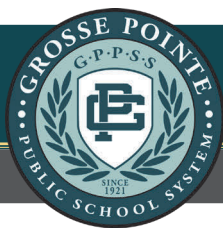


Partners in Learning



Spring 2022

Cultivate Educational Excellence By: Empowering Students • Valuing Diversity • Inspiring Curiosity • Pushing Possibilities

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National Merit

GPPSS was proud to honor an astounding 13 National Merit Semifinalists (top 1% in the nation) and 14 Commended (top 4%) students.

Semifinalists: Shannon Dame, Noah Dean, Lilly Geer, Sophia Graham, Ethan Harr, John Hetzler, Nicholas Litsas, Ronak Parikh, Jack Restum, Joseph Sabella, Ana Todesco, Igor Trifunovic, Meghan Wysocki.

Commended: Niella Amore, Adam Brien, Lorenzo Carozza, Olivia Dalman, Ellen Martin, Abraham Neds-Fox, William Quinlan, William Shall, Aleena Siddiqui, Eleni Tecos, Michael Tengler, Stephanie Westrick, Ella Worley, Molly Wysocki.

Save the Date

- Spring Break 3/28-4/1
- North Graduation 6/6
- South Graduation 6/8
- Last Day of School 6/17

Welcome home

For families re-enrolling in the district (and those enrolling for the first time), simply visit our website gpschools.org/enrollment. All forms can be completed online. Call the enrollment office with any questions at 313-432-3083 or email verify@gpschools.org. To schedule a tour or shadowing opportunity, contact the building principal or use our online form. We also have virtual tours available, linked from that enrollment page. We can't wait to welcome you!



Parcells Middle School teacher Alexis Lecznar was named 2022 NSDAR State Outstanding Teacher of American History and Parcells was inducted as a 2021-22 SMART Exemplary School for innovation in learning & technology.

A strategic plan for our future

We were proud to unveil our Strategic Plan which was approved by the Board of Education in December.

The plan provides a roadmap for the next three years, and represents the work of over 50 people from a range of backgrounds and perspectives – including parents, community members, teachers, administrators and students. The heart of the mission is cultivating educational excellence.

Three focus areas and accompanying goals and objectives are elaborated upon online at gpschools.org.

1) Curriculum, Instruction & Student Learning – GPPSS will cultivate a robust and equitable educational community where all learners are empowered to reach their unique potential.

2) Global Competency, Real World Literacy & Readiness – GPPSS will provide learning opportunities that allow students to acquire the attitudes, values, knowledge and skills

that prepare them to be contributing members of society in the real world.

3) Family & Community Engagement – GPPSS will develop and nurture strong connections among schools, families and the community to broaden opportunities for student growth and learning.

We believe meeting the needs of every student is best achieved through equitable access to our programs and services, from fostering and inspiring intellectual curiosity in our youngest learners, to empowering students of all ages to become leaders. By “equitable” we mean the process of ensuring that processes and programs are impartial and fair and provide opportunities for *every* student to reach their unique potential. Inclusion is the practice of ensuring that all students feel a sense of belonging.

Please join us as we prepare students for the futures that await them.

– Dr. M. Jon Dean, Superintendent

BOARD BULLETIN

The Role of your School Board

According to the Michigan Association of School Boards, the primary role of the school board includes:

- hiring/evaluating superintendent,
- setting policy that furthers the district's vision and goals, and
- establishing and maintaining a balanced budget.

Last summer we hired our new superintendent and Dr. Dean's first formal evaluation was conducted in February. Even before he officially began as Superintendent, Dr. Dean started holding listening sessions which were open to staff, families and the community. Those have continued including a recent virtual Town Hall on our new Strategic Plan which ties to that second role of the Board.

Our Strategic Plan

Over 50 community members from all schools and diverse demographics gathered to evaluate our mission and vision, and set measurable goals. The focus areas are:

Curriculum, Instruction and Student Learning

Under this goal area we outline how we will meet the unique learning needs of all learners in a healthy and safe environment. Here we also share specific ways GPPSS will attract, retain and develop a talented and diverse staff that supports, nurtures and grows all learners.

Global Competency, Real World Literacy & Readiness

Here we share how we will adjust policies for equity and inclusion so we create a community of learners that cultivates a sense of dignity for all stakeholders. This includes specific measurable tasks in student learning, professional development, staffing, and feedback mechanisms to make sure all voices are heard.



Good News items are presented to the Board of Education under the Superintendent's report of each meeting. We have recognized staff who literally saved lives, National Merit scholars, award-winning fine and performing arts programs, state and district championship teams, and many more. Here are our 2021-22 Distinguished Employees who were able to attend.

Family & Community Engagement

This goal area focuses on strategic community partnerships that broaden opportunities for student learning and growth (think work-based learning, career and technical education, after school programs, wrap-around support). This is also where we will attract and retain students through intentional, efficient and timely communication that increases trust and transparency.

Our Balanced Budget

Over the coming months, you will also continue to see transparency in our budget development process, from establishing parameters as we do each January, to approving a balanced budget as we do each June. Our audit last year was clean and unqualified again, even with the added challenges of COVID.

Regarding bond planning and oversight, there is a concise update on activities in this newsletter. Please read it, share it with friends, and email us any questions at schoolboard@gpschools.org.

Our board believes the quality of our public schools is intrinsically tied to the health of our community, and we

are prepared to celebrate its many great accomplishments and tackle the challenges the district faces head on. As we do that, we must all model civil discourse for our students, showing them what the democratic process can look like as we work together to constantly improve. I have every confidence our community will come together to ensure every student has the learning environment they need to be successful today and in the future.

*- Joseph Herd, President
Grosse Pointe Board of Education*

Board Meetings

These open meetings start at 7 p.m., and are held in the Brownell Middle School Multipurpose Room, 260 Chalfonte, unless noted. Meetings are also livestreamed and televised on Channel 20. You can access all materials from the Board calendar on our website. Click the date of the meeting, then agenda and all materials are there.

Upcoming dates are:

- March 14, 21 (spring break)
- April 11, 25
- May 9, 23
- June 13, 27

GPPSS

BY THE NUMBERS

Some quick facts and figures from
across the district

26

Advanced
Placement
Classes

1860 AP tests taken last year

95%

Graduation Rate
in 4 years

15% above the state average
98% Retention

30 States where our
2021 graduates
attend college

18:1 Student-Teacher
Ratio

2

Spartan Award
Winning Student
Newspapers

The Tower & North Pointe

A+

District Grade

Teachers
Academics
Sports
College Prep

2021 Grades on Niche.com

2 Grammy Award
Winning Music
Programs

Voted "Best Community for Music
Education" multiple years in a row

1112 Average SAT Score

114 points above the state average

89 2021 Graduates
attending a **top 50**
college or university

5 to Ivy League schools

30

Varsity Sports

120

High School Teams

60% of students participate in
at least one sport

13 National Merit
Semi-Finalists

2021-22 School Year

7

CTE Programs

Career Technical Education

7

National Blue
Ribbon
Schools

88% Teachers with a
Master's/Ed Specialist

National average is 58%

**Top
2%** Ranking among all
school districts in
the country

2021 on Niche.com



Grosse Pointe Public School System Bond

District Renovation Photos



New Classroom Door Hardware



New Classroom Millwork



Hydronic Heating System - Ma



New Corridor Clocks



New Secured Entry - Richard



New Secured Entry - Ferry



New Temperature Controls



New Corridor Flooring



Restroom Renovation



New Classroom Clocks



Classroom A/V Monitors



District Wide Security Cameras

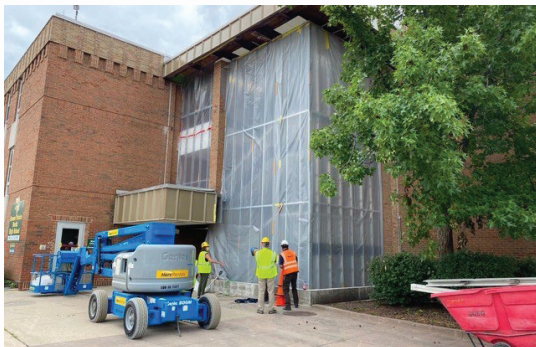
Program | January 2022 Dashboard Report



Fire



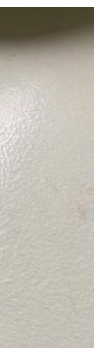
New Hot Water Condensing Boilers



GP North Stairwell Renovation



Restroom Renovation



Classroom PA

Proposed Bond Program Phasing

2019 Projects:

- South High School Track Replacement
- South High School Secured Vestibule
- Parcels MS Pool Equipment Replacement

2020 Projects:

- South High School Phase I
- Parcels Middle School
- Defer Elementary School
- Ferry Elementary School
- Monteith Elementary School

2021 Projects:

- South High School Phase 2
- North High School Phase 1 & 2
- Brownell Middle School Phase 1
- Richard Elementary School
- Maire Elementary School

2022 Projects:

- North High School Phase 3 & 4
- Brownell Middle School Phase 2
- Pierce Middle School Phase 1
- Kerby Elementary School
- Mason Elementary School
- Barnes Pre-K

Notable Current and Future Activities

January 2022 Activities:

- GP North third floor Phase 3 project construction starts
- Complete GP North Stairwell #2 window enclosure replacement
- January Board of Education Facilities Committee Project Update
- Update District wide facilities assessment
- Received bids for 2022 projects move management
- Received bids for 2022 building abatement from abatement contractors
- Received NOVA's fee for 2022 projects abatement oversight and testing proposal
- Turner released contractors to order long lead equipment

February 2022 Activities:

- February Board of Education Facilities Committee Project Update
- Board of Education meeting 2-14-22. Recommendations for Move Management, Abatement Contractors, NOVA abatement oversight and testing for 2022 projects, structured cabling,
- Project team meetings to discuss 2022 projects
- Meetings with project team to review shop drawings to expedite long lead order items

March 2022 Activities:

- March Board of Education Facilities Committee Project Update
- District wide phone replacement bids due
- Move management discussions with building representation

Partnership Profiles

Partnerships are a key component of our new strategic plan. Here are a few groups that help GPPSS meet the needs of students, staff and families. Watch for more profiles in our weekly *School Pointes* email.

Our staff are key partners

GPPSS is seeking qualified applicants for childcare, buildings and grounds, paraprofessionals, preschool, and substitutes. If interested, visit gpschools.org - Employment.

GPAFA alumni profiles

GPPSS is partnering with Grosse Pointe Alumni and Friends to profile 100 alumni in our centennial year. GPAFA is an independent 501(c)(3) whose purpose is to create a Generations Endowment Fund supporting our public schools. To read alumni profiles, learn about GPAFA or give, visit gpalumniandfriends.org.

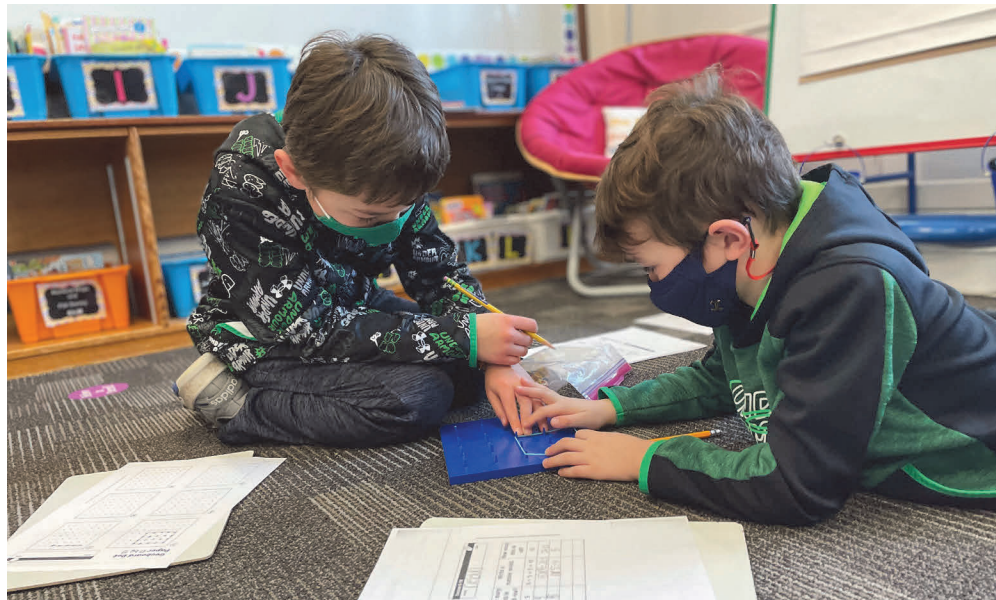
Healthy Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods

GPPSS is among 70 active members of HealthyGPHW.org, a community well-being initiative. The mission of Healthy GPHW is to reduce substance abuse among youth and across the community, and promote optimal mental health through action, education and collaboration. Our vision: Healthy GPHW envisions the communities of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods as safe, healthy, and free of substance abuse. To be added to the email list or attend meetings the third Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m., email Community Organizer Sasha Murphy at smurphy@careofsem.org.

The Family Center

GPPSS partners with The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods to deliver free programs and resources that empower families to navigate life's social, emotional, and physical changes. Call 313-447-1374 or visit familycenterweb.org.

Math program applies brain research



Studies show students using manipulatives improved their level of achievement, increased their understanding, and promoted a positive attitude to mathematical concepts they previously struggled with. Here are Maire students from Gina Green's class making geoboard arrays.

As we continue to explore our exit interviews, one of the themes we've seen is that families prefer the traditional math program seen in our local competitors. So why did GPPSS change to Everyday Math? This is a great question that was answered through extensive curriculum reviews over the last two decades. Through each review cycle, there were groups of teachers, administrators, and parents who examined curriculum, data, best practices, and standards alignment; and through these reviews it was determined that Everyday Math provides the instructional focus to advance mathematical thinking.

Everyday Math is a comprehensive curriculum that exposes students to material over extended periods of time, repeatedly reinforcing skills and concepts. In the past, math instruction was largely a system of teaching children how to do math, rather than how to understand and use math. Over the years, math instruction has shifted from traditional skills-based computation learning to a process of constructing under-

standing and meaning of mathematics to understand and solve real-world problems.

Everyday Math supports that shift. Our math instruction focus will continue to support students' ability to think mathematically and problem solve at a more complex level.

Another question we hear is: Do we still teach children long division and how to multiply with placeholders? Absolutely, and Everyday Math adds conceptual understanding and provides multiple ways to solve problems.

In addition, Everyday Math provides a spiral curriculum where material is revisited repeatedly over months and across grades. Spiraling leads to better long-term mastery of facts, skills, and concepts and sustains learning over time. Students see concepts again on a regular basis and understanding is built over time.

To continue learning, visit everyday-math.uchicago.edu/ and watch the videos and read the research.

Gold Card Calendar showcases the arts



South's Wind Ensemble was among only eight schools selected statewide to perform at the 2022 Michigan Music Conference.

Free admission to various athletic functions and dramatic and musical productions is our way of thanking local senior citizens for the support they have provided the school system. If you are 60 years of age or older, a resident of the district, and wish to obtain a Gold Card, please call 313-432-3003.

Copies of the calendar are available at the Board Office, 20601 Morningside, Grosse Pointe Woods, as well as at the public libraries. Events are subject to change; please check the website.

Date	Event	Location
3/10-11, 7 p.m.	Parcells Musical <i>Willy Wonka, Jr.</i>	Parcells Auditorium
3/16-19	South Art Fest 2022 Wed.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4 p.m., 5-7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	South MPR
3/24, 7 p.m.	North Vocal <i>Great Works</i> Concert	Assumption Church
4/21-22, 7 p.m.	South Musical <i>Into the Woods</i>	North PAC
4/23, 2&7 p.m.	South Musical <i>Into the Woods</i>	North PAC
5/11, 7 p.m.	Brownell Instrumental Concert	Brownell MPR
5/12-13, 7 p.m.	Pierce Musical <i>School House Rock</i>	Pierce Auditorium
5/17, 6 p.m.	Middle School Honors Orchestra	Brownell MPR
5/17, 7:30 p.m.	Middle School Honors Band	Brownell MPR
5/19, 7 p.m.	South Instrumental Concert	Brownell MPR
5/19-20	North Art Show	North PAC
5/19-20, 7 p.m.	North Vocal Spring Concert	North PAC
5/24, 7 p.m.	North Drama <i>One Acts</i>	North PAC
5/25, 7 p.m.	North Instrumental Outdoor Concert	North Front Lawn
5/25, 7 p.m.	Pierce Vocal Spring Concert	Pierce Auditorium
5/26, 7 p.m.	Brownell Vocal Spring Concert	Brownell MPR
6/1, 7 p.m.	Pierce Instrumental Concert	Pierce Auditorium
6/3-4, 7 p.m.	South Choir <i>Broadway</i> Performance	North PAC
6/6, 7 p.m.	Tri- Concert	South Auditorium
6/7, 7 p.m.	Parcells Instrumental Concert	Parcells Auditorium
6/9, 7 p.m.	Parcells Vocal Spring Concert	Parcells Auditorium

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More Good News

Follow us on social media

- Facebook @GPPSS
- Twitter @GPSchools
- Instagram @gpschools

If you do not have a student in GPPSS currently, but would like to subscribe to our weekly *School Pointes* email, please contact Mary Anne Brush at brushm@gpschools.org or call 313-432-3029.

Summer Programs coming

Summer learning opportunities and camps are under development. Watch www.gpschools.org - click *Programs - Summer*, or our weekly updates for registration information.

Preschool options

The mission of the GPPSS Child Development and Preschool program is to provide a secure and caring environment which offers young children opportunities to discover, share, make friends, grow and begin the journey of lifelong learning. The program includes: full-day toddler, prep, preschool and Pre-K at Barnes, and full day Pre-K (age 4) at Ferry and Richard. GPPSS will add programs based on demand, while remaining cost-neutral to the balanced budget. Enrollment opened in January for 2022-23. Call 313-432-3809 for limited openings now and explore the *Programs - Preschool* section of our website.

Young Fives - Enroll by April 8

Kindergarten - Enroll by May 1

gpschools.org/enrollment

Enroll Now!

YOUNG FIVES: Complete the enrollment process by April 8. Lottery takes place April 12.

KINDERGARTEN: Complete the enrollment process by May 1 to guarantee placement in your home school.

Enrollment can be completed 100% ONLINE!

GPFPE awards over \$106,000 in grants to our schools

For fifteen years, the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education (GPFPE) has been funding extraordinary opportunities for students and teachers throughout the district, at



every grade level and at every school – to date close to **\$3.6 million** granted!

This winter, the GPFPE announced more than \$106,000 in grants to the Grosse Pointe Public School System. This included more than \$95,000 through the biennial grants process, as well as more than \$10,000 to the first recipients of the new SEED (Social Emotional Encouragement and Development) grants, which specifically target programs that support the emotional and mental well-being of students and faculty.

The biannual fall grant recipients are:

- Calm Collect for Preschoolers with Special Needs (Preschool) Barnes (\$596)
- Literacy Footprints (K-5th) All elementary schools and 5th grades (\$67,725)
- iPads to Support Learning for K-1 Students (K-1st) Maire (\$6,600)
- Orff Instruments for Maire Bears (K-4th) Maire (\$8,157)
- Book and Baggies (Kindergarten) Monteith (\$2,777)
- Literature Circles in Eighth Grade (8th) Parcels (\$1,000)
- Harlem String Quartet Residency (6-12th) Pierce, Brownell and South (\$1,500)
- Salmon in the Classroom (9-12th) North (\$2,398)



Save the Date

GPFPE's 2022
Spring Benefit
Thursday,
June 2
Grosse Pointe
Yacht Club
Visit
gpfpe.org
for more
information.

- Macro Camera Lenses (9-12th) South (\$2,770)
- Upgrade to the Music Technology/Piano Lab (9-12th) South (\$2,000)

The SEED grant recipients are:

- “BeaTween” the Books Therapy Dog Program (5th-8th) Pierce (\$800)
- Chill Room iPad for check-in/out (9th-12th) South (\$794)
- Wellness Lunch Time (9th-12th) South (\$327)
- Therapeutic Fidget and Sensory Items (9th-12th) North (\$300)
- Inclusivity Training for Teachers (5th-8th) Brownell (\$350)
- University of Michigan Peer to Peer Program (9th-12th) North (\$2,500)
- Sensory Path to Support PBIS (K-4th) Defer (\$5,400)
- Yoga Club for Teachers and Students (5th-8th) Brownell (\$300)

SEED grants are available year-round, outside of the biennial grant applica-

tion cycle. The GPFPE believes that our students do their best academically when they are at their best emotionally and we look forward to the long lasting,

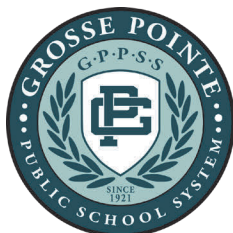


positive impact the SEED program will have on our entire community.

The GPFPE would not be able to do what we do without the nearly 2,000 individual and corporate donors from throughout the community,

who believe as we do that strong communities and strong schools are *inextricably linked*, and have come together to support our public school system.

For more information or ways to support our mission, please visit gpfpe.org or find us on Facebook and Instagram @TheGPFPE.



2021 Board of Education

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Dr. M. Jon Dean, Superintendent