



# GOOD NEWS

The official quarterly GSD community newsletter

January 2024

click the link to  
**Jump to...**

[DISTRICT UPDATES](#)

[HIGH SCHOOL](#)

[MIDDLE SCHOOL](#)

[ELEMENTARY SCHOOL](#)

[NELSON PRIMARY SCHOOL](#)

[iFORWARD](#)



## MORE WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

A clickable directory of our other communication platforms.

- [GSD News](#)  
*News articles from GSD.*
- [Live Feed](#)  
*Similar to social media, but on our website.*
- [Community Education](#)  
*View our Community Ed catalogue!*
- [Events Calendar](#)  
*See what's happening today in GSD.*
- [Athletics Department](#)  
*Sign up, see schedules, and more!*

# COMING SOON!

## 4K REGISTRATION 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Please watch your email inbox and our website for information on 4K Registration and Early Childhood Development Screenings.

get the  
**GSD APP**  
and get everything GSD in  
your pocket!

Download the Grantsburg  
SD app from the iOS App  
Store or Android Play Store  
and enable notifications.



## GHS OPEN HOUSE EVENT



Grantsburg High School was open to the community for an open house and self-guided tour to celebrate the progress of our facility updates from the 2022 referendum. The event took place on December 12 and allowed visitors to experience and enjoy the recent updates to the building.

The updates are part of the \$19.7 million referendum approved by voters in April 2022. The referendum included decommissioning Nelson Primary School, expanding the existing elementary school, and updating classrooms and common spaces at the middle and high schools. The projects will also include repairing building systems and creating safer traffic flows at each building.

Thank you for your ongoing flexibility and patience as we continue through the construction phase of these projects.

## CLC AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

We are excited to share highlights from our Community Learning Center (CLC) After School Program from the first semester of the year! This semester featured classes like LEGO Building, Math and Music Integration, Mindfulness Through Movement, and Computer Fun.

The program offers experiences beyond the confines of regular classroom instruction. These extracurricular activities offer students in LP through eighth grade a chance to explore interests, hone life skills, and cultivate a sense of teamwork and discipline.

Participation in after-school activities has been linked to improved academic performance, increased self-esteem, and enhanced social skills!

**Learn more and sign up here:**

[www.gk12.net/page/clc-after-school-program](http://www.gk12.net/page/clc-after-school-program)





## FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE DAZZLES US AGAIN

Grantsburg Community Education rolled out the red carpet for its annual Dazzling Daughter Dance on October 21 at Grantsburg Middle School. This year, over 200 guests dressed in glitz and glamor danced the night away together.

Upon arrival, the girls received their VIP Access Pass and a red rose. They stepped onto the red carpet for photos, interviews, and autographs. The rest of the evening was full of music, dancing, refreshments, and a photo booth!

This annual community event allows fathers and father figures an opportunity to spend quality time with their daughter[s]. The dads are free to socialize with one another while the girls dance with friends. There are, of course, planned father-daughter dances throughout the night that create special memories for all.

New this year was an award for "Best Dressed Dad." Congratulations to Wes Moeller, who received a generous gift certificate donated by T-Dawgs Bar & Grill in Grantsburg!

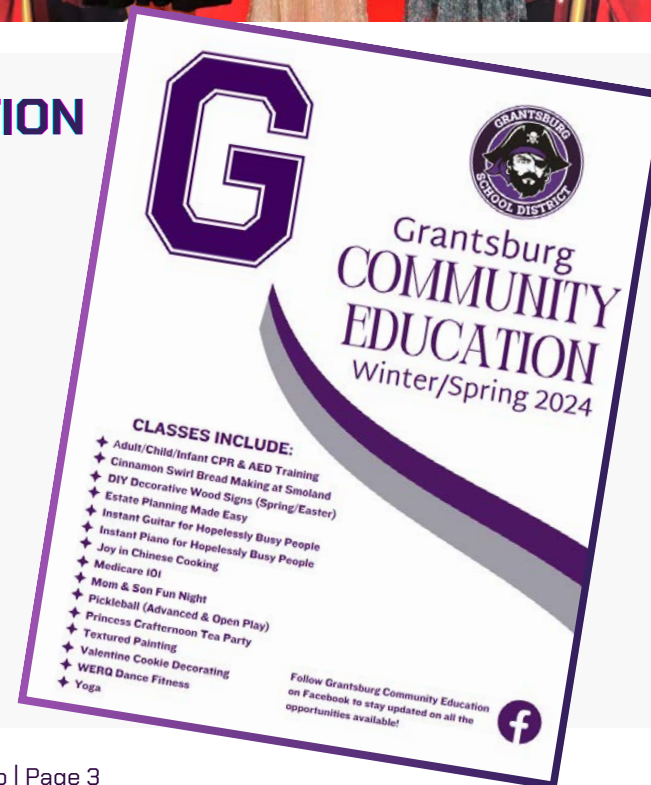
A huge thanks goes to all of the volunteers. This amazing evening would not have happened without the help of Sophia Anderson, Veda Ballard, Craig Bowman [sound and music], Nolan Branstad, Sue Bunting, Carrie Byers, Sawyer Coy, Phil Hein, Jim Hinrichs [lights], Jenna Michel, Jennifer Michel, Kristine Peterson, Stephanie Peterson, Alli Peterson, Wade Peterson, Joan Quimby, Becky Rieck, Zach Rombach, Sally Schultz, Leesa Shultz, Erin Spohn, T-Dawgs Bar & Grill, Michelle Taylor's FACE Class, Mr. Tomczak's Art Class and Anna Wedin.



## WINTER/SPRING COMMUNITY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES NOW AVAILABLE!

GSD Community Education exists to serve the immediate and surrounding communities by offering opportunities through classes, events, services, and trips that add value to life.

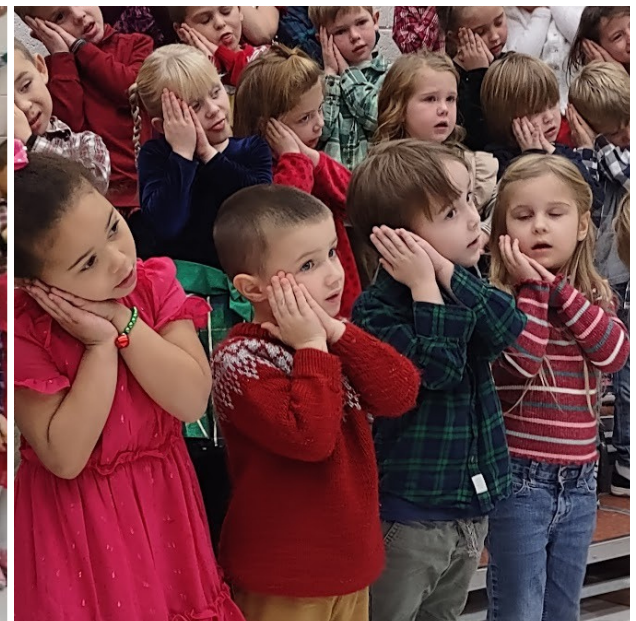
You can experience the benefits of this program through participating in programs, instructing, donating time or money, or serving on our Advisory Network Team. Learn more at [www.gk12.net/page/community-education](http://www.gk12.net/page/community-education).













## ART 1 & ART 2 FALL PROJECTS

Art 1 students recently finished a glow-in-the-dark unit. Students created illustrations with charcoal, paint, or pastels on top of a layer of glow paint. The areas not covered create a glowing effect. Some pieces resulted in a double image that was eerily impressive!



Art 1 students are working through the lengthy, but worthwhile, process of glazing clay lanterns and firing them one more time in the kiln. Students are eagerly waiting to see their finished projects!



Art 2 students crafted food displays out of clay that look good enough to eat! This project required students to hand-form the clay using techniques like coiling, slabbing, pinching, and sculpting. Once the forms are just right, the students choose glaze colors to give the art lifelike qualities that fool our eyes.





## GHS MUSICIANS SELECTED FOR HONOR BAND FESTIVAL

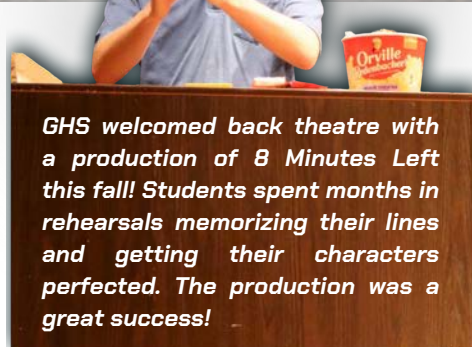
*GHS Band members El Kammeyer, Kaiden Xurvein, Erin Downing, Kelsey Handy, and Ruby Rengo were selected for the University of Minnesota Duluth Senior Honor Band Festival November 3-4.*

*Participating students are nominated and selected from high schools all around northwest Wisconsin and northeast Minnesota. Throughout the weekend, students were able to work with two guest composers and participate in breakout sessions led by the UMD Music Faculty. They also were treated to a performance by the UMD Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the Twin Ports Wind Orchestra.*

*Find more information [here](#).*



## GHS THEATRE PRODUCTION OF 8 MINUTES LEFT



*GHS welcomed back theatre with a production of 8 Minutes Left this fall! Students spent months in rehearsals memorizing their lines and getting their characters perfected. The production was a great success!*





## GHS MUSICIANS SELECTED FOR STATE HONORS PERFORMANCES

WSMA State Honors Band and Choir performed on Thursday, October 26 at the Overture Center in Madison. Erin Downing (band) and Greta White (choir) were among the prestigious musicians on stage. Greta also performed a solo!

Musicians selected to these ensembles go through an anonymous audition process in early February to be selected to one of the state honors groups. After that, summer workshops are held to rehearse and prepare for their performances in late October. This concert was the culmination of months of work and collaboration from many skilled individuals in the music community.



For more information on the WSMA State Honors project, visit: [www.wsmamusic.org/hs-honors](http://www.wsmamusic.org/hs-honors).

### UPCOMING Musical Performances

- Jan. 8 HS Honors Band - Siren
- Jan. 19 GHS Alumni Pep Band
- Mar. 4 HS Festival Concert 7 pm
- Mar. 26 HS Group Festival - Luck
- April 9 HS Solo/Ensemble Contest - Siren
- May 4 State Solo/Ensemble Contest - Eau Claire
- May 10 Spring HS Concert 7 pm
- May 17 Graduation
- May 27 HS Band Memorial Day



## ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

### VOLLEYBALL

The Pirate volleyball team had a successful season! Both JV teams had winning seasons and the varsity team finished with a 27-9 overall record while earning second place in the conference.

The athletes competed against and defeated several D1 and D2 teams this season. The team was state-ranked for multiple weeks and won two tournament championships. The program has a bright future, with six sophomores on the team and five athletes earning all-conference honors this season.

Sidney, Megan, Jordan, Trista, and Kelsey provided outstanding senior leadership to their team, keeping them unified, positive, and strong. The team is grateful for the community support, the pep band and National Anthem performances, the always enthusiastic student fan section and WE ARE Grantsburg for their expert coverage and fun announcing.



VOLLEYBALL





## GIRLS GOLF

The girls' golf team had another fantastic season! Every athlete on the team shot a personal best. And thanks to Abbie Kammeyer, the team had their first hole-in-one! The season finished with Lucy Dahlberg being the top individual qualifier for sectionals. Thank you to Amaya Henderson, Piper Hicks, and Lucy Dahlberg for your great senior leadership this year! Go Pirate Golf!

## CROSS COUNTRY

Pirate cross country had a successful season, with both the girls' and boys' teams finishing competitively. The girls' team placed fifth in the conference and the boys' team won the conference title, continuing their streak!

During tournaments, Noelle Doornink advanced to the WIAA State Meet individually, running a career PR of 20:52. For the boys, the team missed advancing as a team by only five points. Both Connor Quimby and Joe Quintana advanced individually. Joe placed 52nd out of 150 runners. A special Congratulations to Connor Quimby on an exceptional state performance, placing 10th and earning podium honors.



## FOOTBALL

The Pirate football team had a very exciting year! With a season record of 12-1, they fell one game short of the state championship game. The season was a success, as the team accomplished their big three goals: 1) Winning the local rivalry games, 2) being conference champs, and 3) playing football in November.

Offensively, it might have been one of the best years in school history, averaging over 40 points per game, with over half of the games played having a running clock.

"The team really bonded this year; it was fun to see them play as a unit. I believe that was the key to our success this season," said Coach Hale.



## PBIS OFFERS ENTICING INCENTIVES

GMS 4th and 5th graders have been working hard to meet positive behavior expectations. What better incentive to reach their goals than to be entered into a drawing to throw pies at their teachers and principal?



## STUDENTS LAUNCH ROCKETS



Eighth graders in ELA STEAM engaged in cross-categorical learning! Students built and launched their own rockets at the end of the quarter.



## FAMILY NIGHT AT GMS

**Thank you to all who made Family Night a success at GMS!** The night included a friendly game of "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?" The group reviewed Title I goals and BMC gave an informative presentation on choosing to live drug-free.

#GoGrantsburgPirates



## 3RD GRADE PIRATE CUP

The highly anticipated Pirate Cup is a bi-annual, half-mile race to find the fastest 3rd graders. The seventh edition of the race took place on a windy morning at the GHS track in early October.

Male competitors included Olen Chell (first place), Daniel Hoefs (third place), Gideon Kaiser, Wyan Polzine, Ivan Zellmer, Gabe Tyberg, Josiah Peterson (second place), and Luis Ayohua-Hernandez.

Female competitors included Zoe Marhenke (first place), Marley Palmquist (second place), Josie Meyer, Izzy Peterson, Dakota Sutherland (third place), Katelyn Olson, Stella Thill, and Mari Luedtke.

Friendly competition and good sportsmanship were on display for the spectators in the bleachers! Classmates and parents cheered the racers on in appreciated support. Runners are setting goals and beginning their preparations for the eighth edition of the 3rd Grade Pirate Cup, slated for May 2024.



## GHS ATHLETES VISIT ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

GHS football players visited GES to introduce students to the game. The players went back to the classroom to visit more and read books to students.



The GHS cross country team made their visit to GES to talk to students about bullying and having the courage to stand up against it.



## A TEA PARTY IN 3RD GRADE

At GES, 3rd graders enjoyed a tea party—complete with treats, a photo booth, and English tea—to conclude their first reading unit, where they read the classic children's novel, *Wind in the Willows*.

The book follows the adventures and lessons of four animal friends—Mole, Rat, Toad, and Badger—as they navigate the English countryside.



## 3RD GRADER BEATS STUDENT RECORD

Third-grade student Zoe Marhenke broke the Grantsburg Elementary school record for the ½ mile run during fall Physical Education fitness testing. The old record was just set in the Spring of 2023 by Whitney Goldman with a time of 3:20. Marhenke broke Goldman's record by one second!



#GoGrantsburgPirates

## THE GIFT OF WARMTH

One of several holiday projects to help those in need, Mrs. Polzine's 2nd grade class made blankets to donate to the local emergency room as a "gift of warmth."







# GRANTSBURG

NELSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

715-689-2421  
11486 State Road 70  
[www.gk12.net/o/nps](http://www.gk12.net/o/nps)

## KINDERGARTENERS ACT OUT POLLINATION

*Mrs. Lee's Kindergarten class learned about pollination through an interactive exercise of acting out the process in basic steps.*



## GHS VOLLEYBALL VISITS NELSON PRIMARY

#GoGrantsburgPirates



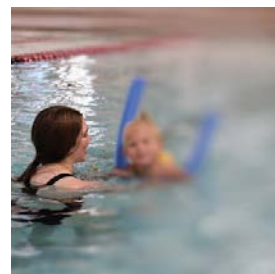
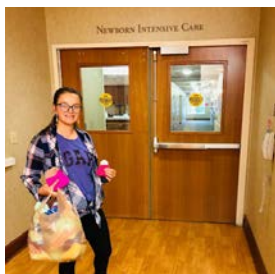
*GHS volleyball players visited Nelson Primary students to demonstrate basic volleyball skills and introduce them to the game. Afterward, the athletes read books about standing up against bullying.*





## NHS STUDENTS SET AN EXAMPLE

National Honor Society students have demonstrated great character as they volunteer their time in various capacities in the community. They are showing their commitment to making a difference in the lives of those around them.



Photos show the diverse array of gifts and talents our students have to offer: making hats to donate to the NICU, making blankets to donate to the WI Humane Society, clearing leaves from city storm drains, assisting with the community Halloween party, volunteering to teach swim lessons, and picking up litter in the park. What a great display of NHS values in action!



## HOMECOMING - iFORWARD STYLE!

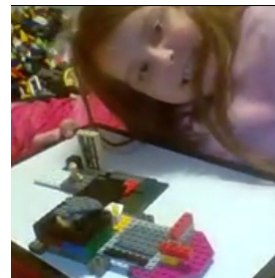
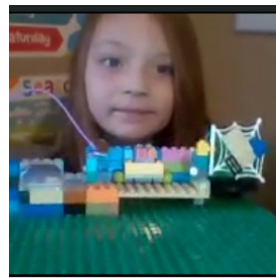
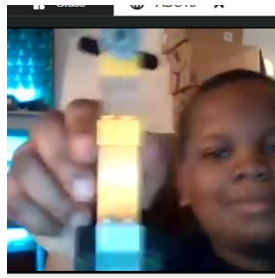
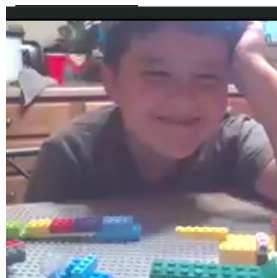
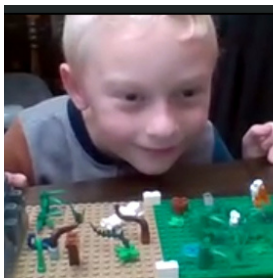


iForward students, staff, and families gathered for a pizza lunch and yard games before heading downtown to enjoy the Grantsburg homecoming parade with the rest of the community. What a great opportunity for in-person engagement!



## LEGO STEM CHALLENGE

First graders created animal habitats in a LEGO STEM challenge! This gave students hands-on practice with each of the pillars of STEM, which they will rely on and build upon for years to come.



## FAMILY FALL EVENTS A HUGE SUCCESS

iForward's Family Fall Events were a huge success this year, with great participation and a variety of new locations visited! Locations include Beaver Creek Reserve (Eau Claire), Marshall W. Alworth Planetarium (Duluth), UW Madison Geology Museum (Madison), Fawn Doe Rosa (St. Croix Falls), Heritage Hill (Green Bay), Norskedalen Nature Center (Lacrosse), Discovery World (Milwaukee), The Little Farmer Orchard (Fond du Lac), and Schmeckle Reserve (Stevens Point).



## STUDENTS EXPLORE IN SPACE

Mr. Dilley, Mrs. Quade, Kirsten, Rachel, and Tyler met up at the end of October to load the Fluid Mixing Enclosures (FME) for a student-designed experiment in partnership with Mission 17 to the International Space Station.

Started in 2010, the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) is an innovative STEM education initiative that gives students the ability to design and propose real experiments to fly in low Earth orbit, first aboard the final two flights of the Space Shuttle, and now on the International Space Station.

The launch was expected for November 9, from the Kennedy Space Station in Florida. The experiment is to answer the question, "Does microgravity affect the germination of *pleurotus ostreatus* spores?" It will be performed in microgravity by the astronauts aboard the ISS while the students perform the same experiment here on Earth. The results will be compared to determine the effect of microgravity!

