



Smoke Signals

FROM THE
WARRIOR CAMP

GRASS LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
899 SOUTH UNION STREET
GRASS LAKE, MI 49240

AUGUST 19, 2013

Smoke Signals

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August 2013

From the Superintendent's Desk: Brad Hamilton

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year. Please check the Grass Lake Website for information regarding the starting and ending times for each building. Grass Lake Community Schools, its administration, teaching staff and other employees are extremely excited about the start of this school year. We believe we have much to offer our students, parents and community. Our goal remains unchanged, to work together to be the leader in student achievement in the county region and state. We are not there yet, but we are making gains and trending upward.

Grass Lake Community Schools enjoys many great relationships and partnerships. These include, but are not limited to, the Grass Lake Chamber of Commerce, Grass Lake Educational Foundation, Jackson County Intermediate School District, Grass Lake Downtown Development Authority, Grass Lake Township, Village of Grass Lake and Chelsea Area Wellness Foundation to name but a few. Through these relationships come opportunities for our students, our employees, and our community.

With the state of public education in Michigan seemingly being threatened by those who would like to see a county wide hybrid system of public education or from those who would prefer a system other than the traditional local school districts, I can only repeat what my parents cautioned, "Be careful what you ask for...You just may get it!" Our public school system is far from perfect and it needs to continuously improve, but it is far better than many of the alternatives and should receive far less criticism than it does. It is critical that the school district and the partners mentioned above work together to continue to have a strong and vibrant community that delivers the education, services, and opportunities we have all come to appreciate. Please let our state representatives know that a one-size-fits-all attitude and the continuing lack of proper funding is not in the best interest to the future of our children or our community.

The Grass Lake Educational Foundation is hosting the third annual Festival of Tables on October

12th, 2013. Please see the last page of this newsletter for more information. A new feature at this year's Festival of Tables will be a "Super Silent Auction". Stay tuned for more information on this exciting feature. The Foundation is requesting silent and live auction items for this event. Please contact Brad Hamilton at 517-522-5545 if you need additional information or would like to make a donation.

We invite you to come and join us at our Back to School night on August 27th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. This event is a chance to get to meet the teachers and visit your student(s) room(s). This is not a parent teacher conference and parents who need additional time to discuss specific items should schedule a time with the teacher to do so.

We look forward to an exciting year. Please do not hesitate to stop in and chat if you have any concerns.

"Late Start" Wednesdays

There will be a very important change in the Grass Lake Community Schools schedule for next year. We will once again be including "late start" Wednesdays in the school schedule. These "late starts" will be scheduled on the third Wednesday of each month for a total of nine throughout the school year. On each "late start" Wednesday, school will begin two hours later than normal.

These "late starts" will be used for School Improvement and Professional Development. We understand these are not popular and can cause a hardship. One "late start" Wednesday per month was a compromise between the old model of every Wednesday and the new model of none at all. This recommendation came from the District Leadership Team which is comprised of teachers and administrators.

The "late start" dates are listed below. Bus schedules and school schedules will be adjusted by two hours to accommodate this change. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Superintendent Hamilton at 522-5540.

Late Start dates:

September 18th	February 19th
October 16th	March 19th
November 20th	April 16th
December 18th	May 21st
January 15th	

SMOKE SIGNALS

DISTRICT VISION

Individual excellence inspired by tradition and innovation.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Grass Lake Community Schools is to provide a quality learning environment which will empower all students to meet their individual needs, discover their potential, and gain essential skills that will enable them to become responsible, contributing citizens of our world.

DISTRICT BELIEF STATEMENT

We, the Grass Lake school community, are committed to and believe:

- In high standards in education, valued and supported by all.
- In providing a safe, secure and positive learning environment.
- In supporting and developing students intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically to meet their individual needs.
- In the students' power to discover and develop their own unique potential as life-long learners.

DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

Superintendent	Brad Hamilton	522-5540
High School Principal	Brian Thompson	522-5570
Asst. HS Principal and Athletic Director	Eric McCalla	522-5580
Middle School Principal	Jeanene Satterthwaite	522-5550
Elementary Principal	Michelle Clark	522-5590
Asst. Elementary Principal	Alaina Ellison	522-5646
Preschool Director	Christie Orban	522-5650
Director of Transportation & Community Services	Doug Moeckel	522-5544
Food Service Director	Carlene Pindzia	522-5597

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Seven elected community members serve on the Grass Lake Board of Education. Meetings are held twice a month to enable the board to take official action and study issues relating to the school. All meetings are open to the public. In an effort to meet the needs of the community, the Board of Education has established policies to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Equal Opportunity concerns.

- Tim Waskiewicz President
- Kimberly Seaburg Vice President
- John Pattera Secretary
- David Wright Treasurer
- Mark Burnett Trustee
- Darrell Hart Trustee
- Kristi Shoemaker Trustee

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

2013-2014

7:00 p.m., George Long Elementary Library

REGULAR MEETINGS

August 12, 2013
 September 9, 2013
 October 14, 2013
 November 11, 2013
 December 9, 2013
 January 13, 2014
 February 10, 2014
 March 10, 2014
 April 14, 2014
 May 12, 2014
 June 9, 2014

WORK SESSIONS

August 26, 2013
 September 23, 2013
 October 28, 2013
 November 25, 2013
 January 27, 2014
 February 24, 2014
 March 24, 2014
 April 28, 2014
 June 30, 2014

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of the Grass Lake Community Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, age, national origin or ancestry, sex, marital status or handicap be excluded for participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any programs or activity and employment as required by Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1963; Secion 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Any questions concerning discrimination should be directed to the Superintendent's Office, Grass Lake Community Schools, 899 South Union Street, Grass Lake, MI 49240, or phone (517) 522-5540.

Grass Lake Community Schools

STRATEGIC CHARGE and GOALS

(Re-created November, 2012)

Grass Lake Community Schools' Strategic Planning Key school, community and business personnel participated in a strategic planning workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Tovah Sheldon, Assistant Professor, School of Education, Spring Arbor University on October 23rd, November 15th and December 5th, 2012. The focus of the workshop was to create and set forth a plan to meet future needs for the students of Grass Lake Community Schools. Please read the following charge and list of goals.

Strategic Charge :

To establish Grass Lake Community Schools as a premier school district in all areas including, but not limited to, student achievement, athletics, fine arts, facilities, leadership, use of technology and community service.

Goal # 1: To develop and implement quality, researched instructional programs that will improve student learning.

Goal # 2: To create a K-12 campus which emphasizes alternative and non-traditional learning opportunities where students can achieve their full potential.

Goal #3: To move towards technology immersion that will enhance learning, instruction and communication.

Goal #4: To provide opportunities for students to become leaders in regards to educational, emotional and social experiences.

Goal #5: To increase the number of students participating in co-curricular and extra-curricular activity options through cooperation with school staff, the community and businesses.

Goal #6: To provide new, renovated and well maintained facilities that will enable Grass Lake Community Schools to remain a premier school district.

SMOKE SIGNALS

Grass Lake Middle School

Individual excellence inspired by tradition and innovation

Jeanene Satterthwaite, Principal

A warm "Welcome Back" to a new and exciting school year! We hope you all had a fun, safe and rejuvenating summer. This year brings about much potential and excitement. I would like to welcome all the new students to our district as well as our incoming sixth graders. Our Middle School staff has decades of experience and look forward to preparing all the students for High School and beyond.

We sent out our Back to School packets the second week in August. These packets contained schedules, school supply lists, the school calendar and an emergency form. Please bring the completed emergency form with you to the Back to School Night, August 27th, 5-7 p.m. If you have questions or concerns about your child's schedule please contact me.

In order for our students to be successful, we need to make sure all of us are working together. I always have an open door and encourage and welcome visitors to stop in and chat. Please contact me if you ever have questions or concerns. One way to be involved in your child's education is to keep in contact with your child's teacher, ensuring an open line of communication. Another way is to regularly check PowerSchool in order to keep up to date on your child's grades and to make sure assignments are being turned in regularly. My teachers update PowerSchool at least once a week, if not more often. This is a powerful tool for parents to know what is going on, grade wise, with your son or daughter. Also, Mrs. Brown sends out announcements and a Homework Hotline daily. If you do not currently receive these, please make sure Mrs. Brown has your current email address. These are also important communication tools.

We have an active PTO and are always trying to get new parents to participate. Our PTO puts on several Activity Nights for the students and also raises funds to help sponsor students to attend various field trips and for teacher mini-grants, as well as other projects. Currently, the PTO is in the midst of a Middle School Beautification project. They are working on obtaining landscaping, signs, and new basketball nets. If you are interested in helping with certain projects and/or being a member of the PTO, please contact the office. The PTO will also have a display table at the Back to School Night to hand out popcorn and encourage parents to participate in its organization.

The school year is fast approaching and I look forward to leading your child to success!

SMOKE SIGNALS

Transportation, Community and Cooperative Services

Doug Moeckel, Director

Grass Lake Community Schools offer a variety of services to our school families and community members through the office of Transportation, Community and Cooperative Services regarding activities and information. Following is a brief description of these services.

Transportation – The Grass Lake Transportation Department carries a fleet of 15 buses with 12 regular runs. (Three buses are used as substitute buses.) All drivers are regularly updated with training and our buses are inspected annually by the Michigan State Police, as are all buses in the State of Michigan. It is our goal to effectively, efficiently, and safely provide transportation to all qualifying students, including limited services for our school-of-choice students. We are very proud of our safety record and we always are striving to improve our abilities. We always welcome inquiries from individuals interested in pursuing bus driving as an occupation.

Community Education – The Community Education office publishes brochures quarterly that offer an interesting assortment of enrichment classes offered in our school buildings and within the community, trying to offer opportunities for all ages. We invite anyone to contact us who is interested in sharing their skill or avocation with others. Our Community Education department continues to expand its services to more widely reach the demands of our constituents.

Websites – We manage the School District's website at www.grasslakeschools.com, as well as the District's Facebook page. These two pages offer updated information throughout the year on academics, athletics, extra-curricular activities for students who are in Pre-School through 12th grade. Examples of more information that is shared digitally are news from the Grass Lake Educational

Foundation, Grass Lake Community Wellness Initiative, and the Grass Lake Alumni Association.

Automatic Calling System – Our School District employs an automatic calling system that is used for a variety of purposes with calls going to all school families for the purposes of announcing school closings and delays, announcements of special school activities, and qualified community activities.

Building Reservations and Rentals – This office manages the usage of school facilities by our school groups, our community members, and other outside enterprises and organizations. We host an assortment of activities outside of school hours during evenings and on weekends. We welcome inquiries from individuals looking for a space for their wedding showers, wedding receptions, graduation parties, business meetings and various other activities that we are able to accommodate. Currently we enjoy long-term rental agreements with the Family Worship Center, Weight Watchers, Sylvan Learning Center, and Jackson Community College, along with short-term arrangements with various organizations. Additionally this department serves our community by renting tables and chairs for various occasions.

Community and Cooperative Services – The purpose of this office is to work with other school districts, local municipalities, churches, organizations, higher learning institutions, and individuals to effectively make use of our buildings, while offering the School District's services and support toward activities that effectively promote our community and the benefits of living in the Grass Lake area.

Grass Lake Alumni Association – We feel it is important to maintain contact with our alumni to ensure that they are aware of our school district's happenings and achievements. This office maintains a sizeable e-mail contact list with which we distribute most of our information. Beginning January 1, 2012, we began posting obituaries of alumni who have passed, as well as obituaries of individuals who have close relational ties to alumni. This service has been extremely beneficial to our alumni who do not live in the Jackson County area, but who are interested in acknowledging these passings.

Grass Lake Community Wellness Initiative – Grass Lake Schools play an important part in the advancement of this grant writing organization

with funding made possible by the Chelsea-Area Wellness Foundation's "5 Healthy Towns" project. While distributing substantial funding to the five towns, which consist of Grass Lake, Stockbridge, Manchester, Chelsea, and Dexter, the Foundation works to improve the wellness of our communities, which are in the process of having our wellness enhanced as we learn to eat better, move more, avoid unhealthy substances, and connect with others.

To discuss any of these services or to have questions answered about any of the them, please contact the office by calling the direct line at 517-522-5544, or by e-mailing doug.moeckel@grasslakeschools.com. Our office is located at Grass Lake High School, 11500 Warrior Trail, Grass Lake, MI 49240. If you prefer to examine our District's website for answers to your questions, we are confident that many of your questions can be answered there, but we are very happy to help users navigate through the site whenever there are questions.

NOTES OF INTEREST from Natalia Morris Senior Transitions instructor

» On Wednesday, October 16th, Grass Lake High School will host a College Exploration day for all students. The curriculum for the day will be exploring college information, college sites, majors, career opportunities and the planning process.

» Grass Lake High School is one of 190 high schools from Michigan to be selected to be a host site for Michigan College Application Week 2013. During our Senior Transitions class and the week of November 4-8, we will be focusing on submission of applications to colleges. An additional perk to participating in this process will be that many of the college application fees are waived during that week

» This year Senior Presentations will be held in November. As in the past, all seniors present a portfolio to a committee of teachers, administrators and volunteers from the community. It is our high school seniors' chance to shine as they share their accomplishments and plans for the future. If you would like to be a part of this exciting night by volunteering to be on an evaluation committee, please contact Natalia Morris at natalia.morris@grasslakeschools.com.

SMOKE SIGNALS

FROM THE DESK OF
Sarah Pennewill
Elementary/Middle School
Social Worker

As fall quickly approaches I look forward to the remainder of the summer as well as eagerly anticipate the beginning of a new school year. The prospect of jumping into my second year as a full time Grass Lake staff member is exciting. I look to take things that I learned during my first year as a staff member and continue to grow as a professional to be the best I can be for students, staff, and families.

As a staff member at the middle school, I am able to offer a variety of support services for students, families, and staff. One of the things that I consider of great importance and strive toward is to make myself easily accessible for staff and students alike. I have availability to meet with students to discuss any problems, worries, or areas of concern. At times these may be prompted by students seeking it out, parent request, or teacher concern. Any of the mentioned avenues are considered of the upmost importance and are handled in the manner deemed most appropriate.

Through the year I also do several small groups. In these groups, students with a variety of strengths and areas for improvement are brought together to problem-solve and work together. Utilizing social skills, communication, and teamwork are all a big part of these groups.

I also help to organize and take part in several school and community based programs. Some of these include Challenge Day, We Change the World, anti-bullying planning, and connecting students and families with outside services. I consider the collaborative efforts of staff, students, and community an essential part of making education successful.

One thing that I look forward to in the upcoming year is to help with the transition of the incoming 6th graders. Having had the opportunity to get to know many of them in 5th grade will allow me to help both students and staff to transition even more smoothly. I hope that seeing a familiar face at the Middle School will be a comfort to the incoming 6th graders.

I look forward to the upcoming year. Working with kids at a variety of ages is something that I find to be continually interesting and rewarding. The 2013-2014 school year will be unique to any other and I eagerly anticipate working with the students, staff, and families of Grass Lake Community Schools.

SMOKE SIGNALS

How Grass Lake Middle School is “Raising Student Voice and Participation”

By: George Gogol, 6th Grade Teacher

Grass Lake Middle School’s Principal, Jeanene Satterthwaite, and her teaching staff have always had a desire to have the students actively take ownership of their education. Over the years the middle school has had success with the student-led groups such as Student Council, Jr. Honors Society, and even a group facilitated by the principal herself. These groups serve a purpose at GLMS. But in the fall of 2012, it was determined the school needed a group of students besides the 10-15 student leaders to impact the school. It needed a group that got every member of the student body actively engaged in making GLMS a better place. A new initiative, called RSVP (Raising Student Voice and Participation), was created. This initiative originated from ideas received by Mrs. Satterthwaite, Mr. Gogol and Mrs. Mietelka while researching ideas from the National Association of Student Councils. They then spent the winter months of 2012-13 making this idea fit into their school. By March, a group of student facilitators attended a training led by Mr. Gogol and Mrs. Mietelka which prepared them to take their entire school through the process of enacting positive change for the 2013-14 school year and beyond.

The RSVP process consists of 4 student led “Summits” which the entire student body participate in. GLMS held its first RSVP Summit in April, 2013. Every student participated and worked together with their “student facilitator” to generate a list of things going well at the school, as well as a list of items they feel could be improved on.

Here are some of the things the students feel are going well at the school...

- Basketball Hoops outside
- Locked doors during the school day
- Free time before the start of the day
- Slushy Bucks at lunch (a chance to win a juicy treat)
- The use of Edmodo (social networking) in the classrooms
- 6th/8th grade overnight trips to camp and Chicago
- iPods at lunch

- The choice of books in the library
- Caring teachers
- Friendly students and staff
- Having a counselor to talk with

The students also generated a list of things to improve...

- More recess
- Outside lunch
- 1 to 1 devices for students (iPads, laptops, etc.)
- Host a “Clean-Up” day for the environment/school-grounds
- Have a recess once a week in place of a day of “reading break”
- Have a 4th/5th grade trip to Mackinac and/or a 7th grade trip

The entire student body will meet this fall in small groups, led by a student facilitator, for the second RSVP Summit. The goal of that summit will be to choose the 2-3 ideas to focus on for the third and fourth RSVP Summits. The goal of RSVP is to implement one improvement by the final marking period of each school year, starting with the 2013-14 school year. Raising Student Voice and Participation is a great way for the students to learn about civics and how government can work to improve the lives of its citizens. It is an exciting time to be a part of GLMS. We have intelligent, thoughtful students with the ability to change their school, community, and world!

A Reminder About Student Vaccinations

The Jackson County Health Department is reminding parents to make sure their children are up to date on vaccinations before the first day of school. New immunization rules are in effect that require all sixth-grade students or students entering a new school district who are 11 or older to get meningococcal and Tetanus-Pertussis vaccines. All kindergartners, sixth-graders or students entering a new school district also must have a second chickenpox vaccine before the first day of school if they have not previously contracted the illness.

The Jackson County Health Department’s Immunization Clinic, 1715 Lansing Ave., has walk-in hours from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month and noon to 4 p.m. Thursday. If you have any questions, please contact the Jackson County Health Department at 788-4420.



Little Warrior Preschool and Child Care

Christie Orban-Simpkins, Director

We are very pleased and excited about the continued growth of our toddler, preschool, and after-school programs. Little Warriors has had a very educational and productive summer. We kept our students engaged and learning while having a lot of fun and staying connected with their peers. Our students also enjoyed many educational and active field trips.

We look forward to the start of another fun-filled school year with all our Little Warriors. Hours of operation are: 6:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. We accept children ages 18 months through 12 years. We offer individualized classrooms which currently include two toddler rooms, three preschool rooms (two 4-year old rooms and one 3-year old room) and four after-school latchkey rooms divided by age and grade. Located in the elementary building, our students are able to take advantage of the elementary library, technology room and during the school year our preschool program is able to utilize the hot lunch program. We also have available a large indoor activity room for gross motor development, the use of multiple playgrounds, and have certified teachers in every classroom.

Registration is open. Please call or email Ms. Christie for further details and scheduling availability at 522-5650 or email Christie.orban@grasslakeschools.com. We would be happy to give you a tour and the dedicated and friendly staff would love the opportunity to meet you and your child.

Latchkey
Students
on a field
trip



Preschool
students
enjoying
"Summer
Olympics"

SMOKE SIGNALS

Grass Lake Completes First Forensics Season By Amy Janz

Thanks in huge part to grants from the Coppernail and Grass Lake Educational Foundation, Grass Lake High School welcomed its first competitive forensics program this past January. Students had the opportunity to choose from 12 events from one of two categories: interpretation or public address. Interpretation events included prose, poetry, dramatic, storytelling, duo, and multiple interpretations where students study the words and characters in a literary piece and craft vocal and physical characteristics to create, express and perform the emotion and meaning of the piece. Public address events included informative, oratory, sales, broadcasting, impromptu, and extemporaneous speaking. Students use research and analysis to craft speeches in order to convey a meaningful message. Ten brave students stepped up and added this activity to their high school experience, hopefully paving the way for more in the years to come.

The team competed at tournaments hosted in Leslie, Birch Run, Dexter, and The University of Michigan as well as hosted their own home tournament, the Novice State Tournament and the Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association regional tournament, falling just short of the state tournament.

The team also had the opportunity to observe an adult version of forensics at a Toastmasters International competition at the Michigan Theater in Jackson where they watched a Grass Lake Alumni, Doug Brinkner, take top honors. The experience led to a great discussion of the performances watched which fostered skills in using constructive criticism in assessing performances.

This first Grass Lake team did a great job creating an energy and vibe throughout the school by spreading the word of this new program that many new students have expressed their interest in preparing pieces for the next tournament season that begins in January 2014. Any interested students should see program director, Amy Janz, in September to begin choosing events and pieces.

SMOKE SIGNALS

Welcome to Grass Lake High School

Brian Thompson, Principal

Welcome Back! We are eagerly awaiting the start of school. We would like to extend a special welcome to all of the new students and incoming freshman who will be joining us. The high school staff, with decades of combined educational experience, looks forward to preparing the students of Grass Lake for their future.

Before starting new, it is important to spend a moment and reflect on our great accomplishments from the 2012/2013 school year. We continue to strive for academic excellence and recognize the importance that all graduates seek further education beyond high school. During the past school year our juniors and seniors earned over 120 hours of college credit in our Dual Enrollment Program through Jackson Community College. Students also earned college credit in our growing Advance Placement programs. This past year Grass Lake High School offered Advance Placement classes in English, Chemistry, and U.S. History. Next year the high school will be adding AP Statistics to its collection of higher level classes. Grass Lake High School students scored higher than any other county school in math and social studies on the Michigan Merit Exam this past spring. The students had the second highest score in writing, third highest in science and fourth highest in reading. Jackson County has 13 public school districts.

The girls' softball team won another district title and its fourth consecutive conference championship. The varsity football team, yet again, won the conference championship and its 6th district title in seven years. Our choir and drama programs continued their tradition of quality spring musicals by presenting, "Once Upon a Mattress". The high school band has reestablished its excellence by scoring all "1's" at festival this past school year.

Senior's will graduate in the spring of 2014 and embark on the next stage of their life. Our high school staff is dedicated to preparing them for the challenges they will face once they leave the safe confines of high school. It is our goal

at Grass Lake High School to provide our students with integrated technological instruction. We continue to make advancements in this area. For the 2013/2014 school year Grass Lake High School will embark on increasing the immersion of technology into our classrooms. Our staff continues to develop new programs, utilizing technology that is reshaping the way education is delivered at the high school level. Because of technology, students are able to gain knowledge, anytime, anywhere and from anybody. It is our goal at Grass Lake High School to reach one to one learning capabilities in the very near future.

Our educational system and society must be aware that knowledge is the tool of power for our children. Knowledge equals choice, so the more knowledge a student is able to obtain the more choice they will have in what they want to do in the future. Ending your knowledge collection at high school graduation is not sufficient in today's global economy. Our children must continue their educational efforts beyond high school. These educational efforts come in several different forms. Some students will follow the traditional path and go to a four year university, others will gain knowledge at a trade or technical school, and some will be fortunate enough to find an employer willing to train them in job specific technical skills. The days of finding high paying low skill jobs are over.

With all the exciting things happening to high school education our staff has been busy getting ready for the new school year. If you have questions regarding your schedule you can contact Ms. Sitarz in the high school office.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Back to School Night on August 27th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. I am sure the upcoming school year will bring many great challenges and rewards to the students at our school. The knowledge they will gain during their high school career will have a lasting effect on their success as members of our community. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me, 522-5570.

TOBACCO-FREE ZONE

The Grass Lake Community Schools is a TOBACCO FREE ZONE. Tobacco in any form - cigarettes, chewing tobacco, cigars, pipes, etc. - will be prohibited from being used at any time. School buildings, parking lots, private vehicles on school property, athletic fields, and school vehicles are included. The Grass Lake Community Schools' Board of Education passed this policy on October 11, 1993. It is not the district's intention to restrict anyone's rights, but to protect the health and safety of all. Community cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Grass Lake Community Schools

899 South Union Street • Grass Lake, Michigan 49240
(517) 522-5540 • Fax (517) 522-8195

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Grass Lake Community Schools** offers healthy meals every school day. High School students may buy lunch for \$2.40, Middle School students may buy lunch for \$2.30, Elementary Students may buy lunch for \$2.15 and all students may purchase Breakfast for \$1.50. Your child(ren) may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. We sell reduced price lunches for \$0.40 and breakfasts for \$0.30. If a doctor has determined that your child has a disability, and the disability would prevent the child from eating the regular school meal, the school will make any substitution prescribed by a licensed physician at no extra charge. The physician's statement, including prescribed diet and/or substitution, must be submitted to the food service department at your school. For further information, please call **Carlene Pindzia at 522-5597**.

- DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. Complete one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: **Carlene Pindzia, Food Service Director, Grass Lake Community Schools, 899 South Union St., Grass Lake, MI 49240**.
- WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households getting Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.
- CAN FOSTER CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income. They may also be included as household members on family applications if other family members wish to apply for free or reduced price meals.
- CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call Linda Zenz, Homeless Liaison, at (517) 522-5542, to see if your child(ren) qualify.
- WHO CAN GET REDUCED PRICE MEALS?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Guidelines, included in this application packet.
- SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?** Please read the letter you received carefully and follow any instructions provided. Call the school at **522-5597** if you have questions.
- MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You *must* send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
- I GET WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC). CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. An application must be filled out by WIC households.
- WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE VERIFIED?** Yes, we may ask you to send written proof of any information provided on the application.
- IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting FAP, FIP, FDPIR, or other benefits. If you lose your job, your child(ren) may be able to get free or reduced price meals.
- WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Bradley Hamilton, Superintendent, Grass Lake Community Schools, 899 S. Union St., Grass Lake, MI 49240. Phone: (517) 522-5540.
- MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?** Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
- WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD?** You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of the expenses), do not include them.
- WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?** List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
- WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME?** If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
- WHAT IF MY CHILD(REN) DO NOT HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE?** Your child(ren) may qualify for low cost or free health insurance through MICHild and Healthy Kids Program. To apply online, go to www.michigan.gov/michild or call 1-888-988-6300 for help or to request a paper application.
- MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS HIS/HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME?** No, if the combat pay is received in addition to his/her basic pay because of his/her deployment and it wasn't received before he/she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
- MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?** To find out how to apply for Food Assistance Program (FAP) or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-481-4989.

Sincerely,

Bradley Hamilton, Superintendent
Grass Lake Community Schools

Total Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$21,257	\$1,772	\$886	\$818	\$409
2	\$28,694	\$2,392	\$1,196	\$1,104	\$552
3	\$36,131	\$3,011	\$1,506	\$1,390	\$695
4	\$43,568	\$3,631	\$1,816	\$1,676	\$838
5	\$51,005	\$4,251	\$2,126	\$1,962	\$981
6	\$58,442	\$4,871	\$2,436	\$2,248	\$1,124
7	\$65,879	\$5,490	\$2,745	\$2,534	\$1,267
8	\$73,316	\$6,110	\$3,055	\$2,820	\$1,410
*Each additional household member add:	\$7,437	\$620	\$310	\$287	\$144

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Your child(ren) may qualify for free or reduced price school meals if your household income falls within the limits on this chart.

IF YOUR ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD GETS FAP, FIP, OR FDPIR, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Part 1: Skip this part.
- Part 2: List the name and case number for any household member (including adults) receiving FAP, FIP, or FDPIR.
- Part 3: List child(ren)'s name, grade, and building.
- Part 4: Skip this part.
- Part 5: Sign and date the form. A Social Security Number is not necessary.
- Part 6: Answer this question.

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY CHILD, check the appropriate category in part 1 and contact your Homeless Liaison or Migrant Coordinator. Fill out application by following instructions for ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS.

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR ONLY FOSTER CHILD(REN), FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Part 1: Skip this part.
- Part 2: Skip this part.
- Part 3: List the foster child(ren)'s name, circle Yes for foster child, and list grade and building.
- Part 4: Skip this part.
- Part 5: Sign and date the form. A Social Security Number is not necessary.
- Part 6: Answer this question.

FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS: (Includes households with WIC, homeless, migrant, runaway, and households with both foster and non-foster children.)

- Part 1: Complete if applicable.
- Part 2: Skip this part.
- Part 3: Follow these instructions to report ALL household members:
 - Column 1 - Names: List the first and last name of each person living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You *must* include yourself and all children living with you. Be sure to include all children. Attach another sheet of paper, if needed.
 - Column 2 - Circle Yes if Foster Child: Circle Yes if applicable.
 - Column 3 - Grade: Fill in the grade for each child attending school.
 - Column 4 - Building Name: Fill in the building name for each child attending school.
- Part 4: GROSS INCOME: Use this section to report all income in your household from the previous month: Next to each person's first and last name, list each type of income received last month. *Next to the amount, circle how often the person got it (weekly, every 2 weeks, twice a month, or monthly).*
 - o All persons must claim some income, or indicate that they receive no income. If a person, including any child listed in part 3, does not have any income, then \$0 *must* be circled in the column labeled "Circle if NO Income."
 - o *Earnings from Work:* List the gross income each person earned from work. This is not the same as take-home pay. *Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions.* Net income should ONLY be reported for self-owned business, farm, or rental income.
 - o *Welfare, Child Support, and Alimony:* List the amount each person received last month.
 - o *Pensions, Retirement, and Social Security:* List the amount each person received last month.
 - o *All Other Income:* All Other Income includes Worker's Compensation, unemployment, strike benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, disability benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, personal income from foster children, and any other income.
- Part 5: An adult household member *must* sign and date the form, list the last four (4) digits of their *Social Security Number*, or check the box "I do not have a Social Security Number."
- Part 6: Answer this question.

Part 6 - Child's Racial/Ethnic Identity (optional)

Check One or More Racial Identities:

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Asian
- White
- Other

Check One Ethnic Identity:

- Hispanic or Latino
- Neither Hispanic or Latino

Privacy Act Information: Social Security Number

The Richard B. Russell School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four (4) digits of the Social Security Number of the adult household member who signs the application. The Social Security Number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child, list a FAP or FIP case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child, or indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a Social Security Number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.) If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

VERIFICATION - FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

Date Selected for Verification: _____	Date Follow-up/Second Notice: _____	Date of Adverse Notice Sent: _____	
Confirming Official's Signature: _____	Follow-up Official's Signature: _____		
Response Due from Household: _____	Verification Official's Signature: _____		
FAP/FIP/FDPIR/Foster Eligibility: _____ Not confirmed _____ Department of Human Services _____ Notice of Eligibility	Income \$ _____ _____ Weekly _____ Every 2 weeks _____ Twice a month _____ Monthly _____ Annual	Verification Result _____ Free to Reduced _____ Free to Paid _____ Reduced to Free _____ Reduced to Paid _____ No Change	Reason for Eligibility Change: _____ Income _____ Household Size _____ Refused to Cooperate _____ Other _____

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL - FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice a Month x 12, Monthly x 12

Household Size: _____ Total Gross Income: \$ _____ _____ Weekly _____ Every 2 Weeks _____ Twice a Month _____ Monthly _____ Annual	Reason for Denial: _____ Income Too High _____ Incomplete Application _____ Other (specify) _____ _____ Number of Children Free _____ Number of Children Reduced _____ Number of Children Paid	Date: _____ Date Dropped/Withdrawn: _____
Determining Official's Signature: _____		
Sponsor/School Name: _____		
Recipient Code/Agreement Number: _____		

SMOKE SIGNALS

GRASS LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2013-2014 School Calendar

August 23	Mandatory Staff Professional Development
August 26	Morning – Mandatory Staff Meeting Afternoon –Mandatory Professional Development – Half Day
August 27	Teacher Work Day – Morning Only Back to School Night, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
August 30	Labor Day Weekend – No School Staff and Students
September 2	Labor Day – No School Staff and Students
September 3	First Day of School
October 8-16	MEAP Window Grades 3-9
November 1	End of First Quarter
November 1	Mandatory Professional Development Day – Full Day No School Students
November 27-29	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 21 – Jan. 5	Winter Break
January 6	School Resumes
January 20	Martin Luther King Day – No School for Students Non-Mandatory Staff Professional Development Day
January 23	High School Exams – Half Day for Students K-12
January 24	High School Exams – Half Day for Students K-12 End of First Semester
February 14	Mid-Winter Break – No School Staff and Students
February 17	President’s Day – No School Staff and Students
March 4 - 6	MME
March 28	End of Third Quarter
March 31 – Apr. 4	Spring Break – No School Staff and Students
April 7	School Resumes
April 18	Good Friday – No School Staff and Students
May 23	Seniors’ Last Day
May 26	Memorial Day – No School Staff and Students
May 28	Baccalaureate – 7:00 p.m.
May 29	Awards Night
June 1	Graduation – 2:00 p.m.
June 11	High School Exams – Half Day for Students K-12
June 12	High School Exams – Half Day for Students K-12
June 12	Last Day of School - End of Second Semester

****PLEASE NOTE: The third Wednesday of each month will be a two hour delayed start ****

SMOKE SIGNALS

WEAPONS-FREE SCHOOL

Effective January 1, 1995, the Michigan School Code was amended by legislative action that requires the mandatory expulsion of any student who possesses a firearm or any other dangerous weapon or who commits rape or arson while on school property (including vehicles) or at a school-related activity. Minor exceptions to this mandate exist, but are very limited in scope.

Such expulsions must be entered into the student's permanent records and provide such information to any other public or private school in which the student seeks to enroll. Further, the school must refer the expelled student to the county department of social services or county community mental health agency. Existing law requires the notification of law enforcement officials when such an incident occurs.

The law permits expelled students to petition for reinstatement but, in all cases, a minimum of 90 days for K-5 students and 180 days for 6-12 students must pass before reinstatement. For purposes of this law and the Federal Gun-Free Schools act, the definition of a weapon includes: "firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with a blade over three (3) inches in length, pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, iron bar, or brass knuckles," or other devices designed to inflict bodily harm including, but not limited to, air guns and explosive devices.

Because the Board of Education and Administration is continually concerned about the safety and welfare of the district's students and staff, behavior that creates an unsafe environment or a threat to safety will not be tolerated.

PESTICIDE ADVISORY

As part of the Grass Lake Community Schools' pest management program, pesticides are occasionally applied. You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school grounds and buildings. In certain emergencies, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided with notice following any such application.

DISTRICT NEWS

The Grass Lake Community Schools regularly publishes pertinent information and news through the district newsletter, the Smoke Signals. The Grass Lake Times and the Jackson Citizen Patriot are also consistently utilized to publicize matters relating to the school district.

STUDENT RECORDS POLICY

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parents or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate. Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the School principal (or appropriate school official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U. S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION

It is the policy of the Grass Lake Community Schools not to release the student lists, addresses, phone numbers or most other directory information. There are occasions, however, such as in publishing our athletic or activity programs, honor rolls and awards, in which the school may desire to publish limited information about the student. This notification will be provided annually to parents and/or guardians that certain information may be published from time to time during the school year.

In accordance with the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act, students or their parents/guardians do have the right to request that a student's name be removed from any school publication and must register their objection in writing with the school. Please contact the superintendent's office to obtain the necessary form.

IMMUNIZATION RULES

To enter school, state law prohibits a principal or teacher from admitting new entrants to school without a record of 1 dose of each: Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Polio, DTP, DT, TD, Hepatitis or a signed exemption. To stay in school you must provide the school with a record showing that your child has received all of the required immunizations. If immunization is against your religious beliefs, you must sign the exemption that is available at the school office.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

The Grass Lake Community Schools has received many new "mandates" over the past few years. Your local school has made every effort to adapt to the new guidelines in a variety of areas. To begin with we have recently undergone a "Three Year Asbestos Check-Up." The district has removed all asbestos that may have provided a health hazard to individuals. The same procedures have occurred with radon.

In addition, the district has a plan of action in place that provides compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Hopefully, one can see the many projects we have undertaken to insure ready access to the facilities.

In an effort to keep the public informed, the Grass Lake Community Schools abides by federal guidelines to annually inform parents of the application of nondiscrimination policy, pesticides and instruction of reproductive health issues.

SMOKE SIGNALS

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Grass Lake Community Schools provides a variety of learning options for eligible students with disabilities by offering a continuum of educational environments, from general education class placements with special services to pull-out and inclusionary programs in specialized classrooms.

If staff members or parents believe a student is struggling academically, socially or behaviorally, a referral should be made to the Student Assistance Team (SAT). The SAT may develop a general education intervention plan to support the student or they may recommend a special education evaluation. If referred for an evaluation, the SAT then determines whether referred students should be evaluated, and if so, in which suspected disability areas.

Once a student is formally evaluated, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) Meeting is held. At this meeting, a determination will be made as to whether the student meets the eligibility criteria for special education programs and/or services. If so, the IEP Team determines the type and degree of required special education programs and/or services. Students and parents are provided due process procedural safeguards as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Education Act (IDEA 2004). Special Education programs and services for Grass Lake Community Schools are operated and administered in the local school buildings and in out-of-district facilities, all in collaboration with the Jackson County Intermediate School District.

If you have any questions or concerns in relation to special education, feel free to contact the building principal.



Students with Mr. Cagney, of B & G Landscaping, who donated a tree to George Long Elementary

SMOKE SIGNALS

Food & Nutrition Services

Carlene Pindzia

Food Service Director

New legislation (The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act) governing nutritional requirements for the USDA's National School Lunch and Breakfast program was signed into law December 13, 2010. In response, the Grass Lake Food Service Department has revised our menus to meet the new requirements. To qualify for the school lunch pricing, students will be required to take at least three of the five food groups offered on our daily menus with one additional requirement; students will be required to take at least one serving of a fruit or vegetable. Students that only choose a bread, a protein and milk for their lunch will not meet the new requirements and therefore will be subjected to a higher Ala Carte pricing. At the High School and Middle School, in addition to the regular lunch menu, students will be able to choose ala carte items that may meet the new requirements to get the school lunch pricing. If the new requirements are not met, all food items will be priced at ala carte pricing which will cost the students more money. Our Department Staff will be encouraging all our Students to make healthier food choices.

To purchase breakfast and lunch, our schools will be using the Meal Magic debit system. Parents can go to the Food Services Department on our Grass Lake Schools Website to find a Web link to monitor their student's account balances. To make deposits, students at the High School and Middle School will be required to drop off their deposits in the drop boxes at their schools in the mornings. Elementary students will submit their deposits to their classroom teacher in the mornings. All student deposits should be placed in a sealed envelope with the student's legal name and student ID number on it. No deposits will be taken during lunch time in the lunch line. Also for your convenience, payments can be made through the PaySchools website located on our Grass Lake Schools website. Please note that deposits on the PaySchools site will be available one business day after the transaction is made.

For those families that need assistance, a Free and Reduced Lunch Application is enclosed on pages 9-12 of this newsletter. Please have this form filled out and submitted to the school at the beginning

of September. Or if you wish, an application can be printed from our School Website under the "Departments" tab at the Food Service Department. To qualify for a Free or Reduced lunch for your student, an application must be filled out every year. Applications are required by law to be processed 10 business days after received by the Food Service Director.

"Breakfast in the Classroom" will be offered in each Classroom at George Long Elementary. Breakfast will be available to eat at the beginning of the school day in your child's classroom. To comply with the law, students will be required to take a fruit and one other food group for the meal to qualify as a legal breakfast. Students that choose not to take the fruit will be charge a higher ala carte price for their breakfast. Please contact the Food Service Department to have your student blocked from purchasing breakfast if you do not want your student to participate in the program.

Cold breakfast will be offered five days a week in the Middle School Cafeteria. Hot breakfast will be offered five days a week in the High school Cafeteria. Students in these buildings will also be required to take a fruit as part of their legal breakfast. Breakfast will not be offered at any of our buildings on delayed start Wednesdays and 2 hour delayed starts due to bad weather.

Lunch and Breakfast prices for each School are as follows:

Breakfast all Schools -\$1.50
Reduced Breakfast all Schools - \$0.30

High School Lunch - \$2.40
Middle School Lunch - \$2.30
Elementary School Lunch - \$2.15
Reduced Lunch all schools - \$0.40

Milk - \$0.55.

Ala Carte prices will change this year due to new regulation. By law, students are allowed to purchase one breakfast and/or one lunch meal per day at the school meal prices. Students purchasing two whole meals for themselves or a friend will be charged \$3.70 for the second meal. Second entrees with a qualifying meal will cost \$2.50. There will be no price breaks. A few of the Ala Carte items will increase in price.



Students arranging rocks for the "GL" in the Elementary courtyard

George Long Elementary

Where the Learning Journey Begins!

Michelle Clark, Principal

Mission Statement: Teach, Learn, Care, Grow and Succeed

We would like to welcome our new and returning families to the district. We hope your summer was rewarding and restful. As the 2013-2014 school year begins there are many exciting experiences awaiting our students. To make this a successful year for our students, it's important for everyone to work together. The staff at George Long is dedicated, highly qualified and eager to ensure student success. We pride ourselves in having positive high expectations for our students and staff. To begin to help ensure student success, strive to actively listen and become involved with your child. Listen to how they feel about school. Get involved in school activities and keep open communication. Find out what they enjoy, what is easy or difficult for them. At the early ages it is important to set the stage for life long learning.

Evenings in many households are very busy. It is essential to set aside a consistent time to do homework. Even though your child may not have a specific assignment, keep this time open to read, practice math facts or write in a journal. Let your child know you are there to help them and encourage them to persevere. Help your child understand they are smart and they can do it. Most of all, compliment their success.

Before we look forward to the highlights of the upcoming year, I would like to take the time to acknowledge a couple of projects that took place at the end of the last school year. Mr. Arbuckle's third and fourth grade students put their heads together and, using a project based approach to learning, created a beautiful courtyard. This project consisted of developing plans, creating a budget, writing letters to local business and community members to seek donations and incorporated all areas of learning. This was an awesome learning project that fostered teamwork and hard work. Students were very excited to see the beauty the project created. When the school year starts we will have a great place for students to sit and read. As the year progresses we will continue to work in that area as we develop gardens so students can study plant life.

We would also like to give a big thank you to B & G Landscaping, a local business in Grass Lake, for donating a beautiful flowering tree that is located out front by the entrance of the building. The tree was donated in honor of the 5th grade class that moved up to the middle school. Each year Mr. Greg Cagney, owner of B & G Landscaping, is planning to donate a tree to honor our students' success and hard work. The students and staff want him to know how much we appreciate it.

Over the summer the staff attended several days of professional development as we are moving forward in becoming a Leader in Me School. This program is described in the following article from Alaina Ellison. We are very excited to move forward in this process to build the foundation for positive leadership in our school. As the year progresses you will be getting many updates and will be

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invited to share in our success and hard work.

I am sure the upcoming school year will bring many great challenges and rewards for our students. We look forward to seeing you at Back-to-School Night, August 27th from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Leader In Me

By: Alaina Ellison



The Leader in Me™

Welcome back! I would like to welcome not only returning students and families, but also our new students and families to the district. This is going to be a great year with new and exciting opportunities for students and the entire George Long community! As you may have heard, we have been honored with receiving the I Am A Leader Foundation Grant that has allowed us to receive extensive training and materials to implement The Leader in Me™ leadership model. This is very exciting! The Leader in Me™ creates a common language, built on proven principle-based leadership skills found in Dr. Stephen R. Covey's best-selling book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. These skills are:

- HABIT 1:** Be Proactive ® • *You're in Charge*
- HABIT 2:** Begin With the End in Mind ® • *Have a Plan*
- HABIT 3:** Put First Things First ® • *Work First, Then Play*
- HABIT 4:** Think Win-Win ® • *Everyone Can Win*
- HABIT 5:** Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood ® • *Listen Before You Talk*
- HABIT 6:** Synergize ® • *Together Is Better*
- HABIT 7:** Sharpen the Saw ® • *Balance Feels Best*

Prior to the 2013-2014 school year, teachers and staff are participating in multiple days of professional development in understanding and internalizing the 7 Habits. Teachers will integrate leadership language into school curriculum and instruction daily. The staff will collaborate and work together to effectively build a culture of leadership in classrooms and throughout the school. Our students will be given the tools to develop essential life skills and characteristics they'll need for success in the 21st century. We are looking forward to a great year!

SMOKE SIGNALS

GRASS LAKE FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE - 2013-2014

Varsity Football

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
8/29	Th	Dundee	H	7:00
9/6	F	Addison	A	7:00
9/13	F	Michigan Center	H	7:00
9/20	F	Napoleon	H	7:00
9/27	F	East Jackson	A	7:00
10/4	F	Manchester	A	7:00
10/11	F	Vandercook Lake	H	7:00
10/18	F	Hanover Horton	A	7:00
10/24or25	Th/F	Crossover Game (Big 8)	H	7:00

JV Football

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
8/28	W	Dundee	A	6:30
9/5	Th	Addison	H	6:30
9/12	Th	Michigan Center	A	6:30
9/19	Th	Napoleon	A	6:30
9/26	Th	East Jackson	H	6:30
10/3	Th	Manchester	H	6:30
10/10	Th	Vandercook Lake	A	6:30
10/17	Th	Hanover Horton	H	6:30
10/23	W	Crossover Game (Big 8)	A	6:30

Cross Country

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
8/23	F	Michigan Center	A	TBA
8/27	T	East Jackson Invtie	A	4:30
9/4	W	Springport	A	4:30
9/7	S	Addison Kuenner Invite	A	9:30
9/17	T	Vandercook Lake/Michigan Ctr.	H	4:30
9/21	S	Jackson Invite	A	10:00
9/24	T	Hanover Horton	A	4:30
10/1	T	Napoleon	A	4:30
10/5	S	Portage Invite	A	TBA
10/8	T	Manchester	A	4:30
10/12	S	Vandercook Lake Jensen	A	TBA
10/16	W	Conf Meet @ Ella Sharp	A	TBA

Varsity Volleyball

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
8/24	S	Western High School	A	8:30a
8/27	T	Jackson Christian	H	7:00
9/4	W	Addison	A	7:00
9/7	S	Clinton	A	TBA
9/10	T	Michigan Center	H	7:00
9/17	T	Napoleon	H	7:00
9/19	Th	Jonesville Tri	A	5:30
9/24	T	East Jackson	A	7:00
9/28	S	Spring Arbor	A	TBA
10/1	T	Manchester	A	7:00
10/5	S	Grass Lake Invite	H	9:00a
10/8	T	Vandercook Lake	H	7:00
10/15	T	Hanover Horton	A	7:00
10/17	Th	at Concord	A	5:30
10/23	W	Conference @ M.C.	A	TBA

JV Volleyball

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
8/27	T	Jackson Christian	H	5:30
9/4	W	Addison	A	5:30
9/10	T	Michigan Center	H	5:30
9/14	S	Clinton	A	TBA
9/17	T	Napoleon	H	5:30
9/19	Th	Jonesville Tri	A	5:30
9/24	T	East Jackson	A	5:30
9/28	S	Spring Arbor	A	TBA
10/1	T	Manchester	A	5:30
10/8	T	Vandercook Lake	H	5:30
10/15	T	Hanover Horton	A	5:30
10/17	Th	At Concord (Tri)	A	5:30
10/19	S	Grass Lake Invite	H	9:30a
10/21	M	Conference @ Addison	A	TBA

Varsity Golf/Girls

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
Schedule TBD				

Schedule subject to change

GRASS LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE - 2013-2014

SMOKE SIGNALS

MS Football

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
9/11	W	Addison	A	4:30
9/18	W	Michigan Center	H	4:30
9/25	W	Napoleon	H	4:30
10/2	W	East Jackson	A	4:30
10/9	W	Manchester	A	4:30
10/16	W	Vandercook Lake	H	4:30
10/22	T	Hanover Horton	A	4:30

MS Cross Country

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
9/7	S	Addison	A	9:30a
9/14	S	East Jackson Invite	A	9:30a
9/17	T	Vandercook/Mich. Ctr.	H	4:00
9/20	F	Jackson	A	4:00
9/24	T	Hanover Horton	A	4:00
10/1	T	Napoleon/Add@Napoleon	A	4:00
10/8	T	Manchester/EJ	A	4:00

MS Volleyball

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
9/16	M	Addison	A	4:30
9/18	W	Michigan Center	H	4:30
9/23	M	Napoleon	H	4:30
9/25	W	East Jackson	A	4:30
9/30	M	Manchester	A	4:30
10/2	W	Vandercook Lake	H	4:30
10/5	S	Michigan Center	A	9:00a
10/7	M	Hanover Horton	H	4:30
10/9	W	Addison	H	4:30
10/12	S	Manchester	A	9:00a
10/14	M	Michigan Center	A	4:30
10/16	W	Hanover Horton	A	4:30

Schedule subject to change

**Low Cost Health Insurance
Available for Eligible Families**

Michigan Health Insurance for Children (MICHild) is a low cost health insurance program, designed for Michigan residents that meet eligibility requirements that are based on household income limits. MICHild is for uninsured children of Michigan's working families. Their health care services are provided by many top Michigan HMO and other top health plans located in Michigan. MICHild covers: Check-ups, shots, emergency care, dental care, prescriptions, hospital care, vision & hearing, pre-natal care, mental health and substance abuse and more.

To qualify, your child must: Be a Michigan resident, be under age 19, be currently uninsured, meet income requirements, and be a US citizen. Contact Doug Moeckel at 522-5544 for more information or go to <http://1.usa.gov/re1nqJ> to register.

**EMERGENCY
SCHOOL CLOSING**

From time to time, school must be delayed or closed due to weather-related or emergency conditions. Every attempt is made to make the decision before 6:30 a.m. Parents should be aware that, due to the county-wide snow plowing schedule, school may be delayed for two hours. The following local stations will be contacted for announcements: WLNS TV 6, WILX TV 10 and WKHM 970 AM. Sometimes it is difficult to get through to the stations because everyone is calling at the same time.

In very rare instances, it may be necessary to dismiss school during the day because of deteriorating weather conditions, power failures, etc. Parents should remain posted to any of the above stations. In addition, parents are asked to not drop students off at school during these times of delay.

Please listen for these announcements from the local media as telephone calls to home and school will tie up lines needed for this communication.

While we attempt to maintain the same bus schedules on "bad weather days," there will be days when buses are running a little late. Please be sure that children have on proper attire in the event that they have to wait longer than normal for the bus.

Grass Lake Relay for Life

Friday, September 13th – Saturday, September 14th
The journey to end cancer starts with a single step. The American Cancer Society and Grass Lake Community invites you to take that step with us by joining the global Relay For Life movement. This year's Relay will take place at the Bechtel Sports Complex during the home football game against Michigan Center Cardinals.

For more information, contact Cassy Puskala at 527-285-5027 or go to www.relayforlife.org/grasslakemi

SMOKE SIGNALS

FROM THE WARRIOR CAMP

GRASS LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
899 SOUTH UNION STREET
GRASS LAKE, MI 49240

AUGUST 19, 2013

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GRASS LAKE, MI
PERMIT NO. 15

ECRWSS BOXHOLDER

Smoke Signals

20

August 2013

Festival of Tables


2013

The Grass Lake Educational Foundation (GLEF) is planning the Third Annual “Festival of Tables” for Saturday, October 12th, 2013. This event will feature a Silent and Live Auction, along with numerous raffles. Tables will cost \$235.00 for a table of eight if you decorate, and \$275.00 for a table of eight if we decorate for you. A Dinner of Fine Cuisine will also be served. This year a new feature called the “Super Silent Auction” will be introduced.

The Grass Lake Educational Foundation gives any of its profits directly back to support Grass Lake Community Schools and the students it serves. Last year’s event produced nearly \$27,000.00 in profit. With the revenue generated, the Foundation was able to increase teacher mini-grants, purchase technology for students, make a generous donation to the elementary Music Program and continue a scholarship program for our high school seniors.

Please consider a donation for either our silent or live auctions, or one of the many raffles. The GLEF is a 501(c)3 organization and, as such, your donation is tax deductible. Further, please consider purchasing a table and participating in this event! It will be a great time! Contact Brad Hamilton at (517) 522-5545.

