacings

- 5th St – Pine Ave to Stocking Ave and McReynolds Ave to Muskegon Ave
- Alexander St - Gibson Place to Kalamazoo Ave
- Alto Ave - Worden St to MLK Jr St
- Ardmore St - Kalamazoo Ave to Giddings Ave
- Ardmore St - Rosemont Ave to Covington Dr
- Atlantic St - Van Buren Ave to Powers Ave
- Auburn Ave - Lake Dr to Fulton St
- Ball Ave - Leonard St to Knapp St
- Ball Ave - Michigan St to Plymouth Ave
- Benning Ave - Laughlin Dr to City/Twp Line
- Benson Ave - Lydia St to North End
- Briar Hills Dr -South End to Aberdeen St
- Butterworth St - O'Brien Road to Marion Ave
- College Ave -South End to Russwood St
- Comstock Boulevard -Monique Dr to Paris Ave
- Covington Dr -Colton Dr to Ardmore St
- Crescent St -Grand Ave to Fuller Ave
- Cromwell Ave -Hall St to Humboldt St
- Davis Ave -3rd St to 4th St
- Deloney Ave SW -W Fulton St to Veto St NW

- Dickinson St -Kalamazoo Ave to Giddings Ave
- Division Ave - Quigley St to Cottage Grove St
- Douglas St -Straight Ave to Lexington Ave
- East Paris Ave - 28th St to Burton St
- Eastern Ave – 400' South of 44th St to 28th St
- Edington Dr - Granite St to Breton Ave and Granite St - Breton Ave to S. Edington Ave
- Fox St - W. End to Buchanan Ave
- Fuller Ave - Knapp St to 3 Mile Road
- Gilbert St - Madison Ave to Paris Ave
- Glen Echo Dr - Meadowbrook St to North End
- Grand Ave - Hawthorne St to Parkwood St
- Grove Bluff Court - Grove Bluff Dr to East End
- Gunnison Ave - Butterworth St to Fulton St
- Helen St - Diamond Ave to Caroline Place
- Houseman Ave - Michigan St to Hake St
- Hovey St - Garfield Ave to Gunnison Ave
- Indiana Ave - Butterworth St to California St
- Jackson St - Lexington Ave to Seward Ave
- Kenosha Dr -Division Ave to Madison Ave
- Kentwood St -Country Club Dr to Fuller Ave
- Knapp St – Truxton Dr to East City Limits
- Lafayette Ave -Garden St to Hall St
- Leffingwell Ave – Leonard St to North City Limits
- Leonard St – Powers Ave to Alpine Ave
- Manton St -Waldorn Ave to Edith Ave
- Mayhew Wood Dr -Eastern Ave to Blaine Ave
- Meadowbrook St -Glen Echo Dr to Mission Hills Dr
- Michigan St – Maryland Ave to Leffingwell Ave
- Milwaukee Ave -2nd St to 4th St
- Morgan St -West End to White Ave
- Mulford St - Marshall Ave to Aleda Ave and Aleda Ave - Mulford St to Alger St
- Newark Ave - Johnston St to Orville St
- Northbend Dr - Aberdeen St to Holmdene Ave and Holmdene Ave - Aberdeen St to Northbend Dr
- Omena Dr - Burton St to Onaway Road
- Paris Ave - Griggs St to Dickinson St and 270' South of Oakdale St to Adams St
- Park St - Garfield Ave to Straight Ave
- Park St - John Ball Park Dr to Richards Ave
- Pine Ave -Walker Ave to 10th St
- Ridgewood Ave -Hampshire St to North End
- Sibley St -Lane Ave to Seward Ave
- Sigsbee St -Giddings Ave to Ethel Ave
- Travis St -80' E of Coit Ave to Lafayette Ave

- Ave
- Travis St -Fuller Ave to Auburn Ave
- Turner Ave - 6th St to US131 SB On Ramp and US131 SB Off Ramp to Richmond St
- Twin Lakes Ave - Bradford St to Michigan St
- Union Ave - Comstock Boulevard to Conger St
- Watson St -Garfield Ave to Gunnison Ave
- Widdicomb Ave -11th St to 12th St
- Willard Ave -Burton St to Dickinson St
- Woodlawn Court - West End to Woodlawn Ave
- Woodmeadow Dr - Mulford Dr to Woodlawn Ave
- Woodrow Ave - Bristol Ave to Walker Ave

Other road projects

- Cesar E. Chavez Ave – Beacon St to Martin Luther King Jr. St (water main, sewer separation, reconstruction)
- Cesar E. Chavez Ave – Clyde Park Ave to Stolpe St (water main, sewer separation, reconstruction) (2024)
- Cesar E. Chavez Ave – Stolpe St to Hall St (water main, sewer separation, reconstruction) (2024)
- College Ave - Leonard St to Sweet St (water main, reconstruction)
- Division Ave – Fulton St to Michigan St (water main, sewer, reconstruction)
- Eastern Ave – Burton St to Ardmore St (water main, reconstruction) (2024)
- Eleanor St - Plainfield Ave to Diamond Ave Emerald Ave - Leonard St to Sweet (water main, reconstruction)
- Fremont Ave - 3rd St to 4th St (water main, reconstruction)
- Fuller Ave - Kalamazoo St to Adams St (water main, rotomill/resurfacing) (2024)
- Giddings Ave – Burton St to Boston St (water main, reconstruction)
- Jackson St - Valley Ave to Garfield Ave and Lane Ave to Jackson Place (water main, sanitary sewer, reconstruction)
- Milton St - Carlton Ave to Norwood Ave (reconstruction, lead water service replacement)
- Norwich Ave - Curve St to Hayden St (sewer separation, water main, reconstruction, resurfacing)
- Ottawa Ave - Newberry St to Mason St; Walbridge St Ottawa to deadend (sewer separation, water main, reconstruction, resurfacing)
- Ottawa Ave/Coldbrook St/Monroe Ave Intersection (water main, reconstruction)
- Page St -West End to Carmen Ave; Lister Court - West End to Plainfield Ave; Plainfield Ave - Leonard St to Grove St and Carrier St - Plainfield Ave to Lafayette Ave (water main, reconstruction)
- Robinson Road - Lake Drive to Plymouth Ave (water main, reconstruction/rotomill/resurfacing) (2024)
- State St - Lafayette Ave to Madison Ave (water main, reconstruction)
- Valley Ave – Fulton St to Bridge St and Sibley St – Valley Ave to Garfield Ave (water main, reconstruction)

Preventative Maintenance Bridges

- Burton St over CSX
- Hall St over CSX
- Pearl St over the Grand River

Paving 2023

- 10th NW - Bristol to Calvary
- 10th NW - Valley to Van Buren
- Amberly SE - Kalamazoo to Amberly Ct
- Arbor NE - Emerald to Houseman
- Ball NE - Service to Mason
- Ball NE - Knapp to Aberdeen
- Ball Park Blvd NW - Sibley to S Dead End
- Barnett NE - College to W Dead End
- Boston SE - Plymouth to E City Limit
- Brookmoor Ct NE - Brookmoor to N Dead End
- Brookmoor NE - Perkins to Brookmoor Ct
- Camelot SE - Charrings Cross to Camelot Ct
- Centennial NW - Sibley to Cayuga
- Chamberlain SE - Burton to Griggs
- Charles SE - Sherman to Thomas
- Coldbrook NE - Emerald to Houseman
- College NE - Michigan to Fountain
- Cora NW - Van Buren to Valley
- Curwood SE - Richwood to Pointe O' Woods
- Dawes SE - Plymouth to N Dead End
- Eastridge CT NE - Eastridge to W Dead End
- Eastridge NE - Bradford to S Dead End
- Eastview CT NE - Eastview to S Dead End
- Eastview NE - Eastridge to W Dead End
- Ellsmere NE - Plainfield to Fuller
- Evelyn NE - Diamond to Fuller
- Fairview NE - Newberry to Trowbridge
- Florence NE - Forrest to Fern
- Forland CT NE - Brookmoor Ct to W Dead End
- Forrester SE - Kalamazoo to W Dead End
- Forrester SE - Kalamazoo to E Dead End
- Foster CT NE - Foster to E Dead End
- Fremont NW - 9th to 11th
- Geneva SE - MLK Jr to Prince
- Giddings SE - 36th to Grooters
- Gold NW - Bridge to Douglas
- Green SE - Division to Jefferson
- Grooters SE - Giddings to Newcastle
- Grove NE - Plainfield to Carmen
- Harlan NE - Michigan to Hake

Summer property taxes are due July 31st

Pay your property taxes online with **grpayit**.

Download the grpayit app in the Apple App Store, on Google Play, or create an account at



grpayit.us



Visit grandrapidsmi.gov for more information on property taxes

To apply for deferment of Summer taxes visit:
grandrapidsmi.gov/Services/Apply-for-Deferment-of-Summer-Taxes

*No fee will be assessed if you are paying with your bank account information

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Volunteer Program Coming Soon to Grand Rapids

Are you interested in learning about disaster preparedness? Do you have a passion for helping others during or after a disaster? If so, the Office of Emergency Management will be kicking off our first city-focused Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). This program will be broken down into two levels, Level 1, and Level 2.

Level 1:

- One 3-hour course
- Provides an overview of personal preparedness, fire safety and an introduction into disaster medical operations

Level 2:

- One 2.5-hour class each week for 7-weeks
- Provides in-depth training for: Disaster operations, search and rescue, fire safety, disaster medical operations, disaster psychology and crowd management
- Completion of Level 1 is required to take Level 2

Once you successfully complete both levels, you can become a trained volunteer for the City of Grand Rapids CERT program. Training dates and details will be announced in the coming weeks! Stay tuned for more information announced on our social media handles and webpage!

Let's connect:

The Office of Emergency Management are now on the socials! Let's get connected for our latest news and updates.

- Instagram/Facebook: @readygrandrapids
- Twitter: @readyCityGR
- Nextdoor: City of Grand Rapids Office of

Emergency Management

- Website: grandrapidsmi.gov/emergencymanagement

Sign up for GR Emergency Alerts:
grandrapidsmi.gov/emergencyalerts or scan QR code below

Be Informed

Sign up for Grand Rapids Emergency Alerts today!

grandrapidsmi.gov/emergencyalerts



Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Kent County Health Department and City Partner to Get Ahead of Lead *Officials partner to educate, equip residents to prevent lead exposure from older plumbing*

The Kent County Health Department (KCHD), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and City of Grand Rapids are working together to educate Kent County residents about preventing lead exposure from older plumbing, faucets, fixtures and water service lines. Officials recommend that Kent County residents use a certified lead-reducing drinking water filter if their home has or if they are uncertain if it has one of the following:

- Lead or galvanized plumbing.
- A lead service line carrying water from the street to their residence.
- Older faucets and fittings sold before 2014.

“Knowledge and action are formidable tools in our fight against lead,” said Kent County Administrative Health Officer, Dr. Adam London. “It is good common sense for residents living in homes with specific conditions for lead to leach in the drinking water to use a certified lead-reducing filter.” KCHD has produced a video to help residents determine if they have lead, galvanized or other plumbing materials in their home. The City of Grand Rapids has posted a map of lead service lines in the city.

To support their recommendations, KCHD, MDHHS, and the City of Grand Rapids are collaborating to distribute thousands of free drinking water filters to eligible Kent County households. Households are eligible for a free filter if the residence has a lead service line or any lead plumbing and meets the following qualifications:

- A child under 18 or a pregnant woman lives in the home, and
- A member of the household is enrolled in Medicaid or WIC, and
- The household is unable to afford a filter.
- This Kent County pilot project is part of a larger effort by MDHHS to reduce lead exposure that could be occurring through drinking water. Proactively getting certified lead-reducing water filters into homes with lead or galvanized plumbing and service lines will help protect Michigan families from potential health effects.

“Using a certified lead reducing water filter is a prevention tactic much like having smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in your home,” said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. “By encouraging filter use and getting filters out into the community, we will protect Kent County families by minimizing lead exposure through drinking water.”

Municipal water systems throughout

GET AHEAD OF LEAD

Kent County are tested regularly and meet all state and federal guidelines governing lead levels. However, lead may enter drinking water due to corrosion of older water service lines and pipes, faucets, and fittings inside the home.

“We know that the water being delivered

lead-reducing water filters on faucets used for drinking and cooking. Look for water filter packaging marked with the following certifications: NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class I).

Residents should not boil water to

making baby formula. Before using the water from any faucet for drinking or cooking, run the water again for at least several seconds or until it goes from room temperature to cold. This can be accomplished by doing household tasks like showering, washing clothes, or running the dishwasher first.

Remove and clean aerators—the screens on the ends of faucets—every six months. Aerators help keep pieces of lead and other particles from getting into your water. During construction or repairs to the public water system or service lines near your home, clean aerators at least every month until the work is done.

Replace older plumbing, pipes, and faucets to prevent lead in drinking water. According to the EPA, lead can enter drinking water when lead-based plumbing materials corrode. The most common sources of lead in drinking water include lead service lines, pipes, faucets, and fixtures. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in homes built before 1986.

Older faucets and fittings sold before 2014 may contain up to 8% lead, even if marked “lead-free.” Look for replacement faucets made in 2014 or later and make sure they are NSF 61 certified or marked to contain 0.25% lead or less. Residents can hire a plumber to find parts that should be replaced to reduce lead in drinking water.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Environmental Protection Agency agree that there is no known safe level of lead in a child’s blood. Taking action to reduce these exposures can improve health outcomes. Lead is harmful to health, especially for children.

Residents with questions about the lead-reducing water filter program or who need assistance with the registration process and pick up information may contact the KCHD at (616) 632-7145, Heart of West Michigan United Way 211 or the City of Grand Rapids Customer Service Center at 311.



to homes in Grand Rapids is safe. But we also recognize that until we’re able to eliminate every potential source of contamination now and in the future, including those inside of the home, interim solutions like filters can play a critical role in helping to keep our residents safe,” said Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss.

Kent County residents who are eligible for a free water filter should visit gettingaheadoflead.com to complete a short survey and to register for a time to pick up their filter. The registration survey is required and available in English and Spanish.

Residents who don’t qualify for free filters but who suspect their plumbing puts them at risk for lead exposure should purchase and install

remove lead.

Residents should use cold, filtered water for:

- Rinsing foods and cooking.
- Making baby formula.
- Brushing teeth.

Unfiltered water can be used for:

- Washing hands, showering, and bathing.
- Washing dishes and doing laundry.
- Household cleaning.

Families can further reduce exposure to lead in household drinking water by following these tips:

Keeping water moving. Run water for several minutes each morning or after household water has not been used for several hours. This brings new water into the home’s pipes before using it for drinking, cooking, and

Report: 61st District Court Problem-Solving Courts Successful in Lowering Recidivism, Unemployment Among Graduates

Since the mid-1990s, the judges of our 61st District Court have established and continue to maintain various problem-solving court programs. Our 61st District Court is has three PSCs (two Sobriety Courts and one Drug Court), which helps justice-involved individuals in our community by helping them overcome underlying issues such as substance use disorder, mental illness, and/or veteran-specific issues.

Sobriety, drug, and hybrid court programs are aimed at breaking the cycle of addiction and crime through intensive treatment and other services. In turn, this reduces the chance that participants will reoffend, it improves outcomes for individuals, families, and communities, and it generates substantial savings for taxpayers. Data shows, for each program type, whether participants of sobriety, drug, or hybrid courts are substantially less likely to commit another crime.

Kent County's problem-solving courts focus on providing treatment and intense supervision to offenders as an alternative to incarceration. These include drug and sobriety, mental health, veterans, and other nontraditional courts. The Supreme Court, through its State Court Administrative Office, assists trial court judges in the management of these courts by providing training, education, operational standards, monitoring, certification requirements, and funding. 61st District Court Judge Nicholas Ayoub said his fellow judges, probation officers, medical clinicians and lawyers, who make up the various problem-solving court teams,

are specially trained in what is a very holistic method and approach to solving some of the underlying issues that are so often at the root of non-violent criminal conduct. Ayoub – along with Judges Michael Distel and Angela Ross – currently oversees the 61st District Court's Sobriety and Drug Court.

A recent Michigan Supreme Court FY 2022 Problem-Solving Courts Annual Report, tracked the progress and highlighting the success of 207 problem-solving courts (PSCs). Key findings in the report show:

- Graduates of adult drug court programs were, on average, more than three times less likely to be convicted of a new offense within three years of admission to a program.
- Sobriety court graduates who used an ignition interlock device were nearly five times less likely to be convicted of a new offense within three years of admission.
- Unemployment dropped by 88 percent for adult drug court graduates, 86 percent for sobriety court graduates, and 85 percent for hybrid court (drug/sobriety) graduates.
- On average, mental health court (MHC) graduates—adult and juvenile—were nearly two times less likely to commit another crime within three years of admission to a program.
- Unemployment among adult circuit MHC graduates dropped by 81 percent.
- Average 99 percent improvement in mental health and 95 percent quality of life improvement.
- Graduates of veterans treatment courts (VTCs) were nearly two times less likely



to reoffend within three years of admission to a program.

- Unemployment dropped by 88 percent among VTC graduates.

The most recent 61st District Court program statistics show similar successes in Kent County. The three problem-solving courts have 154 cases/participants. So far in 2023, they have had 48 graduates. All participants, and especially graduates, have significantly lower recidivism rates than their matched state-wide comparison members. A recidivism rate defined as the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend or relapse into criminal behavior.

Problem-solving 61st District Hybrid Court recidivism rates for NEW DRUG OR ALCOHOL CONVICTIONS in 2022 (within three years of admission in the program) showed:

- All Program Participants: Grand Rapids – 5% (Statewide – 12%)
- Graduates of the program: Grand Rapids – 3% (Statewide – 6%)

Problem-solving 61st District Hybrid Court recidivism rates for NEW CONVICTIONS in 2021 (within three years of admission in the program) showed:

- All Program Participants: Grand Rapids – 12% (Statewide – 19%)

- Graduates of the program: Grand Rapids – 5% (Statewide – 10%)

Judge Ayoub said the problem-solving court model really stretches the traditional role that a court plays in the criminal justice framework.

“Recognizing that a criminal court can often be a crossroads for people struggling with substance use disorders or mental illness, the court acts as a host for a team of both legal and medical/clinical professionals to help people help themselves to engage in the difficult work of overcoming substance abuse,” he said.

“The model starts by recognizing the paradoxical complexity and uniqueness of each and every person that is no less encompassed by a shared and common human experience. What might prove successful in addressing one person's issues may have no effect on another person. We spend the time to get to know, and form a meaningful relationship with, each participant. We use a combination of treatment, incentives, and sanctions to help foster behavior modification. With its exclusive focus on punishing conduct, the traditional criminal justice model is rather one dimensional. Problem-solving courts are like criminal justice in 3D.”

Help Prevent Automobile and Property Thefts

We all have a role to play in crime prevention to help keep our community safe. Here are some prevention tips to combat car thefts and package thefts, which are often crimes of opportunity:

Car Theft

- Park in well-lit areas near buildings and/or cameras.
- Park in a garage if possible.
- Always remove valuables from your vehicle.
- Always lock your vehicle; don't leave a separate key or key fob in the vehicle. Keep fobs in your house far enough away from the vehicle that they can't be detected and used to start the car.
- Activate the alarm system on your vehicle.
- Use a locking mechanism on your vehicle (column collars, steering wheel locks or brake locks).



Package Theft

- Use package tracking.
- Require a signature for delivery or schedule deliveries when you will be home.

sidewalk or street. If another entrance is available, like a back or side door, ask for packages to be left there.

- If it's an option, have your packages delivered to your work address.
- Check with the delivery service to see if there are other options, for example Amazon storage lockers. Both FedEx and UPS provide options for packages to be held at a location near you rather than dropped off at a home. Check their websites for more information and to search locations.
- Consider investing in a package locker for your porch or search the web for DIY package drop boxes/hiding spots to keep packages out of view.

- Be specific with delivery instructions – ask delivery drivers to put packages behind a planter, a piece of furniture, or otherwise conceal them from direct view of the

City Requests Proposals for Second Round of PBGR Projects/Ideas

The second round of requests for proposals (RFPs) for Participatory Budgeting Grand Rapids (PBGR) selected projects are now on the street. The City is looking for individuals, organizations, companies or agencies to conduct Youth Affordable Housing and Support, Support for Victims of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking, and Community Support & Beautification initiatives. Each RFP is available through the PBGR website: PBGR.org.

The City of Grand Rapids is preparing and awarding RFPs for 12 projects and ideas selected through the PBGR public vote process held last year. RFPs for the remaining projects will be released mid-summer.

Requests for proposals for a qualified person, organization, or firm are now sought through 11:59 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4 for the following three PBGR projects:

Youth Affordable Housing and Support Initiative

The goal of the Youth Affordable Housing and Support Initiative focused on residents in the First Ward and Third Ward, ages 18-24, is to increase youth housing stability in Grand Rapids. It will also look to strengthen connections to services across a range of needs such as employment, education, addiction treatment and mental health services. The program will carry this out by:

- Creating an initiative designed to help youth quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing offered without preconditions such as employment, income, absence of a criminal record, or sobriety;
- Incorporating support for pursuing education, employment, life skills, counseling, career case management, and mentoring; and
- Partnering with educational institutions,

community organizations, and individuals that might contribute to the success of the program.

Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence Program

The Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence Program will focus on the empowerment of victims of domestic violence and human trafficking in the First Ward. The program will support vulnerable residents and provide them with pathways to self-sufficiency and empower them to make healthy choices and live free from violence.

Community Support and Beautification Initiative

The Community Support & Beautification initiative "Cleaning up GR" aims to strengthen community relationships and improve the environment and living conditions for those living in the First Ward. The proposer will carry this out by:

- Partnering with existing community organizations to identify specific neighborhood needs around general cleanliness and upkeep, and how these needs can be addressed.
- Creating a group of neighborhood ambassadors like Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc.'s ambassadors that would walk identified corridors on a scheduled basis to beautify, clean up trash and debris, and engage with visitors and liaise with City departments on identified needs.

To submit a proposal for any of the above RFPs, please visit PBGR.org for instruction. Once proposals are submitted and reviewed, the City hopes to execute agreements with selected partners this fall to make these community ideas a reality.

The PBGR projects, which span across the City's three wards, are funded by \$2



million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The graduated ward distribution of funds includes: First Ward - \$600,000, Second Ward - \$400,000, and Third Ward - \$1 million.

The public vote for projects recommended by the public and finalized by the PBGR Steering Committee votes by ward took place online during Vote Week – September 30 to October 5, 2022 at PGRG.org, in-person at all Grand Rapids Public Library sites and at a series of neighborhood events. Residents, 13 years of age and older, were eligible to vote.

Based on the voting results and project rankings using ranked-choice voting methodology, the PBGR Steering Committee formally adopted the following projects (with estimated costs) to advance in the community.

In Ward 1 - \$600,000 Total Investment

- Affordable Childcare for 2nd and 3rd Shift Workers (\$150,000)
- Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking (\$100,000)
- Youth Affordable Housing Support (\$145,000)
- Cleaning Up Grand Rapids (\$75,000)
- *Community Reading Initiative for Violence Reduction (\$50,000)
- *Citizen Advocacy Skills Academy (\$80,000*) – Partially funded (from a requested \$100,000) due to reaching total investment limit

*RFP Contract awards (#5 & #6) were approved by the City Commission on Tuesday, June 13

In Ward 2 - \$400,000 Total Investment

- Mental Health Community First Responders (\$350,000)
- CURE Violence – 2nd Ward (\$50,000 PB* + additional possible investment)

*Partially funded (from a requested \$250,000) due to reaching total investment limit

In Ward 3 - \$1 million Total Investment

- Lead Water Line Replacement (\$500,000)
- Affordable Childcare for 2nd and 3rd Shift Workers (\$150,000)
- Youth Affordable Housing Support (\$145,000)
- Community-Based Violence Reduction Initiative (\$205,000*)

*Fully funded and \$5,000 added to program (from a requested \$200,000) due to excess funds in total investment limit

For a list of these projects with descriptions of each, please visit PBGR.org.

The City of Grand Rapids' participatory budgeting initiative is a democratic process that allows residents the opportunity to help determine how public funds are spent. To learn more about the project, please visit PBGR.org, or on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter @PBGrandRapids.

An Invitation to Come Home to Grand Rapids and Serve Your Community

Our Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD) is hiring certified police officers. If you have a loved one or friend in law enforcement that is looking to come home to Grand Rapids, encourage them to consider joining our GRPD. Those currently attending a police academy must graduate in time to be eligible for a start date of December 11. Applications close September 27.

There are a number of options to learn more and start the application process:

- Scan the QR code
- Text "JoinGRPD" to 616-433-1058
- Visit the City of Grand Rapids' website and use the "Jobs" tab
- Visit joiningrpd.com for more information and links to the application





COMMUNITY RECREATION



REGISTRATION OPENS
August 1

CLASS DATES
September 11 - November 5

ADULT PROGRAM PRICING:
\$42 per 8-week class, \$52/nonresidents



Register online
grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr



Register by phone
616.456.3696, option #1



Register in person
201 Market Ave SW

YOGA

CLASSES RUN FOR 8 WEEKS STARTING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11

Visit grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr or call us at 616.456.3696, option 1 on or after August 1 for class dates, times and locations

CLASS

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.

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.

SLOW FLOW YOGA

End your weekend and set the tone for the week ahead with this calming and gentle yoga class. Each class will begin and end with a variety of restorative postures, with a slow yoga flow in between. Find a cozy comfortable space, light a few candles, and grab as many blankets and pillows as you can!

POWER YOGA

This energetic class is designed to build strength, flexibility, and balance! Challenging peak poses, breath to movement flows, and mind body connections will encourage students to find their edge. Modifications are always offered and body awareness is always encouraged.

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+.

CARDIO & STRENGTH

CLASSES RUN FOR 8 WEEKS STARTING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11

Visit grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr or call us at 616.456.3696, option 1 on or after August 1 for class dates, times and locations

CLASS

BARRE

Barre is a low impact, high intensity total body workout that incorporates elements of Pilates, Ballet and Yoga. This workout is fast paced and set to fun upbeat music. During the workout you will use light hand weights, resistance bands, and your own body weight. You will complete small range movements at high repetitions meant to fatigue your muscles to build strength and endurance, and then stretch everything out to increase your flexibility. Barre is a great workout for any fitness level as there are options to level up or down based on your own body. Barre is for EVERYBODY.

HIIT EXPRESS

This class uses High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) to increase your heart rate, strengthen your muscles, and boost your metabolism. Participants will be given 30 seconds to do as many reps of a single body weight exercise as possible. Then rinse, repeat, with a new move! Class will end with mat routines that includes core and upper body strength exercises. All movements will have modified options as well as progressions, allowing each person to decide their own intensity level. All fitness levels welcome!

PILATES

Tone muscles, improve posture and learn flexibility and balance. Focus on moving as one unit with control and grace. Improve circulation, endurance and reduce stress.

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.

CYCLING

CLASSES RUN FOR 8 WEEKS STARTING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11

Visit grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr or call us at 616.456.3696, option 1 on or after August 1 for class dates, times and locations

CLASS

CYCLING

Reach your fitness goals while building leg and core strength. Powerful music and pace-setting instruction helps you climb steep hills, move across flat road and master intense intervals.

CYCLE & ROW COMBO

Find strength through the power of cycling with fast flats, hill climbs and intervals set to fun music, and then hop off the bike and continue your cardio burn by igniting your upper body with our low impact rowers where you will complete power and intervals.

DANCE FITNESS

CLASSES RUN FOR 8 WEEKS STARTING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11

Visit grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr or call us at 616.456.3696, option 1 on or after August 1 for class dates, times and locations

CLASS

BALLROOM DANCE

A beginner class targeted toward couples wanting to learn ballroom dancing. Learn the Salsa, Waltz, Foxtrot, East Coast Swing, Cha Cha, Rumba and Tango.

BALLROOM DANCE: THE NEXT STEPS

A follow-up to Ballroom Dancing. Continue practicing basic dances and learn new moves to add flair.

GENTLE MUSICAL MOVEMENT

This 45 minute class encourages freedom for body, mind, + spirit while working range of motion, strength, flexibility and balance. Class is created around music and combines simple dance and stretch moves for all body parts. Move your body in ways outside of your daily routine, inviting in both fun and freedom of personal expression. Perfect for all ages, especially those 50+. This class can also be adapted to the chair.

NEW! LINE DANCING

Enjoy line dancing while exercising mind, body, and spirit. In QK Linedance we dance to all genres of music and everyone is welcome!

MINDFUL MUSICAL MOVEMENT - FORMERLY GROOVE

Move in new ways, get your heart pumping, and infuse your whole body with joy in this not-so-typical dance class set to a variety of great music. Simple steps designed to work your whole body are provided and you are encouraged to supply the intensity level and flair. Perfect for all levels, all you need is space to move freely.

NEW! SWING DANCING & MORE

This partner class will focus on the basics of East & West Coast Swing, Hustle, Country Two Step, Night Club Two Step and more! No previous dance experience is necessary. Class is for couples. Each person required to register.


WERQ

WERQ is a nonstop cardio dance class with fun and unique routines set to the hottest pop and hip hop music. Participants will get a high calorie burn, and a non stop workout, combining repetitive athletic moves with fresh dance steps. Anyone can WERQ it! Bring your own water bottle and towel.

ZUMBA

Zumba is a high energy, dance fitness class that incorporates Latin and international music. All fitness levels are welcome.

ENRICHMENT & ADVENTURE

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr 
Registration opens Aug 1.

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
TAE KWON DO (AGES 7 - ADULT) Learn the basics of the Korean martial art form of Tae Kwon Do. Participants will develop confidence, increase flexibility, concentration, balance, and learn how to defend themselves. \$45/residents, \$55/non for 8-class session, \$40/residents, \$50/non for 7-class session.	TUESDAYS, SEP 5 - OCT 24 TUESDAYS, NOV 7 - DEC 19	6:00 - 7:30 PM <i>*Green belts and up meet until 8:00 pm</i>	GARFIELD PARK COMMUNITY GYM
BEGINNER PICKLEBALL LESSONS (AGES 18+) Learn the basic rules, skills, and strategies needed to play the sport of pickleball! \$25/residents, \$35/non for 4-class session.	TUE & THU, SEP 19 - 28 TUE & THU, OCT 10 - 19 TUE & THU, NOV 7 - 16 TUE & THU, DEC 5 - 14	2:45 - 4:00 PM	GARFIELD PARK COMMUNITY GYM

YOUTH DANCE

6-CLASS SESSIONS. \$45/RESIDENTS, \$55 NONRESIDENTS

Visit grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr or call us at 616.456.3696, option 1 on or after August 1 for class dates, times and locations

CLASS

BALLET+TUMBLE+JAZZ (AGES 3-5)

This is an introduction to ballet basics using methods designed for young imaginative minds and bodies. Students are given the opportunity to move, stretch, and improve self-confidence while being introduced to basic ballet concepts, body alignment, posture, locomotor skills.

BALLET TECH +JAZZ (AGES 6-8)

Focuses on the fundamentals of ballet technique. The class emphasizes proper placement, vocabulary, etiquette, ballet-based improvisation, and increasing flexibility through center and across the floor exercises.

CONTEMPORARY+TUMBLE (AGES 9-12)

Exercises focus on increasing flexibility and strength, total body connectivity, and creative problem-solving. This class helps develop flexibility and strength. It covers rolls, handstands, cartwheels, roundoffs, walkovers, up through backhand springs and more.

YOUTH HIP HOP (AGES 6-15)

This is an introduction of Hip Hop Dance. We are here to enrich the skills of Hip hop dancers by giving the basic fundamentals while helping the youth express themselves through creative movement. Each student will learn a quality of movements through high energy music including footwork, pop locking, and creative hip hop movement.

YOUTH GYMNASTICS

Visit grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr or call us at 616.456.3696, option 1 on or after August 1 for class dates, times and locations

CLASS

PARENT & ME TUMBLE & PLAY (AGES 2-3)

Laugh, play, and tumble with your child while creating balance, strength, and learning fundamental movements. Also includes activities and games to get the wiggles out! Required Clothing: leotards, athletic clothing with shirts that can be tucked in, comfortable with stretch.

GYMNASTICS I (AGES 4-6)

For the younger gymnast to encourage success and fun in the gym. Kids learn tumbling and balancing basics with emphasis on strength and flexibility. Required Clothing: leotards, athletic clothing with shirts that can be tucked in, comfortable with stretch.

GYMNASTICS II (AGES 7-10)

A follow-up to Gymnastics I. Activities increase strength, movement, coordination, agility and flexibility.

YOUTH ENRICHMENT

Visit grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr or call us at 616.456.3696, option 1 on or after August 1 for class dates, times and locations

CLASS

CHILDREN'S YOGA (AGES 3-6)

Children can enjoy and benefit from yoga and mindfulness from toddlerhood through middle school and beyond. These yoga classes will include mindful movement, music, yoga, games, and fun and simple breathwork. This series is designed to be playful while still challenging children to develop their focus, awareness, and movement in new ways. Children will build regulation skills, healthy social skills, and positive self-esteem.

BRICKS 4 KIDZ (AGES 5-11)

Each class is a fun and educational LEGO-building adventure with Bricks 4 Kidz. We use age-appropriate models for different levels of building skill. This hands-on class explores STEAM concepts (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) primarily using LEGO Bricks, in which children will develop problem-solving and critical-thinking skills in a fun and engaging way. Even our youngest and newest students will learn how to make mechanical LEGO models that move and groove. As they advance in building skill, they'll also motorize their weekly model for even more learning fun!

YOUTH/ADULT SWIM LESSONS

SWIM LESSON LEVELS

PARENT CHILD (AGES 6M-3Y)

Introduce water safety and basic swim skills to parents and children. Parents will learn skills to safely work with their child in the water, including how to correctly support/hold them in the water and how to encourage them. Children will gain confidence in the water through games and songs and receive an introduction to swim foundations, like submerging and kicking.

PRESCHOOL LEVEL 1 (AGES 3-5)

Introduces water safety and basic swim skills. Children will work with instructors to gain confidence, develop positive attitudes around the water, and receive an introduction to swim foundations like submerging, floating, and the movements of front and back crawl.

PRESCHOOL LEVEL 2 (AGES 3-5)

Builds on the skills introduced in Preschool Level 1. Children will continue to develop a positive relationship with the water while mastering swim foundations like floating, submerging, and the basics of front and back crawl.

YOUTH LEVEL 1 (AGES 6+)

Youth Level 1 aims to develop positive relationships with the water while mastering swim foundations – like floating, submerging, and the basics of front and back crawl. At the end, participants will be able to perform swim foundations independently or with minimal assistance.

YOUTH LEVEL 2 (AGES 6+)

Builds on the foundations in Level 1 to support the correct execution of foundational swim skills. Focuses on proper technique of foundational skills to ensure participants are strong and capable in the water independently. Repetition is used to build endurance and muscle memory. Participants will learn how to float, glide and move forward in the water with no support and will continue to develop the foundations for future swim strokes.

All lessons held at Union High School. Dates and times TBD.

Visit grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr for more information and to register online.

SWIM LESSON LEVELS

YOUTH LEVEL 3 (AGES 6+)

Aims to increase proficiency of previously learned skills by providing additional practice with an emphasis on technique. Participants will learn and practice survival floating and improve their front crawl, back crawl, breaststroke, and elementary backstroke technique while swimming longer distances. Participants will also learn safe headfirst entries and begin learning the foundations of butterfly. After successfully completing Level 3, participants will have achieved basic, independent water competency in a pool environment.

YOUTH LEVEL 4 (AGES 6+)

Participants will improve their technique and increase endurance in previously learned strokes. Swimmers will gain better control over front crawl, back crawl, and breaststroke and will continue to learn butterfly foundations. Emphasis will be placed on headfirst entries and swimming underwater to provide the basic skillset for competitive swimming. After successfully completing Level 4, swimmers will be well equipped with the skills needed to transition to a swim team setting.

SWIMMING ESSENTIALS (AGES 16+)

Swimming Essentials is designed for anyone 16 years of age and older. This class will develop fundamental swim skills including floating, water safety, breathing techniques, and foundational swim strokes while allowing participants to gain confidence in a safe, controlled setting. This class is great for individuals who are brand new to swimming or have an existing fear of the water. After successfully completing Swimming Essentials, swimmers will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to safely navigate aquatic environments.

STROKE DEVELOPMENT (AGES 16+)

Stroke Development is designed for anyone 16 years of age and older. This class will build on fundamental swimming skills by introducing different swimming strokes. This class is great for individuals who are comfortable in the water and looking to expand on their skills and learn different ways to swim. After successfully completing Adult Stroke Development, swimmers will be able to swim using a variety of strokes.

YOUTH FALL SOCCER

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr

AGE GROUP	DATES	LOCATIONS
AGES 4-5 Meet only on Saturdays - 25 minutes of instruction, 24 minutes of game play. <i>\$38 residents, \$48 nonresidents</i>	SATURDAYS, SEP 9 - OCT 14	ABERDEEN OR MACKAY-JAYCEES PARK
AGES 6-7 Practice one evening a week on Tuesday or Thursday, with games on Saturdays. <i>\$48 residents, \$58 nonresidents</i>	PRACTICES TUESDAYS, AUG 29 - OCT 10 THURSDAYS, AUG 31 - OCT 12	SULLIVAN FIELD OR MLK PARK ABERDEEN OR MACKAY-JAYCEES PARK
	GAMES SATURDAYS, SEP 9 - OCT 14	ABERDEEN OR MACKAY-JAYCEES PARK
AGES 8-9 Practice one evening a week on Tuesday or Thursday, with games on Saturdays. <i>\$48 residents, \$58 nonresidents</i>	PRACTICES TUESDAYS, AUG 29 - OCT 10 THURSDAYS, AUG 31 - OCT 12	SULLIVAN FIELD OR MLK PARK ABERDEEN OR MACKAY-JAYCEES PARK
	GAMES SATURDAYS, SEP 9 - OCT 14	ABERDEEN OR MACKAY-JAYCEES PARK
AGES 10-12 Practice one evening a week on Thursday, with games on Saturdays. <i>\$48 residents, \$58 nonresidents</i>	PRACTICES THURSDAYS, AUG 31 - OCT 12	MACKAY-JAYCEES PARK
	GAMES SATURDAYS, SEP 9 - OCT 14	
AGES 13-16 Meet only on Saturdays for games. <i>\$38 residents, \$48 nonresidents</i>	SATURDAYS, SEP 9 - OCT 14	MACKAY-JAYCEES PARK

Registration and Season Information:

- Registration deadline is August 14
- Practices begin August 29 & 31
- Games begin September 9
- Season ends on October 14
- Registrations received before deadline are prioritized.

Visit any of the Grand Rapids Public Library's 8 locations

Main Library

111 Library Street NE ■ 49503
616.988.5400

Madison Square Branch

1201 Madison SE ■ 49507
616.988.5411

Ottawa Hills Branch

1150 Giddings SE ■ 49506
616.988.5412

Seymour Branch

2350 Eastern SE ■ 49507
616.988.5413

Van Belkum Branch

1563 Plainfield NE ■ 49505
616.988.5410

West Leonard Branch

1017 Leonard NW ■ 49504
616.988.5416

West Side Branch

713 Bridge NW ■ 49504
616.988.5414

Yankee Clipper Branch

2025 Leonard NE ■ 49505
616.988.5415

For more information and hours,
visit www.grpl.org.



616.988.5400 ■ www.grpl.org

Free Events for Everyone



Grand River Walk

Saturday, July 22 | 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Grand River Fish Ladder – 606 Front Ave NW

Participants will meet at the Grand River Fish Ladder.

Join GRPL for an afternoon stroll along the Grand River! During this interactive walking tour, local experts will speak about the river's ecosystem and fishery, water protection efforts, and the connection between the Ottawa (Odawa) Native Americans and the river.

Speakers include:

- Alan Campo, Muralist
- Addie Dutton, DNR Biologist
- Bruce Ling, River Protector



Dungeons & Dragons 101 for Teens

Tuesday, July 25 | 2:00 – 5:00 pm
Main Library | 111 Library St NE
Registration required: www.grpl.org/register

Have you been wanting to try Dungeons & Dragons but don't know where to start? In this introduction to D&D, learn more about how to play the game with other beginners. This event is designed for gamers new to D&D but experienced players are welcome to attend. For ages 11 – 18 years old.



Movies on the Lawn | The LEGO Movie

Friday, July 28 | 8:00 – 11:00 pm
Yankee Clipper Branch – 2025 Leonard NE

Bring a chair or blanket and join us for an outdoor family movie! Free refreshments and a take-home craft will also be available. Activities begin at 8:00 pm and *The LEGO Movie* will begin at dusk for best visibility. Event will be weather permitting.

This program is presented in partnership with Wealthy Theatre.



Mad Science Mayhem

Thursday, August 3 | 5:00 – 6:00 pm
West Side Branch – 713 Bridge St NW

What happens when you mix baking soda and vinegar in a sealed bag? Can you see sound? What does oobleck feel like? Learn more about explosions, slime, and science in this free event series at the library. For ages 6-12 years old.



Popular Pages Book Club

Saturdays, August 12, September 9,
October 7, November 4, December 2
12:00 – 1:00 pm
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Enjoy popular fiction and nonfiction titles selected by GRPL librarians and participate in a discussion about each reading with members of the community and library staff. Book clubs are designed for adults and are a great way to meet new friends, explore real and imagined worlds, and discover new perspectives.

August 12: *In the Dream House*

by Carmen Maria Machado

September 9: *Gods of Jade and Shadow*

by Silvia Moreno-Garcia

October 7: *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*

by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

November 4: *There There*

by Tommy Orange

December 2: *Big Friendship: How We Keep Each Other Close*

by Aminatou Sow and Ann Friedman

Many of these events are made possible thanks to the support of the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation, Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation – Meijer Fund, Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation – Edsko & Claire Hekman Family Fund, the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, and the Friends of the Library.

Support library events.
Donate today.



GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION
www.grplfoundation.org

Free Summer Storytimes



Storytime on the Lawn

Join us outside at select GRPL locations for this storytime on the lawn! Participants are encouraged to bring a blanket or chair. In case of inclement weather, this event series will be moved indoors. For ages 18 months – 5 years.

Wednesdays, July 12 – August 9
10:30 am | Seymour Branch
2350 Eastern SE

Thursdays, July 13 – August 17
10:30 am | Yankee Clipper Branch
2025 Leonard NE

Family Storytime

Parents and caregivers are invited to bring their children to this storytime featuring great books, songs, fingerplays, and hands-on fun. Classes end with an art activity and playtime designed to help your child's brain grow. For ages 0 – 5 years.

Mondays, July 10 – August 14
6:30 pm | West Leonard Branch
1017 Leonard NW

Tuesdays, July 11 – August 15
10:30 am | West Side Branch
713 Bridge St NW

Family Fun Days

Thursdays, July 20, August 17
6:00 – 8:00 pm | Martin Luther King Park
1200 M.L.K. Jr St SE

The Grand Rapids African American Arts and Music Festival, Grand Rapids Public Library, and the City of Grand Rapids Office of Special Events are hosting the 3rd Annual Family Fun Days at MLK Park. These events feature free food, music, games, books, and community resources and vendors.

July 20: Art Immersion
August 17: Back to School

Summer Celebrations with StorytimeGR

Tuesday, August 8 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Lincoln Park – 231 Marion Ave NW

Join GRPL and StorytimeGR for stories, book giveaways, free snacks, craft activities, lawn games, and so much more! This festive event is designed for families. StorytimeGR is a partnership of the Grand Rapids Public Library, Read GR, Grand Valley State University, and the City of Grand Rapids Office of Special Events.



Outdoor Storytimes

Mondays, August 21, September 18
10:30 am | Lincoln Park
231 Marion Ave NW

If you love stories, songs, and rhymes, join the Grand Rapids Public Library for a chance to get the wiggles out with your friends at the park on Monday mornings! Storytime Kits are available for every child to take home while supplies last. For ages 0 – 5 years.



Storytime in the Park with StorytimeGR

Tuesdays, July 25 – August 29
6:30 – 8:00 pm
Garfield Park – 2111 Madison SE

Join StorytimeGR and partners on Tuesday nights for stories, free books and ice cream, special guests, and a whole lot of family fun!

StorytimeGR is a partnership of the Grand Rapids Public Library, Read GR, Grand Valley State University, the Grand Rapids Office of Special Events, and Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation.

Many of these events are made possible thanks to the support of the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation, Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation – Meijer Fund, Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation – Edsko & Claire Hekman Family Fund, the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, and the Friends of the Library.

Visit the Mobile Library!



The Mobile Library is on the move! We're visiting community centers, preschools, and apartment complexes throughout the city to share library services with our neighbors.

Drop by any stop on our route to sign up for a library card, check out books and movies, access free WiFi, and more.

Find more information about our scheduled visits and Mobile Library route by visiting www.grpl.org/mobile-library this summer.

Baxter Community Center at Joe Taylor Park

Tuesday, July 25 | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
1001 Baxter St SE

Campau Commons Apartments

Tuesday, July 25, 1:00 – 2:00 pm
821 Division Ave S

Early Learning Center

Wednesday, July 26 | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
641 Vries St SW

Walnut Grove Apartments

Wednesday, July 26 | 1:00 – 2:00 pm
875 Sheffield St SW

Seidman Boys & Girls Club

Wednesday, July 26 | 4:30 – 5:30 pm
139 Crofton St SE

Creston Plaza Apartments

Thursdays, July 20 & 27 | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
1080 Creston Plaza NE

Harrison Park Apartments

Thursdays, July 20 & 27 | 1:00 – 2:00 pm
1400 Alpine Ave NW

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Rachel S. Anderson
President

Kelly Boston
Vice President/Secretary

Kathryn Dilley

Sheila García Mazari

Kristin Kopec

Lauren Woolsey

LIBRARY LEADERS

John J. McNaughton
Director

Jessica Anne Bratt
Assistant Director



Grand Rapids
PUBLIC LIBRARY

616.988.5400 • WWW.GRPL.ORG

Summer Reading Challenge: For All Ages



May 29 – September 4, 2023

Join the Summer Reading Challenge! This year the Grand Rapids Public Library invites you to discover new hobbies, interests, and skills through our fun and educational reading challenge designed for all ages.

Sign up

Sign up online or in-person at any GRPL location to receive your Summer Reading Challenge passport. Follow the challenges included in your summer-themed passport and track your progress by marking pages as you go.

Earn mini prizes for meeting reading milestones and, once you've completed all 12 activities in your passport, drop by any GRPL location to get your grand prize! Participation is free and does not require a library card. Learn more by visiting www.grpl.org.

Sponsors



Meijer Fund
Edsko & Claire Hekman Family Fund
Vander Veen Center for the Book Fund

Michigan Arts and Culture Council

Friends of the Library

Partners

Vault of Midnight

Bricks & Minifigs

Kent County Parks

We Are Lit

Schuler Books

Books & Mortar

Service Spotlight: Check It Out!



Photo courtesy Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

Use your library card to check out passes to area attractions or tickets to performing arts venues.

The Grand Rapids Public Library has partnered with area attractions to provide our patrons with the opportunity to use their library card to check out a pass to area museums, zoos, and botanical gardens. Occasionally, local performing arts venues provide tickets for GRPL card holders to check out. These passes and tickets have been generously donated by these organizations so that arts, cultural, and recreational activities can be enjoyed by all of Grand Rapids.

Tickets to area attractions

Check out a pass and bring up to 6 people to enjoy your visit to one of these attractions:

- Blandford Nature Center
- Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park
- Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum
- Grand Rapids Art Museum
- Grand Rapids Children's Museum
- Grand Rapids Public Museum
- John Ball Zoo

Tickets to performing arts & sports venues

Occasionally, local performing arts and sports venues provide tickets for GRPL card holders to check out. These tickets are usually available in pairs and the circulating membership restrictions apply to performing arts tickets also.

- Circle Theatre
- Grand Rapids Ballet
- Grand Rapids Civic Theatre
- Grand Rapids Gold
- Grand Rapids Symphony
- Opera Grand Rapids
- St. Cecilia Music Center
- Wealthy Theatre

Branching Out at GRPL: Spotlight on the Van Belkum Branch



Fast facts:

- Located at 1563 Plainfield Ave NE
- Rapid bus route #11
- Hours:
 - Mon | Closed
 - Tues | 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
 - Wed | 12:00 – 8:00 pm
 - Thurs | 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
 - Fri | 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
 - Sat | 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
 - Sun | Closed
- Free WiFi and public computers
- Children's library with play area

Branch History

Introducing the Van Belkum Branch

The Creston Branch Library opened in 1944. The branch moved several times over the years. For 40 years, it was located in the memorable flat-iron building between Plainfield, Quimby, and Coit. In 1999, local business owner Nick Van Belkum donated a building to the library. The current Van Belkum Branch opened at 1563 Plainfield Ave NE in 2002.



Interior of the Creston branch in 1951, when it was located at 1503 Coit NE.

A Permanent Location

The Creston Branch was popular and well used. By 1958, it had outgrown three different locations and was in need of a permanent space. In 1961, Old Kent Bank donated their former bank branch, located at 1431 Plainfield Ave NE, to be the permanent home for the library. The building, built in 1922, occupied a triangle of land in the heart of the Creston business district.

The Beginning

In December 1943, Library Director Donald Kohlstedt presented “A Suggested Plan for the Future of the GRPL” to the library board. He expressed an urgent need for additional branches to serve the public, especially adults. With so few locations, the library was often full of students, making adults hesitant to use library services. Kohlstedt noted that the library needed a plan to provide service to “every resident of Grand Rapids without regard to creed or color.” The report listed five potential locations for branches, including the Creston business district. In February 1944, the library leased space at 1501 Plainfield Ave NE for a new branch library.

Location of the first Creston branch at 1501 Plainfield Ave NE.

Iconic Location

The building at Plainfield and Coit served as the library for the next 40 years. With its unusual shape, large windows and architectural details, it was a popular and well-loved location for the Creston branch. With only 1,600 square feet of space, however, the branch did not have a lot of room to grow.



The old Creston Branch on Plainfield and Coit. By the 1990s it had become too small.

Further Expansion

In 1989, a master plan prepared for the library recommended that the Creston Branch move approximately one mile north into the Cheshire business district. Neighbors in the Creston area were unhappy with the proposed move, and in 1996 the Creston Neighborhood Association (CNA) organized a campaign to keep the branch in Creston. The neighborhood association and other local leaders noted that the branch provided service to a concentrated urban area with many economically disadvantaged residents. The library board and CNA began looking for a larger building within the core Creston neighborhood.

Office building at 1563 Plainfield Ave NE.

A New Permanent Location

In June 1999, business owner Nick Van Belkum donated the building at 1563 Plainfield Ave NE to the library. The new building, worth about \$500,000, was just several doors north of the old branch. It offered nearly three times as much space. After renovations, the Van Belkum Branch opened on January 9, 2002.



Present Day

The Van Belkum Branch today is much more than just a building, it is a part of the Creston community. The branch serves many different roles—community center, after-school hang out, office space, and resource center. The branch is a popular spot for checking out books and movies, for kids to play, and for friends to meet and chat. The branch is also known for having the coldest water fountain in the neighborhood!



WE ARE GR

In This Issue:

Grand Rapids Public Schools News - Section A

Grand Rapids News and Recreation Programs - Section B

Grand Rapids Public Library News - Section B

Section A Contents:

Orientation Schedule - 6

Athletics - 13

Early Childhood - 14

GRPS Foundation - 17

Jul. 2023 | Vol. 22 | Issue 1 | Section A

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

REIMAGINE GRPS *with Us!*

SAFE, HEALTHY AND HEALING SCHOOLS

No-Tax-Increase Bond Proposal Details

It has been more than ten years since the Grand Rapids Board of Education approved the GRPS Transformation Plan. A lot has happened since then that requires our district and this community to reunite to Reimagine GRPS with Us!

Leadership changes, a global pandemic, historic staffing shortages and so many other factors have created challenges, uncertainty,

instability and the need for us to reassess how we position GRPS for future growth and success.

To that end, we spent the last few years actively engaging our community to listen, learn and take honest stock of our opportunities to improve and ensure our planning is grounded in data and stakeholder input. We conducted community surveys, focus groups, design sessions, community feedback sessions, open houses, virtual idea exchanges and more. This all led to the development of our new GRPS Strategic Plan and then the Facilities Master Plan that was approved last December.

But then we heard from our constituents and community advocates that we needed to take more time, be more intentional and gather

more input from previously underrepresented stakeholder groups on the vision for academic programming and facility use. So, we hired an independent consulting group to develop a community engagement strategy to learn from the voices, ideas, experience and wisdom of scholars, caregivers, teachers, support staff, school leaders and community partners. This resulted in the "Reimagined" report with recommendations for improving organizational culture, leadership behavior, employee morale, communications, safety and more.

The Reimagine GRPS with Us! vision and plan framework presented to the Grand Rapids Board of Education in July very specifically and intentionally incorporates the input, ideas

and recommendations we have received to date. This is just a starting point though. We are committed to on-going, continued engagement so we can further strengthen and refine this plan and educate our community about this historic opportunity to reimagine GRPS together for safe, healthy and healing schools.

Learn more about Reimagine GRPS with Us! and the No-Tax-Increase Bond Proposal at GRPS.org/reimagine.

Sincerely,

Leadriane Roby, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

NON-PROFIT ORG
ECRWSS
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT #319

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

GRPS
my choice
Grand Rapids Public Schools
1331 Franklin S.E., PO
Box 117
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0117



Quick Facts

- After more than a year of extensive listening, engagement and co-construction, GRPS developed a comprehensive new Strategic Plan that sets a new course for the district based on the current academic, social, emotional, fiscal, staffing, infrastructure and fiscal realities facing the district.
- The Plan presents an opportunity for the community to Reimagine GRPS by strategically and intentionally investing in academics, arts, athletics, after school programs, extracurricular activities, social-emotional learning

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Quick Facts (cont.)

and state of the art learning environments.

- It presents an opportunity to address major challenges facing the district including historical inequities, staffing shortages, class sizes, split classes, grounds and maintenance, transportation, food service, inequitable learning environments, athletic competitiveness, restoring PK-12 feeder patterns and addressing the two-tiered system.
- The reality is GRPS has too many buildings and not enough students. And GRPS has too many buildings and not enough staff – in the midst

of a national teacher and education support staff shortage with staff spread too thin across too many buildings.

- The Reimagine GRPS with Us! Plan would consolidate and pool existing talent into the remaining schools to address the staffing shortages, classroom splits, class sizes, grounds and facilities maintenance, food service, athletic competitiveness and need for staff for more electives, after school programming, arts and athletic opportunities.
- The Plan also addresses the annual structural budget deficit that is a result of too many buildings and not

enough staff – saving an estimated \$5-10 million annually for reinvestment in staffing, programming and operations.

- The Plan addresses the historical inequities and two-tiered system with investment for specialty offerings in every school, using repair criteria with emphasis on 49507.
- The Plan also provides an opportunity to leverage publicly-owned, taxpayer funded buildings and land for reuse for community benefit such as development for affordable housing, community centers, parkland, greenspace and more.

FAQS

What is a 'no tax increase' bond?

GRPS is considering a ballot proposal that would extend the existing 3.85 mills of voter-approved levies by 20 years to generate \$305 million for the Reimagine GRPS with Us! Plan. The 3.85 mills are a combination of the two different bond proposals that were approved by voters in 2004 and 2015. This is not a new tax rate nor is it a tax increase – it is a property tax rate that taxpayers are currently paying.

What does this 'no tax increase' bond cost to the average home owner?

Homeowners would pay the same tax rate they are currently paying which is 3.85 mills. For a home with a \$100,000 taxable value, the cost is \$385/year or \$32/month.

Why is GRPS asking voters to consider a 'no tax increase' bond proposal?

It has been more than 10 years since the GRPS Transformation Plan was enacted. Under the leadership of Dr. Leadriane Roby, with unanimous support from the Grand Rapids Board of Education, the district spent the last year and a half engaging our community to develop the new GRPS Strategic Plan. The 'no-tax-increase' bond proposal provides a limited-time opportunity to leverage the existing,

voter-approved tax rate to invest in the implementation of the GRPS Strategic Plan.

How will it be communicated?

GRPS will implement a comprehensive educational outreach program to inform constituents about the details of the 'no tax increase' bond.

When will this happen?

In order to extend the current 3.85 mill levy, it must be approved no later than the May 7, 2024 in a special election. The Grand Rapids Board of Education is considering a bond proposal to be placed on the November 7, 2023 ballot. The Grand Rapids Board of Education has tentatively scheduled Monday, July 17 for the vote on the ballot language for a November 7 election as well as the vision and framework for the Reimagine GRPS with Us! Plan. Ballot language must be approved and submitted to the clerk in early August for the November ballot. It is important to note that the board will be voting on just the vision, framework and bond budget allocation for the Reimagine GRPS with Us! Plan and the ballot language for the November 7 election. It will not include specific facilities or school

buildings that may need to be closed, consolidated, repurposed, renovated or constructed. The outcome of the 'no-tax-increase' bond vote will play a significant role in shaping the final recommendations for facilities.

Why are you asking for more money if you are closing schools and reducing the number of buildings?

GRPS is one of the oldest districts in the State of Michigan with a large number of old, outdated school buildings and more than \$400 million in deferred maintenance. The closures, consolidation and repurposing of buildings, coupled with the \$305 million generated from the 'no-tax-increase' bond, and the \$5-10 million in annual operating savings, will allow the district to fully implement the Strategic Plan.



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, the 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). 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.

Grand Rapids Public Schools

WE ARE GR

July 2023

Grand Rapids

Board of Education

Kimberley Williams, *President*
Raynard Ross, *Vice President*
Katherine Downes Lewis, *Secretary*
Jen Schottke, *Treasurer*
Kymberlie Davis
Jordoun Eatman
Sara Melton
José Rodriguez
Aarie Wade

Leadriane Roby, Ph.D.,
Superintendent of Schools

Equal Opportunity Institution: Grand Rapids Public Schools, as an Equal Opportunity Institution, complies with federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and harassment, including Title IV and Title VII (with amendments) of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974 as amended 38 USC 20-12 and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. The District will not discriminate against any person based on race, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, height, weight, color, religion, national origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, disability or veteran status. The District's Civil Rights Compliance Officer is Anya Lusk. Ms. Lusk may be contacted at 1331 Franklin SE, P.O. Box 117, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0117, (616) 819-2030 or (616) 819-2028. The District's Title IX Coordinator is Kurt Johnson. Mr. Kurt Johnson may be contacted at 1331 Franklin SE, P.O. Box 117, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0117 or (616) 819-6339 or titleix@grps.org.

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 Anya Lusk, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources & General Counsel via email at luska@grps.org or (616) 819-2028.

WE ARE GR

is published four times per year by
GRPS Communications Office
Grand Rapids Public Schools
1331 Franklin St. SE, P.O. Box 117
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-0117
Phone: (616) 819-2149
Fax: (616) 819-3480
www.grps.org www.WeAreGR.com

Leon Hendrix, *Executive Director of Communications*
Kaitlyn Califf, *Webmaster & Multimedia Designer*
Lynn Ritsema, *Executive Assistant*

Full Ride: GRPS Senior Wins Prestigious Gates Scholarship

A Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy scholar won a coveted scholarship in a national competition.

A Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy senior won a coveted scholarship in a national competition.

Jaylynne Calderon-Monterroso has received the Gates Scholarship, which covers all of her education expenses through four years of college. Jaylynne competed against tens of thousands of applicants nationwide for the scholarship. The award goes to the brightest, most promising leaders of color graduating from high school each year.

“I remember like kind of screaming but I was trying not to scream,” Jaylynne said as she recalled learning about the scholarship while on a school trip. “I was just so excited.”

A look at Jaylynne’s high school resume paints a clear picture of her achievements. She is the president of the Grand Rapids Mayor’s Youth Council, the UPrep National Honors Society, the UPrep Senior Board and class valedictorian.

Jaylynne credits her parents who immigrated to the United States from Guatemala in search of a better life.

“My parents came to this country with

nothing. It was really difficult for them to even find a house,” Jaylynne said. “Being able to be here now saying that I’m going to one of the top schools in the country on a full ride — It’s just like unbelievable.”

She says one of virtues she learned from her parents stands out among the others.

“I would say bravery. I could never imagine leaving here and going somewhere completely new, not even knowing the language or anyone in the country,” Jaylynne said. “The fact that my parents did that for their kids, knowing that they wanted them to have a better education, to have a house over their head.”

On Thursday, Jaylynne will lead her class onto Houseman Field for graduation. She will then embark on her next challenge — beginning as a freshman at Notre Dame University.

Jaylynne hopes her story inspires the scholars that will come behind her.

“People that are strong and passionate are going to be leaders of the world tomorrow,” Jaylynne said. “Nothing is out of reach.”



Jaylynne Calderon-Monterroso and Superintendent Leadriane Roby, Ph.D.

GRPS represented in state’s “largest” Memorial Day parade

Grand Rapids Public Schools band scholars marched in the Mackinaw City Memorial Day Parade in honor of those who died in service to our country

Grand Rapids Public Schools band scholars marched in the Mackinaw City Memorial Day Parade in honor of those who died in service to our country.

Forty-two scholars made the trip to Mackinaw on Saturday, May 27, to participate in the parade said to be the largest Memorial Day parade in the state. The group consisted of the Grand Rapids Montessori High School Marching Band along with several participants

from the middle school band and high school choir.

“The students and parents had an excellent time on our trip,” said Band Director Nathan Weber. “Having trips like this at the end of the year gives the students something fun to work towards.”

Weber said the trip provides many scholars the opportunity to see a part of the state that

they’ve never seen before.

“We put on so many local performances during the school year... but with this trip, the kids get to travel far from home and perform somewhere they have never been,” Weber said. “I would like to think that performances like this have a positive impact on the students and help make their high school experience more memorable and fun.”

Mr. Weber’s scholars participated in the parade last year as well. In that performance, the band was recognized with the parade’s “Ambassador’s Award.”

“Our band and choir programs are important pieces in creating well-rounded students in the Grand Rapids Public Schools,” Weber said.



Shawmut Hills Teacher Named Regional Teacher of the Year

Stephanie Nielsen is the top teacher in Region 3, made up of 13 counties in the greater West Michigan area

Stephanie Nielsen, a kindergarten teacher at Shawmut Hills, has been named one of 10 Regional Teachers of the Year and now is a finalist for the Michigan Teacher of the Year award.

The Michigan Department of Education organizes the Teacher of the Year program to honor and elevate teacher voice.

“The Regional Teachers of the Year play key roles in their schools and communities and in our statewide effort to continue improving our schools,” said State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice.

Nielsen, the winner for Region 3, made up of 13 counties, said she was excited when she got the good news, not just for herself but also for her fellow teachers at Shawmut Hills and for all of the hardworking teachers and staff throughout GRPS.

“I believe it’s so important for educators to have a place at the table where decisions are being made for our scholars and schools,” she said. “I’m humbled and grateful to be a voice for our community.”

Nielsen added that she was with her daughter when she got the news about the award which made it even more gratifying.

“Throughout most of my journey as a teacher with GRPS, I have also navigated single parenthood, so sharing this excitement with her, after so many years of dedication and hard work, was very special,” she said. “I want her to see the value in pursuing your passions and what’s important to you.”

A Scottville, Mich., native, and Mason County Central High School graduate, Nielsen earned an associate degree in early childhood education from West Shore Community College before moving to Grand Rapids in 2008 to study at Grand Rapids Community College and Ferris State University’s downtown campus, earning her bachelor’s degree in elementary education in 2010. She also earned her master’s in education from Grand Valley in 2018.

She has been teaching for 16 years, including 12 years with GRPS and eight years at Shawmut Hills, following a passion that she said began already at a young age.

“In middle and high school, I was highly involved in student council, which gave me the opportunity to plan events and support my school community, which I quickly fell in love with,” she said. “Later on, it was following my interest in child development and my desire to make a positive impact on the lives of others that led me to teaching.”

She also looks back fondly at people who made a big impact on her life, and she hopes to do the same for those who cross her path.

“I have had some amazing teachers throughout my education,” she said. “Many teachers made a positive influence by just being authentic and sharing their personal hobbies and passions. Many also showed a genuine interest in my overall education and well-being, and that wasn’t just the teachers. It was the food service staff, the support staff, the coaches and the many others who showed up for me each day.”

Now she shows up daily for her Shawmut Hills kindergarten students.

“Every day I get to create joyful, memorable, hands-on experiences with kids, which for me is exciting,” she said. “It’s also rewarding to know that in kindergarten we are laying that solid foundation for our scholars’ future success.”

Still, some days are easier than others she said with a laugh.

“It’s not all rainbows and sunshine in kindergarten,” she said. “There are a lot of challenges at this age level too, but I just try to be the teacher I would want my child to have as their first school experience, and it’s a great reminder to be patient, calm and supportive.”

And, she added, being in GRPS means being part of a community she has come to love.

“From the teachers, the administrators, the scholars, the support staff, and families, GRPS is full of talented, passionate, diverse people. GRPS has the absolute best educators and support staff, and I’ve been fortunate to learn from very talented administrators who have also given me freedom and flexibility to try new things and pitch big ideas.”

As a Regional Teacher of the Year, Nielsen now will be able to pitch big ideas on a bigger stage. Her title gives her a seat for 2023-24 on the Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council, and its mission is to bring teacher voice to a wider audience, including direct work with MDE to provide input on proposed policies and initiatives.

Each Regional Teacher of the Year was interviewed this week with a panel of statewide education stakeholders and one individual next will be selected as the 2023-24 Michigan Teacher of the Year.

That Teacher of the Year honoree will have a seat at the State Board of Education table as a non-voting member, attend several national conferences with fellow state teachers of the year from other U.S. states and territories and will be Michigan’s candidate for National Teacher of the Year.



**FIRST DAY
OF SCHOOL**

**TUESDAY,
AUGUST 22**

**ENROLL TODAY!
ENROLL.GRPS.ORG**

A Maple Syrup Taste Test at Three GRPS Schools

A trio of teachers came together as the Sugarbush Team to give their scholars lessons in maple syrup, including what is being billed as the first-ever district taste-testing challenge.

For much of the current school year, GRPS teachers have been attending a monthly professional development webinar called “Placemaking Across the Curriculum,” centered around the environment and outdoor learning (the last session will be May 4, and it will continue in 2023-24).

A January 2023 session led by Lea Sevigny from Joyful Wildcrafting included an overview of foraging through the year, and a suggestion for March was maple syrup.

That resonated with a number of GRPS teachers, including Stacy VanderMolen at Shawmut Hills, Michelle Holliday at Grand Rapids Montessori and Erin Fettig at Brookside Elementary.

Together the trio formed what they dubbed the Sugarbush Team.

“I immediately started thinking about our school and our sugar maple trees,” said VanderMolen. “And because my husband is in the maple syrup business, it got me thinking that tapping some of our maple trees (at Shawmut) would be a great project for our scholars.”

Trees had been tapped in the past at Grand Rapids Montessori, so doing so again in 2023 was easy enough (although the sap ran harder this year, Holliday noted). And at Brookside, Fettig had a parent who tapped trees in his backyard, so she had a resource she could use in tapping trees at her school for the first time.

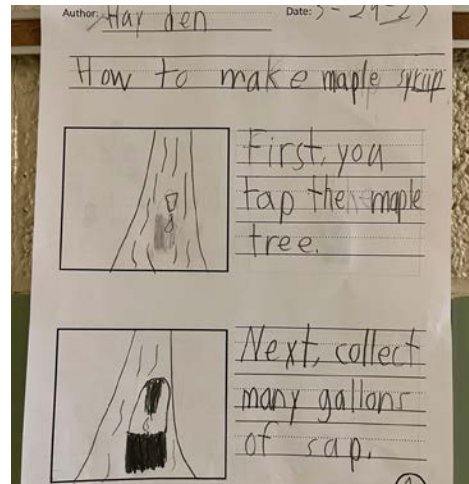
The trees on the Shawmut campus had a good flow this winter and spring. A blue tap about four feet or so off the ground in a trio of sugar maples was connected to a length of tubing running to a five-gallon bucket on the ground. At the height of the season, those buckets were filling up almost daily, yielding the clear liquid that is mostly water but when boiled down creates the treat known as maple syrup.

VanderMolen also turned the trees into an outdoor classroom, bringing various grades to her for lessons on syrup making, including the science and math that turns sap into syrup. She gave them an overview of the sap hydrometer, the refractometer and even a device used to grade the syrup, including three samples labeled amber, dark and very dark.

“Toward the end of the season you get the darker colors,” she told one group of assembled scholars at a late-March session. “Some people like the darker for cooking, and they like the light for pancakes and waffles.”

At that, a number of the scholars, almost in unison, replied with “Mmmmmmm.”

VanderMolen smiled. And later she talked about that playground science session, its value and the overall value of the maple syrup project



for the school's PK-8 scholars.

“I was a bit nervous but also excited about being outside,” she said. “I love teaching students in the classroom but teaching them outside is a whole different experience. You have this huge open space, and you have to be the one they want to look at and learn from.”

All three members of the Sugarbush Team said one of the highlights of the partnership was a chance for scholars at the three schools to be able to test and taste the syrup made by their fellow Sugarbush Team members.

So, a few weeks after VanderMolen's outdoor session, Holliday's fourth- through sixth-grade students gathered indoors in a cozy classroom at Grand Rapids Montessori to take part in what was being billed as the first GRPS Maple Syrup Tasting Contest.

As students eagerly awaited their chance to taste and judge, Holliday walked the room with a trio of maple syrup bottles of varying hues. She carefully placed a little of each bottle – dubbed simply red, yellow and blue – on three compostable spoons laid across the paper on



which the students would render their verdicts.

Having outfitted each student, Holliday then gave some clarifying information and some tips on what to look for and the tasting began. Later she asked the class what they thought, and students, with careful consideration, voiced their assessments.

Holliday smiled as her charges spoke, gave the scholars a little lesson on color, clarity and cooking – and the relationships therein – and then it was time to vote with red being a pretty clear winner.

“Shawmut was red,” Holliday said. “And you were right, ours is yellow. So, we were second, but one school voted for us as first. I'm not going to give it away, but you'll find out once everyone has done this (taste testing).”

Though she couldn't be there that day, Sally Triant, an environmental education consultant and owner of Grow Wise Learning, worked with all three schools on the maple syrup project and was a go-to resource said Brookside's Fettig.

“This could not have happened without Sally Triant,” she said. “She is a huge asset to

place-based education in our district.”

Triant shrugs off such praise, but she was thrilled to get scholars from the three GRPS schools connected.

“When I realized teachers from the webinar were making syrup, I thought it would be a fun thing to get them together, so here we are,” she said with a smile. “One of the most powerful outcomes of the webinar series has been seeing teachers learn something new together and then go out to try it.”

Triant appreciates that the project is helping GRPS scholars recognize that the trees right in their schoolyards can be tapped for syrup.

“This project to me epitomizes place-based education and the capacity we have as educators to teach children to have a deeper relationship with the places where they live and learn,” she said. “Our schoolyards serve as powerful tools for education, and this is a perfect example.”

All three teachers said the same though Brookside's Fettig noted that she wasn't sure what to expect when the collaboration was first proposed.

“This was my first time ever tapping a tree with a classroom,” she said. “Actually, my first time ever tapping a tree. So, I was just hoping our syrup turned out.”

Her scholars said it did. At their taste test, Fettig's class picked their own syrup as the winner. But that was secondary, Fettig said. The process was the primary thing.

“To see what sap looks and tastes like to what the final product of maple syrup looks and tastes like was very surprising to them,” she said. “They also didn't realize all the work that goes into making maple syrup.”

Unlike Brookside, Grand Rapids Montessori has been tapping trees on its campus for many years, so the collaboration and the taste test this year were a fun twist Holliday said.

“The maple tree in front of our school is special,” she added.

Brookside scholars also got connected to their tree. In fact, when they were done with their taste test they walked over and said thank you to the tree that had given them the sap for the syrup.

And at Shawmut Hills, kindergarten teacher Stephanie Nielsen said the outdoor exercise already has increased scholar empathy and respect for the trees and nature in general.

“They were concerned and wanted reassurance that tapping the tree wasn't going to hurt it,” she said. “And they would thank the trees.”

GET READY FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR!

ORIENTATION-OPEN HOUSE-REGISTRATION SUPPORT SCHEDULE

■ Orientation ■ Open House
■ Registration Support

Schedules may be subject to change. Visit grps.org/calendar for updated schedules.

ABERDEEN ACADEMY		
Orientation <i>Middle School Only</i>	Thursday, August 17	5:30 – 6 PM
Open House	Thursday, August 17	6 – 7 PM
Registration Support	Thursday, August 10	9 AM – 3 PM
ALGER MIDDLE SCHOOL		
Orientation <i>8th Grade Only</i>	Tuesday, August 8	5:30 – 6:30 PM
Open House	Thursday, August 17	5 – 7 PM
BLANDFORD SCHOOL		
Orientation <i>8th Grade Only</i>	Tuesday, August 8	5:30 – 6:30 PM
BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY		
Open House	Thursday, August 17	5:30 – 7 PM
Registration Support	Thursday, August 10	9 AM – 4 PM
BUCHANAN ELEMENTARY		
Open House	Wednesday, August 16	5 – 6 PM
Registration Support	Thursday, August 10	9 AM – 4 PM
BURTON ELEMENTARY		
Orientation <i>Kinder & New Scholars Only</i>	Thursday, August 17	5:30 – 6 PM
Open House	Thursday, August 17	6 – 7 PM
Registration Support	August 8, 9, 10	9 – 11 AM 1 – 3 PM
BURTON MIDDLE SCHOOL		
Orientation <i>Schedule Pick-Up</i>	August 8, 9, 10	12 – 3 PM
Open House	Thursday, September 7	5 – 7 PM
Registration Support	August 8, 9, 10	12 – 3 PM

CA FROST ACADEMY ELEMENTARY		
Open House	Thursday, August 17	5:30 – 7 PM
CA FROST MIDDLE HIGH		
Information available for grades and school-wide. Possible teachers in the building to meet. Self-Guided tour. Locker assignment. Possible ID pictures. Schedules and registration available. Q/A with administration and office staff.		
Open Houses		
<i>6th Grade & New Scholars</i>	Thursday, August 10	3 – 6 PM
<i>7th & 8th Grade Scholars</i>	Monday, August 14	4 – 6 PM
<i>9th & 10th Grade Scholars</i>	Tuesday, August 15	4 – 6 PM
<i>11th & 12th Grade Scholars</i>	Wednesday, August 16	4 – 6 PM
<i>Make-Up Open House</i>	Thursday, August 17	12 – 3 PM
<i>Make-Up Open House</i>	Friday, August 18	8 AM – 12 PM
Registration Support	August 10 – 18	9 AM – 3 PM
CAMPUS ELEMENTARY		
Orientation	Thursday, August 17	5 – 7 PM
CENTER FOR ECONOMICOLGY		
Orientation	Monday, August 14	1 – 3 PM
Open House	Monday, August 14	1 – 3 PM
Registration Support	Monday, August 14	1:30 – 3 PM
CESAR E. CHAVEZ ELEMENTARY		
Open House	Thursday, August 17	5 PM
CITY HIGH MIDDLE		
Orientation <i>New Scholars Only</i>	Tuesday, August 8	10 AM – 2:30 PM
Open House	Thursday, August 17	4:30 – 6:30 PM
Registration Support	Tuesday, August 8	2 – 3 PM
	Thursday, August 17	4:30 – 6:30 PM

COIT CREATIVE ARTS ACADEMY		
Orientation	Thursday, August 17	3:30 – 5 PM
Open House	Thursday, August 17	3:30 – 5 PM
Registration Support	August 8, 9, 10	9 AM – 3 PM

CONGRESS ELEMENTARY		
Orientation	Wednesday, August 16	4:30 – 6 PM
Open House	Wednesday, August 16	5 – 7:30 PM
Registration Support	August 14, 15	9 – 11 AM 1 – 3 PM

DICKINSON ACADEMY		
Orientation	Wednesday, August 16	4:30 – 6 PM
Open House	Wednesday, August 16	4:30 – 6 PM
Registration Support	August 15, 16, 17	9 AM – 3 PM

EAST LEONARD ELEMENTARY		
Orientation	Thursday, August 17	3:30 – 5 PM

GERALD R. FORD ACADEMIC CENTER		
Orientation	Thursday, August 17	6 – 7 PM
Registration Support	Thursday, August 10	9 AM – 4 PM

GRAND RAPIDS LEARNING CENTER		
Orientation	Tuesday, August 15	4 – 7 PM
	Wednesday, August 16	4 – 7 PM
	Friday, August 18	10 AM – 3 PM
Open House	Friday, September 15	11 AM – 2 PM 4 – 7 PM

GRAND RAPIDS MONTESSORI ACADEMY		
Registration Support	August 8, 9, 10	9 AM – 2 PM

GRAND RAPIDS MONTESSORI MIDDLE HIGH		
Orientation	Thursday, August 17	6 – 7:30 PM
	<i>Tentative due to construction. Sept. 7 at 6:00 will be alternative date</i>	
Open House	Thursday, August 17	6 – 7:30 PM
	<i>Tentative due to construction. Sept. 7 at 6:00 will be alternative date</i>	
Registration Support	August 8, 9, 10	9 AM – 2 PM

GR PUBLIC MUSEUM MIDDLE		
Orientation	Thursday, August 17	3:30 – 5 PM
Open House	Thursday, August 17	3:30 – 5 PM
Registration Support	August 8, 9, 10	9 AM – 3 PM

GR PUBLIC MUSEUM HIGH		
Orientation	Thursday, August 17	3:30 – 5 PM
Open House	Thursday, August 17	3:30 – 5 PM
Registration Support	August 8, 9, 10	9 AM – 3 PM

GR UNIVERSITY PREPATORY ACADEMY		
Orientation		
<i>6th & 7th Grade</i>	Tuesday, August 8	5 – 6:30 PM
<i>9th & 10th Grade</i>	Wednesday, August 9	12 – 3 PM
<i>6th & 7th Grade (Make-Up)</i>	Thursday, August 10	11 AM – 2 PM
<i>11h & 12th Grade</i>	Thursday, August 17	6 – 7 PM
Open House	Thursday, November 16	5:30 – 6:30 PM

HARRISON PARK ACADEMY		
Open House	Thursday, August 17	4:30 – 6 PM
Registration Support	August 3, 4, 9, 10, 11	9 AM – 2 PM

Schedules continued on next page >>

INNOVATION CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Orientations

9th Grade & New Scholars

Monday, July 31 Gymnasium & Concourse	SESSION 1: <i>Scholars Last Name starting with letters A through L</i>	1 – 2:30 PM
	SESSION 2: <i>Scholars Last Name starting with letters M through Z</i>	3 – 4:30 PM

Sophomore and Junior Orientation (10th and 11th)

Tuesday, August 1 Gymnasium & Concourse	SESSION 1: <i>Scholars Last Name starting with letters A through L</i>	4 – 5:30 PM
	SESSION 2: <i>Scholars Last Name starting with letters M through Z</i>	6 – 7:30 PM

Senior Orientation (12th Grade)

Wednesday, August 2 Gymnasium & Concourse	SESSION 1: <i>Scholars Last Name starting with letters A through L</i>	4 – 5:30 PM
	SESSION 2: <i>Scholars Last Name starting with letters M through Z</i>	6 – 7:30 PM

Make-up Orientation (All Grades)

Thursday, August 3 Gymnasium & Concourse	<i>Scholars Last Name starting with letters A through L</i>	3 – 4:30 PM
Friday, August 18 Gymnasium & Concourse	SESSION 2: <i>Scholars Last Name starting with letters M through Z</i>	5 – 6:30 PM

Registration Support

Provided prior to orientation, each day during business hours, please call the main office for enrollment support at 616-819-2310. Enrollment support will also be provided during scholar orientation.

KEN-O-SHA PARK ELEMENTARY

Open House	Thursday, August 17	4:30 – 6 PM
-------------------	---------------------	-------------

Registration Support	August 8, 9, 10	9:30 AM – 3 PM
-----------------------------	-----------------	----------------

Families may also call the office at 616-819-2696 to make an appointment

KENT HILLS ELEMENTARY

Open House	Thursday, August 17	4:30 – 6 PM
-------------------	---------------------	-------------

Registration Support	Thursday, August 10	9 AM – 4 PM
-----------------------------	---------------------	-------------

MLK LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Open House	Thursday, August 17	5:30 – 7 PM
-------------------	---------------------	-------------

Registration Support	Tuesday, August 8	10 AM – 3 PM
	Wednesday, August 9	1 – 6 PM
	Thursday, August 10	10 AM – 3 PM

MULICK PARK ELEMENTARY

Open House	Thursday, August 17	5:30 – 7 PM
-------------------	---------------------	-------------

Registration Support	August 8, 9, 10	9 – 11:30 AM 12 – 3 PM
-----------------------------	-----------------	---------------------------

NORTH PARK MONTESSORI & NORTH PARK MONTESSORI ECC @ WELLERWOOD

Open House	Thursday, August 17	5 – 7 PM
-------------------	---------------------	----------

Registration Support	Thursday, August 17	5 – 7 PM
-----------------------------	---------------------	----------

OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Orientation

12th Grade	Wednesday, August 9	9:30 – 11:30 AM
------------	---------------------	-----------------

11th Grade	Wednesday, August 9	1:30 – 3:30 PM
------------	---------------------	----------------

10th Grade	Thursday, August 10	9:30 – 11:30 AM
------------	---------------------	-----------------

9th Grade	Thursday, August 10	1:30 – 3:30 PM
-----------	---------------------	----------------

Make-Up	Monday, August 14	2 – 4 PM
---------	-------------------	----------

Registration Support

12th Grade	Wednesday, August 9	9:30 – 11:30 AM
------------	---------------------	-----------------

11th Grade	Wednesday, August 9	1:30 – 3:30 PM
------------	---------------------	----------------

10th Grade	Thursday, August 10	9:30 – 11:30 AM
------------	---------------------	-----------------

9th Grade	Thursday, August 10	1:30 – 3:30 PM
-----------	---------------------	----------------

Make-Up	Monday, August 14	2 – 4 PM
---------	-------------------	----------

PALMER ELEMENTARY

Open House	Wednesday, August 16	5:30 – 6:30 PM
-------------------	----------------------	----------------

Registration Support	Wednesday, August 16	5:30 – 6:30 PM
	Regular Business Hours Starting August 7	8 AM – 4 PM

RIDGEMOOR PARK MONTESSORI

Orientation <i>New Scholars Only</i>	Thursday, August 17	4 PM
--	---------------------	------

Open House	Thursday, August 17	5 – 7 PM
-------------------	---------------------	----------

Registration Support	August 15, 16, 17	9 AM – 3 PM
-----------------------------	-------------------	-------------

RIVERSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Orientation

6th Grade	Tuesday, August 8	4 – 7 PM
-----------	-------------------	----------

7th Grade	Wednesday, August 9	4 – 7 PM
-----------	---------------------	----------

8th Grade	Thursday, August 10	10 AM – 3 PM
-----------	---------------------	--------------

Open House	Thursday, August 24	4 – 7 PM
-------------------	---------------------	----------

SHAWMUT HILLS		
Orientation <i>Kinder Screener</i>	Monday, August 14	3 – 6 PM
Open House	Thursday, August 17	6 – 7:30 PM

SHERWOOD PARK GLOBAL STUDIES ACADEMY		
Open House	Thursday, August 17	3 – 5 PM
Registration Support	August 15, 16, 17	9 AM – 3 PM

SIBLEY ELEMENTARY		
Open House	Thursday, August 17	5:30 – 7 PM
Registration Support	August 8, 9, 10	9 – 11:30 AM 12 – 3 PM

SOUTHEAST CAREER PATHWAYS		
Open Houses		
<i>6th Grade & New Scholars</i>	Thursday, August 10	3 – 6 PM
<i>7th & 8th Grade Scholars</i>	Monday, August 14	4 – 6 PM
<i>9th & 10th Grade Scholars</i>	Tuesday, August 15	4 – 6 PM

SOUTHWEST ELEMENTARY		
Open House	Thursday, August 17	5:30 – 7 PM
Registration Support	August 8, 9, 10	9 – 11:30 AM 12 – 3 PM

SOUTHWEST MIDDLE HIGH		
Orientation	Wednesday, August 16	4:30 – 6 PM
Open House	Wednesday, August 16	4:30 – 6 PM
Registration Support	August 15, 16, 17	9 AM – 3 PM

STOCKING ELEMENTARY		
Orientation	Thursday, August 17	5 – 6:30 PM
Open House	Thursday, August 17	5 – 6:30 PM

UNION HIGH SCHOOL		
Orientation	Monday, August 14	1 – 3 PM
Open House	Monday, August 14	1 – 3 PM
Registration Support	Monday, August 14	1:30 – 3 PM

WESTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL		
Open House	Thursday, August 17	4:30 – 6:30 PM
Registration Support	Tuesday, August 8	2 – 3 PM
	Thursday, August 17	4:30 – 6:30 PM

ZOO SCHOOL		
Open House	Thursday, August 17	5 PM

SCHOLAR SUCCESS STARTS AT GRPS



Be a part of your child's success and enroll today at a GRPS school!
Scan QR code to enroll >>
 or visit enroll.grps.org.



Questions?

Please contact the school directly for questions about orientation, open house, registration support schedules. Visit grps.org/schools to find your school's contact information.

Halfway Point: Innovation Central High Remodeling Project Showing Progress

Construction teams are updating technology within the building, replacing lighting, updating the building's HVAC system, replacing windows and carpet, among other technological and structural improvements

The major renovation project underway at Innovation Central High School is headed toward the home stretch as construction teams approach the halfway mark for the project.

Renovations at the building that houses both Innovation Central and Grand Rapids Montessori began last year. The multi-million-dollar project is updating the oldest functioning high school building in the state. Built in 1910, Central High School has a storied history. The list of well-known graduates includes Betty Ford, the former First Lady and wife of President Gerald R. Ford.

Construction teams are updating technology within the building, replacing lighting, updating the building's HVAC system, replacing windows and carpet, among other technological and structural improvements.

Scholars have already begun enjoying some of the improvements, with renovated classrooms returning to service and updated hallways reopening throughout the school year.

"It's night and day. It's almost a different school," Innovation Central principal Dr. Jason McGhee said. "It's been surreal."

Dr. McGhee and the staff at the school have carefully navigated around the construction work while keeping the day-to-day teaching and learning moving as close to normally as possible.

"We're in it, we're living with it, we're breathing with it and it's going to be part of the story of Innovation Central and Central's history," McGhee said.



While scholars and many staff members will begin summer break after this week, the construction team working on the remodeling will go into overdrive.

Hundreds of contractors will work on the building over the summer utilizing the valuable timeframe where they have full access to the building without the limitations of navigating around the activity of the school day.

One of the most significant next steps will be the installation of a new heating system and the addition of air conditioning throughout the building.

"It's going to look really nice when we come back in August," McGhee said. "I absolutely believe that this is going to change the culture one step at a time."

Dr. McGhee says he is hopeful that the building inspires improved scholar achievement.

"Now I'm moving from being a student to being a scholar because the environment also says so. It says so in the bathroom, it says so in the hallways. It says it in the classrooms - not just from the adults saying that they're scholars but the environment compliments that," McGhee said with excitement. "They see the changes. They're able to see it as it's happening... They're excited about it. They want to see what's to come."

Rockford Construction is overseeing the massive project which is expected to be completed in the early part of 2024.

"When the dust is clear, and the building is new and it smells great, it looks great, and we can say, 'We are Innovation Central, it's 2024.' Let's go! Bring your families here, bring your students here, bring your scholars here, and let's learn together in an innovative way," McGhee

said.

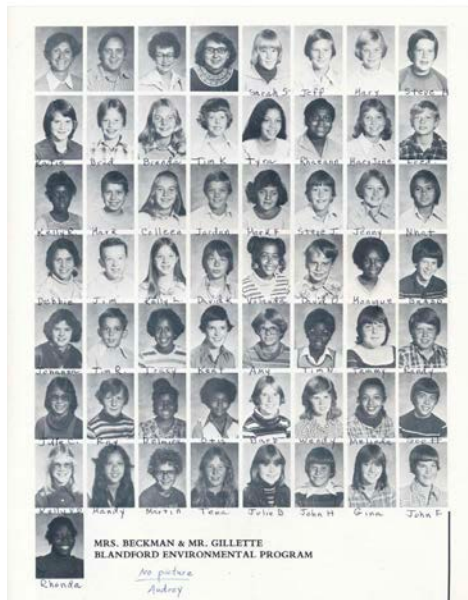
The construction project was funded using bond dollars from a millage passed by Grand Rapids voters. GRPS is hopeful to do more work like it within other school buildings with plans underway to ask voters to pass a bond measure. The proposed initiative would represent approximately \$305 million in investments into GRPS school buildings without raising taxes.

Dr. McGhee says the investment shows the scholars how important their education is to the Grand Rapids community.

"I hope they feel like they have a place that's theirs - a place where the environment supports the innovation that we're creating here," McGhee said. "[The project says] we care about you, we love you, we support you, and we want you to be your best!"

Blandford School 50th Anniversary on May 20

An open-house style gathering will include music, food, yard games and more, giving teachers and students from half a century of Blandford a chance to celebrate and reconnect



When Blandford School celebrates its 50th anniversary on May 20 from 3-7 pm at the school, it will be a family-friendly party that the organizing committee hopes will fit the ethos the school has cultivated for half a century now.

Lisa Scheid is the Chairperson of the City PTSA Blandford Committee and though she didn't know she'd be planning an anniversary party when she took on the job, she said she was more than happy to step up for a school she has grown to love.

"Oh my gosh," she said. "Blandford is such an amazing school. It's hands-on, the students are outside every day, the teachers know how to push the students, and they love them too. I can't say enough good things about Blandford."

That love for Blandford has fueled the work she and a committee of five have done for the past half year as they plan a variety of events for

May 20 to celebrate all the sixth-grade program has meant for so many over the years.

The open-house style gathering is free, but organizers would like people to RSVP online.

Things will begin with check-in and the signing of a guest book, including a chance to write memories of Blandford. A group of jazz musicians from City High (many of whom attended Blandford) will play at 3 pm and the Stringtown Trio (bluegrass, Celtic and folk music) at 4 pm.

Food trucks from El Caribe and the Underground Cookie Club will be on site, there will be a cash bar with beer and wine, yard games like bean bag toss will be available and, of course, the trails of the school and the adjoining Blandford Nature Center will be open for all to explore.

There also will be a looping slideshow

inside the school that will feature numerous images from the school's 50-year history and many of the school's past teachers plan to attend and reconnect with former students.

"Attendees are invited to bring a blanket or camp chair to relax and soak up the good tunes and vibes," Scheid said with a smile. "We really want people to be able to see classmates from their year and have a fun and relaxed time together."

Scheid also encourages Blandford alumni to check out the 50th anniversary merchandise for sale online, a great opportunity to support the school and demonstrate Blandford pride.

And, she said with a laugh, for anyone wondering, the May 20 event will be on rain or shine.

It's still a Blandford event," she said. "We don't let weather get in the way of a good time."



Dr. Roby: Eight Graduation Ceremonies, Scholars 'launch' to Successful Future

As I sat on the graduation stage for each of our ceremonies, I couldn't help but think of the heights our scholars will soar

As superintendent of schools, I get to bear witness to a lot of great things — ribbon cuttings, victory parties, recognition ceremonies.

But of all of my professional duties, the honor of shaking the hand of each Grand Rapids Public Schools graduate is indeed my favorite.

It's the culmination of everything our team works so hard for — the "launch" of our scholars we've helped prepare for the real world.

As I sat on the graduation stage for each of our ceremonies, I couldn't help but think of the heights our scholars will soar.

I say that with confidence because I know how much love and care has gone into laying the foundation for success for each of them.

The dedication of our Grand Rapids Public Schools team combined with the love and support of our scholars' parents, guardians, and caregivers is a proven recipe for success.

As I looked into the eyes of our graduates, I saw the budding confidence of adulthood and the optimism and hope for a bright future.

Ottawa Hills High School valedictorian Arien McDaniel, Innovation Central salutatorian Abraham Samukai, and CA Frost High School valedictorian Ellery Younts, captured that during their graduation addresses to their classmates.

"We all worked so hard to be standing here today," Arien said to his class. "We can overcome anything."

"We are capable of accomplishing anything we set our minds to," Abraham stated.

"I see success in our future," Ellery proclaimed in her remarks.

It was wonderful to see our scholars express their readiness to take on the world. It was also great to see their immense gratitude for the experience they've had on the way to the

graduation stage.

"I am truly grateful," Grand Rapids Learning Center Graduate Mark Jones, Jr. said of his high school experience during his emotional address to the crowd.

"Let us carry the spirit of Museum School with us knowing that we have the power to change the world," Museum School valedictorian Gabriela Anna Damiacka said.

"Never forget where you came from," Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy valedictorian Jaylyne Calderon Monterroso said as she thanked her school staff and her parents.

Our scholars expressed wisdom beyond their years.

"Hard work puts you where good luck can find you," Vishnu Mano, one of the City High Middle class valedictorians told his classmates..

"It is important to stay true to yourselves... I cannot wait to see you all accomplish your dreams," said Steven Nkurunziza, Union High School salutatorian.

The eyes of the world are watching the Class of 2023 — the first graduating class that was in high school for the full duration of the COVID 19 pandemic.

The impacts of "learning loss", long term isolation, and missed experiences are all real concerns. But when I look at the scholars in the Class of 2023, I see their dedication to achieve, commitment to persevere, and the resiliency to get back on track.

I stand in admiration of the work our scholars have done — and in total agreement with Grand Rapids Montessori salutatorian Sammy Leggett's graduation remarks.

"I'm truly proud of each and every one of you and can't wait to see what you do," he said.

NOW OPEN!

Free admission for Kent County children.

ICE AGE
MICHIGAN'S FROZEN SECRETS

SNOW
TINY CRYSTALS, GLOBAL IMPACT

OMSI

grpm.org

Be curious. GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM



FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Parent University

If you haven't already, explore the Parent University website at parents.grps.org. This family friendly website contains academic and community resources, trending news, a monthly online magazine, and much more.



The July edition of Power Parent Magazine takes a look back at our favorite articles from the winter 2023 semester. Highlights include:

February 2023 – Building Relationships

Developing positive relationships is the foundation for success, and much of this development begins at home. In February's edition of Power Parent, we celebrated the things that make us different, talked about ways for caregivers to connect with their teen, and discussed the value of friendship. As a bonus, check out our special Black History Month spotlight!

March 2023 – Standardized Testing

Standardized testing is an important part of the teaching and learning process, and it's common for caregivers to have questions about these assessments. Our March edition of Power Parent was written to inform GRPS caregivers what they can expect from this busy (and oftentimes hectic) time of year.

April 2023 – Academic Transitions

As we close the chapter on one school year and

prepare to enter another, there are many changes that your scholar will face – and caregivers will feel those changes, too! April's Power Parent is a great tool for families hoping to ease their scholar's transition from one grade level to the next.

May 2023 – Preventing Summer Learning Loss

Stop the summer slide! After school year full of academic achievement, some students slide back during the summer months, losing important school skills. In the May edition of Power Parent, you'll equip yourself with tools to support your scholar's math and reading skills throughout the summer months.

Thanks for a Great School Year!

We couldn't do it without you! Thanks so much – we will see you on Tuesday, August 22nd for the first day of the 2023-2024 school year.

Parent University Calendar - August 2023

Visit parents.grps.org/events to learn additional information about these courses.

MLK Park Parties

These parties are free to the community. Prizes and live music will entertain guests. Martin Luther King Park is located on 1200 Martin Luther King Jr. Street SE.

- Back to School: August 17 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm

StorytimeGR

StorytimeGR is an opportunity for you to listen to stories, receive free books, enjoy refreshing treats, and meet special guests. StorytimeGR is a partnership of the Grand Rapids Public Library, Read GR, Grand Valley State University, and the City of Grand Rapids Office of Special Events.

- August 8 at 6:30 pm at Lincoln Park (1200 Bridge Street NW)

GRPS On-site Enrollment

Enroll your scholars into Grand Rapids Public Schools for the 2023-2023 school year.

- August 18 or 21 from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm at 1331 Martin Luther King Jr. Street SE

Rhythm Health Fair

This fun-filled, annual event attracts 500+ community members who come together to support healthy lifestyles

- August 19 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at 1200 Martin Luther King Jr. Street SE

F.A.C.E. in the Community

On June 17, 2023, GRPS proudly sponsored the Grand Rapids PRIDE Festival. Many GRPS employees, students, and caregivers supported the GRPS table and embraced all who visited.

On July 4, 2023, F.A.C.E., along with many outstanding GRPS teachers, administrators, scholars and caregivers, marched in the 89th Hollyhock Lane Parade.



DO YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN GRPS ATHLETICS?

YOU WILL NEED:

- A physical dated after April 15, 2023.
- Supplemental insurance for each season: \$10 for high school and \$3 for middle schools.
- Sports physicals are provided by Cherry Health and the health offices in the schools.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

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

REASONS TO BE A MULTI-SPORT ATHLETE:

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

ELEMENTARY FALL SPORTS

Cross Country: Practices will begin soon after the first week of school. (Please check with your elementary school athletic liaison for more information.)

- Meet dates: September 28, October 5, October 12, October 18 & October 21

Soccer: Practices will begin soon after the first week of school. (Please check with your elementary school athletic liaison for more information.)

- Game dates September 23, September 30, October 7 & October 14

MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL SPORTS

- Online sign ups can be completed via Facebook @GRPSMAthletics

- In-person sign-ups at buildings from August 23 – August 30
- Football, Boys Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country practices/scrimmages begin on August 30

HIGH SCHOOL FALL SPORTS

- The high school fall season begins August 7.
- Fall sports include Football, Cross Country, Boys' Soccer, Boy's Tennis, Girls' Golf, Girls' Swimming, Sideline Cheer and Volleyball
- For schedules, highlights, and parent resources check out our website at grps.org/athletics.

PARENT MEETINGS

Parents/Guardians should attend 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.

We are currently looking for:

- Elementary Coaches for Cross Country, Soccer, Basketball, and Track
- Turkey Trot Volunteers – Sign up now at: volunteersignup.org/ALW3Q

Interested in coaching? Contact the athletic office for more information! We have some vacancies for the 2023-2024 school year.

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!

WELCOME HOME! COACH KENDALL JACKSON

RESTORE THE RGR

Respect
Open-Mindedness
Humility
Responsibility

GRPS ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Kurt Johnson	Executive Director of Athletics	johnsonk@grps.org 616-819-2010
Marcus Harris	Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Director	harrismar@grps.org 616-819-2879
Justin Walker	Union High School Athletic Director	walkerju@grps.org 616-819-7688
Brodie Larson	Middle School Athletic Office	larsonb@grps.org 616-819-3243
MS Athletic Director	Building(s)	Email
Dan Covey	CA Frost Middle High Shawmut Hills Academy Blandford School Zoo School	coveyd@grps.org
Lanita Hobson	Burton Middle School	hobsonl@grps.org
Aaron Fillenworth	City High Middle School	fillenwortha@grps.org
Kim Ashton	Gerald R. Ford Academic Center Dickinson Academy Sherwood Park Global Studies Academy Ridgemoor Park Montessori	ashtonk@grps.org
Rojeana Calvert	Harrison Park Academy	calvertr@grps.org
Jolinda Lucas	GR University Preparatory Academy Grand Rapids Montessori Museum Middle School	lucasj@grps.org
Pat Westover	North Park Montessori Aberdeen Academy	westoverp@grps.org
Helen Vrugink	Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Academy	vruginkh@grps.org
Don Zomer	Southwest Middle High	zomerd@grps.org
Teresa Green	Westwood Middle School	greente@grps.org
Robin Cross	Alger Middle School	crossr@grps.org
William Childers	Riverside Middle School	childersw@grps.org

GR8 SPORTS, GREAT KIDS

Our community recognizes the importance, value, and positive impact that after school sports can have on

students. Thank you to the Student Advancement Foundation and GR8 Sports, Great Kids for their continued support of these programs!



WORLD-CLASS PRESCHOOL

FOR YOUR CHILD!

Get ready for the 2023-2024 school year at Grand Rapids Public Schools!

Learning in a Grand Rapids Public Schools world-class preschool classroom prepares children to be successful in kindergarten and beyond. Experts agree that children who have quality early learning experiences are better prepared to be successful in school and throughout life. Preschool is the essential first step in your child's lifelong education.

- **Tuition-free** for families meeting income and eligibility criteria
- Research based curriculum
- Culturally diverse staff
- Individualized learning goals
- Full day program
- 24 convenient locations
- Hands-on activities
- Purposeful learning through play
- Outdoor and community learning opportunities



Application for the 2023-2024 school year is open!
APPLY TODAY AT [PRESCHOOL.KENTISD.ORG](https://www.kentisd.org/preschool).

We are always happy to answer your questions. Please contact us today!

(616) 819-2111 | earlychildhood@grps.org

Grand Rapids Public Schools | 1331 Martin Luther King Jr St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

GRPS
my choice®





**2022-23
MICHIGAN BOYS
TRACK & FIELD**

**GATORADE
PLAYER OF
THE YEAR**

BENNE ANDERSON

HIGHLIGHTED STATS

1ST - 4:01.60
OK GOLD CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP - 1600M

1ST - 8:40.90
DISTANCE NIGHT UNDER THE LIGHTS - 3200M

"Benne Anderson solidified his place amongst Michigan's all-time prep distance greats this season. His decision to forego the indoor campaign to focus on the outdoor arena reaped major dividends, resulting in an unbeaten 2023 that included the nation's fastest 1600-meter run and fourth-fastest 3200 time"
-Rich Gonzalez, Editor, PrepCalTrack.com

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!

SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARS' SUCCESS

✓ **\$1,000 SIGN-ON BONUS**
FOR NEWLY HIRED STAFF*

✓ **TUITION REIMBURSEMENT**
OPPORTUNITIES

✓ **HEALTH-DENTAL-VISION**

✓ **RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

NOW HIRING:

Teachers, Childcare Workers, Administration, Custodians, Food Service, & More!



616-819-5272

CAREERS.GRPS.ORG



JOIN OUR TEAM!

*Sign-on bonus applies to Grand Rapids Education Association (GREA) staff *only* including: teachers, nurses, counselors, social workers, school psychologists, speech language pathologists.

Social and Emotional Learning and GRPS

As Grand Rapids Public Schools strives to prepare its scholars for the real world, there is a recognition that learning goes beyond reading, writing, and math. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which people develop their personal identity, recognize and manage emotions, achieve goals, and form connections to the larger society around them.

In partnership with the Collaboration for Academic and Social Emotional Learning (CASEL), the Department of Social and Emotional Learning is working to support both adults and scholars on the importance of SEL

skills such as self-management, social awareness and creating authentic partnerships between schools, caregivers, and the community.

With professional development opportunities, family workshops, district initiatives and two new curriculums for elementary and middle schools, keep your ears open for the letters S-E-L in the 23-24 school year!

Scan the QR Codes below to check out some of the resources available to scholars, staff and families on the Department of SEL Website!

Mindfulness Activities



Restorative Practices at Home



SEL Curriculum in GRPS





Grand Rapids Sports Hall of Fame 23rd Annual Golf Classic

[Click here to register via grshof.com.](https://grshof.com)

Monday, August 21st | Thousand Oaks Golf Club
4100 Thousand Oaks Dr NE | Grand Rapids, MI

Scramble Format.

Men's, Women's, and Mixed teams with 2-putt rule.

11:00 am Registration, range open, box lunches
12:00 pm Shotgun Start
19th Hole Outdoor Reception immediately following

Thank you for your support!

Please consider one of the following sponsorship opportunities to support the Grand Rapids Public Schools Foundation.

Beverage Cart Sponsor | \$3,000

Company name on beverage cart, Tee/Green sign, foursome, lunch, and post-golf outdoor reception.

Lunch Sponsor | \$3,000

Company name on sign at check-in, Tee/Green sign, foursome, lunch, and post-golf outdoor reception.

Golf Cart Sponsor | \$3,000

Company name on all carts, Tee/Green sign, foursome, lunch, and post-golf outdoor reception.

19th Hole | \$1,500

Company name on sign at post-golf outdoor reception, foursome, lunch, Tee sign, Green sign.

Green/Tee Sign Sponsor | \$300

Company name on sign displayed on Tee or Green.

Golf Foursome | \$1,000

Four golfers, lunch, and post-golf outdoor reception. \$150 off if your foursome includes a Grand Rapids Public School alumnus.



GRSHOF 23rd Annual Golf Classic proceeds are donated for the benefit of Grand Rapids Public Schools Foundation's Great Sports, Great Kids. Questions? Email Gretchen at gretchen.flemming@grshof.com or call 616-560-1970. Visit grshof.com or the GRSHOF Facebook page for more information.