

Partners in Learning



Fall 2021

Our Mission: Promote Innovation → Maximize Potential → Embrace Community

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A perfect score

At the September 27th board meeting, the board of education publicly recognized North High School senior Sophia Graham for her perfect score on the ACT. She is among 0.334% of all test takers who earn this score!

School breaks

- Election Day 11/2 (PD for staff)
- Thanksgiving Break 11/24-26
- Winter break is 12/23-31, with classes resuming Monday, 1/3
- Midwinter Break, 2/21-25
- Spring Break, 3/28-4/1
- Last Day, 6/17

Save the date

- **GPPSS Open House** - Sunday 11/7, all schools open 12-2
- **Rising Freshman Parent Info Night** - Thursday, 1/6/22, 6:30 p.m., at both North and South
- **Middle School Info Night** - Tuesday, 1/11/22, 6:30 p.m., Brownell, Parcells and Pierce
- **Young Fives & Kindergarten Info Night** - Thursday, 1/13/22, 6:30 p.m., each elementary

Fall For Reading

From October 1-November 30, kids ages 0-18 are invited by the Grosse Pointe Public Library and GPPSS to track their reading days and complete activities to earn free books and be entered in a drawing for gift cards to local businesses. Use <https://gp.beanstack.org/reader365>



The first day of school was full of smiles and excitement for Monteith students Nadiyah and Nicholas Symonette, whose dad, Nick Symonette, was also gearing up for the start of the school year as a teacher and interim assistant principal at Parcells.

Setting goals for the next 100 years

This has been a great start to the school year. As I promised in the interview process, I am committed to the work of healing as a school community. To do that, we must listen. We have hosted listening sessions at each building, and more are coming. We have presented the insights gleaned from these sessions, and our staff and community surveys. This important data will also be used by the more than 50 diverse voices on our Strategic Planning Committee who are examining our vision, mission and goals for the next three to five years.

We have also adjusted board meetings to foster dialogue between board members and administration. Moreover, board members have joined the administrative team and me at the listening sessions, bond progress tours, and the first week of school to continue this important work of

healing. During our classroom visits, we witnessed teachers focused on building relationships with students and patiently supporting them as they learned the classroom protocols. Our students haven't had a "normal" school year since 2019, and we're working through adjustments cognizant of social and emotional needs. Those must be met before students can learn. We are all committed to providing a safe learning environment for staff and students, and face-to-face instruction.

GPPSS students are learning. Inside this newsletter is a snapshot of some of the data points we are using to determine how we can best meet each learner's needs -- whether that is more challenge or more support. Thank you for keeping kids first as we set goals for the next century of excellence in education.

- Dr. M. Jon Dean, Superintendent

BOARD BULLETIN

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

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

Last spring, your elected board worked through a comprehensive process to hire Jon Dean as our new superintendent. Even before he officially took over July 1, Dr. Dean began conducting 14 listening sessions which lasted throughout the summer and were open to school staff, families and the community. Each board member had an opportunity to join in on listening sessions at all of our buildings. Those will continue this fall.

Another way the board and administration are listening is through the Strategic Planning process that started in September. Over 50 community members from all schools and diverse demographics are gathering to evaluate our mission and vision, and set measurable goals for the next 3 to 5 years. The energy in these sessions is amazing. It is exciting to see people committed to making the next 100 years of our district reflect our community's values and tradition of excellence.

Over the coming year, 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. We expect the same this year, even with the added challenges of COVID.



Joseph Herd, Lisa Papas and Margaret Weertz are the three Board members serving on the Strategic Planning Committee, along with over 50 community members who represent diverse perspectives and roles throughout our district.

Regarding bond planning and oversight, there is a concise yet comprehensive update on activities inserted in the center of this newsletter. I encourage you to read it, share it with friends, and email us with 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 will 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 meeting materials from the Board calendar on our website. Click the date of the meeting, then click 'agenda' and all hyperlinked materials are there.

Upcoming dates are:

- October 25
- November 8, 22
- December 13, 20

The 2022 meeting calendar will be voted upon in January.

2021 Board of Education

President Joseph Herd
Vice President Margaret Weertz
Secretary Dr. Christopher Lee
Treasurer Colleen Worden
Trustee David Brumbaugh
Trustee Ahmed Ismail
Trustee Lisa Papas

PA-25 annual report summarized here

Each year, public schools are required to publish and present annual reports. District information is shared at the televised October board meeting. Schools present the data at Back to School Night or PTO meetings. Full reports are posted at gpschools.org under Our District. Below is a quick snapshot.

Printed copies of the full reports are also available by calling 313-432-3003. Please note that COVID has impacted scores across the country, but this data, along with classroom assessments and parent, student and teacher input, is important in assessing each child's needs in order to deliver the highest quality education.

ACT

	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
2019-20	25.8	25.6	26.1	25.3	25.8 (MI 24.6, US 20.6)
2018-19	25.8	24.6	25.3	24.8	25.2 (MI 24.4, US 20.7)

SAT

	Percent Tested	Reading & Writing	Math Mean
2020-21	79% (MI 58%)	562 (MI 523)	550 (MI 508)
2019-20	98% (MI 85%)	561 (MI 503)	559 (MI 495)

2020-21 Spring NWEA by Grade Level

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Reading	74	71	68	68	67	61	62	68	65
Math	74	69	68	61	64	61	56	59	61

A percentile is the percentage of students in a national norms groups who scored at or below a particular score (for comparison, national average is 50 for each).

Advanced Placement (AP) Update

The total number of AP tests taken by district students was 1,859 in 2020-21 (1,717 in 2019-20) despite COVID. Over 44% of GPPSS high school students take an AP class. The district percentage of tests passed with a score of 3, 4, or 5 is a very healthy 55%, above state and national averages.

M-STEP Michigan Assessment Program (Old data due to COVID)

Grade	English	Math	Science	Social Studies
3rd 20-21	63% (43%)	61% (42%)	-	-
3rd 18-19	61% (45%)	64% (47%)	-	-
4th 20-21	61% (44%)	65% (37%)	-	-
4th 18-19	57% (46%)	60% (42%)	-	-
5th 20-21	61% (44%)	52% (30%)	39% (29%)	28% (16%)
5th 18-19	64% (46%)	55% (35)	-	29% (17%)
6th 20-21	54% (39%)	46% (29)	-	-
6th 18-19	53% (42%)	46% (35)	-	-
7th 20-21	65% (41%)	54% (32)	-	-
7th 18-19	54% (43%)	48% (36)	-	-
8th 20-21	PSAT 79%	PSAT 57%	35% (23%)	46% (26%)
8th 18-19	PSAT 82%	PSAT 63%	-	43% (28%)
11th 20-21	-	-	38% (16%)	80% (44%)
11th 18-19	-	-	-	70% (47%)

- Percentages are students achieving a satisfactory score.
- State averages are provided in parentheses for comparison.
- A dash (-) designates where that grade was not tested/released for that subject.

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Project Find and Child Find

If your child age birth to six years is experiencing developmental delays, or if you suspect your school-age child has a disability affecting his or her academic performance, notify your child's teacher, counselor, or principal or contact Stefanie Hayes, Director of Student Services at 313-432-3856.

Preschool options

GPPSS continues its tuition-based preschool options and the program is currently being studied by an Early Childhood Committee with recommendations anticipated to go to the Board of Education in November. The program currently includes: half-day preschool for 3-year-olds (2 days) and 4-year-olds (3 days) at Richard and Monteith; and full day preschool at Barnes, Ferry, Monteith, Richard and Trombly. GPPSS will add programs based on demand, while remaining cost-neutral to the balanced budget. Enrollment opens in January for 2022-23. Call 313-432-3809 for limited openings now and explore the Programs - Preschool section of our website.

Young Fives Kindergarten

Young Fives is an alternative for children whose parents feel they are not yet ready for a traditional kindergarten experience. The program is currently housed at Defer, Mason, Maire, and Monteith. The natural progression from Y5 is to Kindergarten at their neighborhood school. Growing physically, intellectually, socially, and emotionally, while establishing a safe culture for learning, continues to be our focus.

Did You Know?

... that Defer Elementary was once a rhubarb patch? It was located on the Ludwig Meininger farm, a two-block strip of land from Jefferson to Chandler Park Drive. Follow us on Instagram @gppschooldistrict and Twitter @GPSchools for more fun facts.



Grosse Pointe Public School System Bond Program | October 2021 Dashboard Report

Construction Progress Photos



GP North Track Install



Brownell New Visitor Parking Lot



Maire Hydronic Heating System



Richard Classroom Paint and Flooring



GP North Track



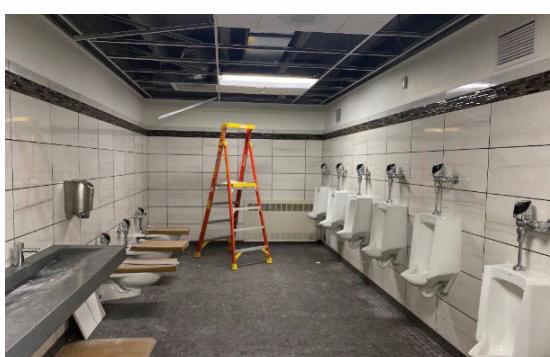
Brownell Restroom Renovation



Maire New Flooring, Lighting, Paint



Richard New Classroom Millwork



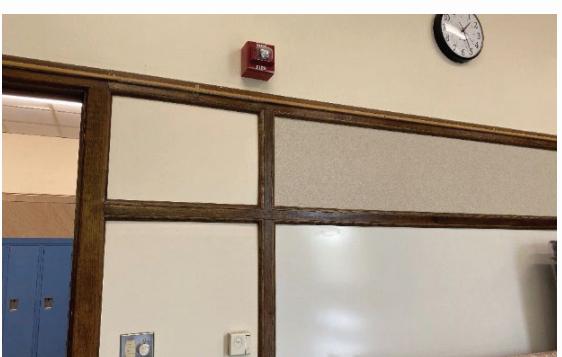
GP North Restroom Renovation



Brownell Cafeteria Renovation



Maire New Classroom Lighting, Ceiling, Flooring, Tack/White Boards



Richard New White Board/Tack Board



Brownell New Secured Vestibule



Classroom A/V Monitors



District Wide Security Cameras



Richard Fire Escape Replacement

Proposed Bond Program Phasing

2019 Projects:

- South High School Track Replacement
- South High School Secured Vestibule
- Parcells Middle School
- Defer Elementary School
- Ferry Elementary School
- Monteith Elementary School

2020 Projects:

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

2021 Projects:

- South High School Phase II
- North High School Phase I
- Brownell Middle School Phase I
- Pierce Middle School
- Kerby Elementary School
- Mason Elementary School
- Barnes Pre-K

2022 Projects:

- North High School Phase II
- Brownell Middle School Phase II
- Barnes Pre-K

Notable Current and Future Activities

September 2021 Activities:

- Students return September 6th
- Design Development Estimates for 2022 Projects
- Delayed equipment/material installations
- September Board of Education Facilities Committee Project Update
- Bond Oversight Committee meeting to discuss Pierce, Kerby, Mason, Barnes scope and estimates
- 2022 Project environmental surveys
- 2021 Project punch list – Construction, IT, Security
- GP North Phase 2 Renovation – Third floor
- Issue GP North and GP South ballfields for bid

October 2021 Activities:

- October Board of Education Facilities Committee Project Update
- Update District wide facilities assessment
- Project team meeting to discuss lessons learned from 2021
- Issue 2022 Project Construction Documents for bidding

November 2021 Activities:

- November Board of Education Facilities Committee Project Update
- Receive 2022 Project bids
- Turner Bid validation with sub-contractors – December BOE first and second read for GMP
- 2022 Commissioning Services recommendation

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Policy annual notification

Several Board of Education policies require that the school community be annually notified. A quick list of these policies is included here, but the whole set of policies is posted at www.gpschools.org under School Board. There is also a search feature built into the online policy manual the district continuously updates with Neola.

- 2260- Nondiscrimination
- 5310- Health Services
- 5341- Emergency Medical Authorization
- 5516- Student Hazing
- 5517- Harassment of Students
- 5517.01- Bullying and Other Aggressive Behavior
- 5530- Prevention of Drug/Alcohol Use
- 5600- Student Discipline
- 5772- Weapons
- 5780- Student/Parent Rights
- 8330- Student Records

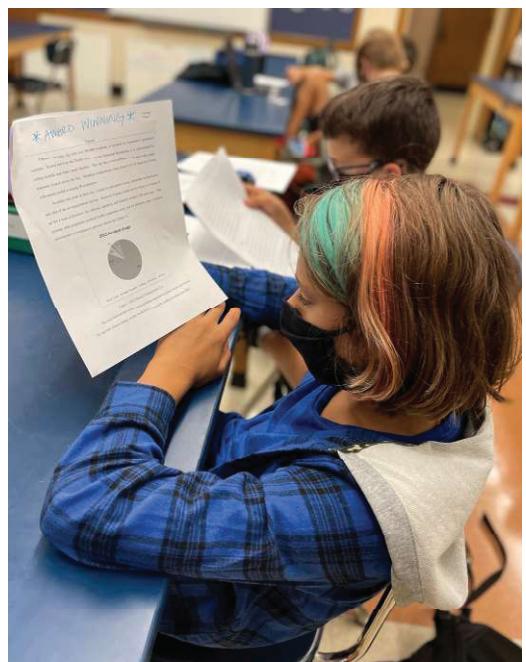
Several policies relate to the Board's belief that hazing, harassment, bullying and other aggressive behavior are inconsistent with the educational process. The Board believes a safe, civil school environment is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Bullying or other aggressive behavior toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties, is strictly prohibited. Harassment through any means, including electronically transmitted methods, may be subject to district disciplinary procedures. Such behavior is considered harassment whether it takes place on or off school property.

GPPSS works diligently to ensure all students and staff feel safe in our learning environment. We encourage you to report incidents first to your teacher, then principal, then central administration.

GPPSS Celebrates 100 Years



As our district celebrates its history, Pierce students are participating in Future City, a project-based learning program where middle school students imagine, research, design and build cities starting with a question: How can we make the world a better place?



This year marks 100 years of educational excellence in the district. We invite the community to join us in celebrating this milestone at events throughout the school year.

Community Tailgate

Explore the Community Tailgate Friday, Oct. 22, before the North v. South football game in South's stadium. Festivities run from 5:30-7 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to gather on South's front lawn and hear the music of The Boys of Summer, enjoy delicious fare from food trucks, and connect with friends and neighbors.

History showcase

Our history exhibit will debut during the Community Tailgate, with the doors of Cleminson Hall and the Boll Athletic Center open for guests to view 100 years of GPPSS history. Unable to come to the tailgate celebration? Contact info@gpschools.org for other days the exhibit will be open, including our Open House.

Open House

Every school building will be open

12-2 p.m., Sunday, November 7. Tour the schools, see bond work, and ask students and staff about their experience in our district today. The Board of Realtors will also be hosting open homes that day, so invite friends to explore our community.

Santa Parade

GPPSS alumni are invited to join us as we participate in the Grosse Pointe Chamber Santa Parade on Friday, November 26 (after Thanksgiving). Dig out those varsity jackets, letter sweaters, spirit wear or other school swag and march behind our 100th anniversary banner to show off your GPPSS pride.

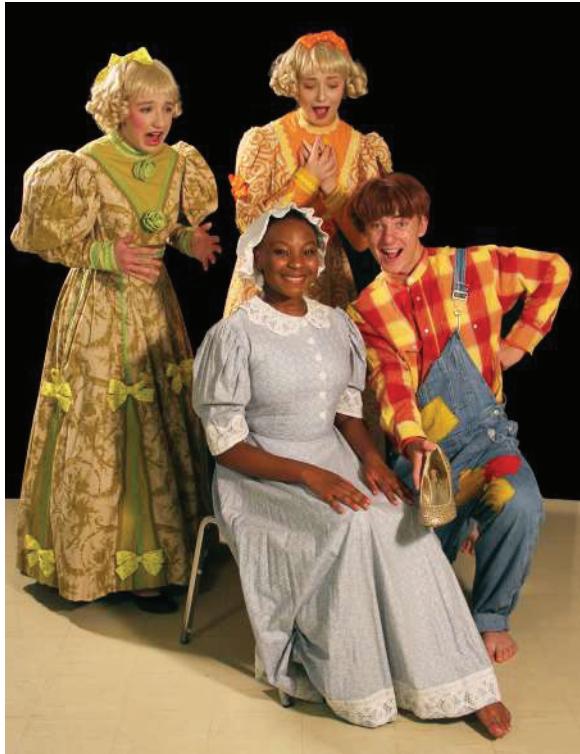
Alumni Through the Decades

We're in search of 100 alumni to profile! Visit gpalumniandfriends.org to complete an alumni profile form or nominate a classmate.

Stay in touch

Follow us on Facebook @GPPSS, Instagram @gppschools and Twitter @GPSchools, or email info@gpschools.org to subscribe to School Pointes, our weekly e-newsletter.

Gold Card Calendar showcases talent



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. Spring events will be published in our next district newsletter. Copies of the calendar are available at the Board Office, 389 St. Clair, Grosse Pointe, as well as at the public libraries. Events are subject to change; please check the website. *Pictured left: A Toby Show by North Drama Club*

Date	Event	Location
10/23, 7 p.m.	North Fall Vocal Concert	Parcells Auditorium
10/26, 7 p.m.	Pierce Instrumental/Vocal Concert	Parcells Auditorium
10/30, 7 p.m.	North Instrumental Pops & Pastries	North Gymnasium
11/6, 7 p.m.	South Instrumental Pops and Pastries	South Gymnasium
11/11-12, 7 p.m.	Brownell Drama	Brownell MPR
11/16, 7 p.m.	Brownell Fall Instrumental Concert	Brownell MPR
11/18-20, 7 p.m.	South Fall Drama	South Auditorium
11/30, 7 p.m.	Pierce Instrumental Concert	Pierce Auditorium
12/3, 7 p.m.	South Choirs <i>Sounds of the Season</i>	Brownell MPR
12/4, 2 p.m.	South Choirs <i>Sounds of the Season</i>	Brownell MPR
12/7, 7 p.m.	Pierce Winter Vocal Concert	Pierce Auditorium
12/8, 7 p.m.	Brownell Winter Vocal Concert	Brownell MPR
12/9-10, 7 p.m.	North Vocal Winter Concert	First English Lutheran
12/10, 7 p.m.	South Jazz Band <i>Yule Be Boppin</i>	South Auditorium
12/14, 7 p.m.	North End <i>Band-O-Rama</i>	North Gymnasium
12/15, 7 p.m.	District Wide <i>String Extravaganza</i>	South Gymnasium
12/16, 7 p.m.	South End <i>Band-O-Rama</i>	South Gymnasium
1/12/22, 7 p.m.	Parcells Winter Vocal Concert	Parcells Auditorium
1/25, 7 p.m.	South Wind Ensemble Pre-MMC	Brownell MPR
2/3-4, 7 p.m.	North Musical	PAC at North
2/5, 2 & 7 p.m.	North Musical	PAC at North
2/8, 7 p.m.	Pierce/South Band Pre-Festival	Pierce Auditorium
2/10-11, 7 p.m.	South Drama One Acts	South Auditorium
2/15, 7 p.m.	Pierce/South Orchestras Concert	South Auditorium
2/16, 7 p.m.	Parcells/North Orchestras Concert	PAC at North
2/16, 7 p.m.	Parcells/North Band Concert	PAC at North
3/2, 7 p.m.	South Choir <i>Winter Spectacular</i>	PAC at North
3/10-11, 7 p.m.	Parcells Musical	Parcells Auditorium
3/24, 7 p.m.	North Vocal <i>Great Works</i> Concert	Assumption Church

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Nondiscrimination

The District shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. The Superintendent shall designate not less than two compliance officers who are responsible for coordinating the District's compliance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations, and for investigating reports of discrimination. The Superintendent shall ensure that all required notices under the civil rights or other laws are provided to staff members. The Superintendent shall develop and implement administrative guidelines to enforce this policy. For further information on nondiscrimination, visit: gpschools.org under School Board - Policy or <http://wdcrobcollp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

Peachjar flyers

GPPSS has moved to online ADA compliant flyer distribution through Peachjar. Click the Peachjar icon on our website to set preferences. You can choose schools to receive flyers from, and they will be emailed to you. Nonprofit groups can economically upload their flyers also.

Pesticide Notification

As part of the Integrated Pest Management Program, pesticides are occasionally applied. GPPSS uses habitat alteration, sanitation, mechanical means, and exclusion, to prevent pests from becoming a problem. Notices are posted at primary entrances and by the office. For questions or notification, contact Support Services, 389 St. Clair.

GPFPE's Be the Beacon benefit sets record

The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education (GPFPE) held its annual Be the Beacon Benefit on June 3, 2021, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. The event brought in \$270,000, a record fundraising total for the organization.

The GPFPE also launched its new SEED (Social Emotional Encouragement and Development) initiative at the event, with \$94,000 raised for this new program. SEED will fund grants specifically targeting social and emotional growth, healing and connections, and other mental health programs. The SEED paddle-raise included a tremendous lead gift of \$25,000 from the Boll and Mestdagh families.

The remaining funds raised at the benefit will support the GPFPE's biannual district-wide grants distribution.

For example, last spring, GPFPE awarded eight grants totalling \$35,778. Spring grants included:

- Early Childhood Hands-On (E.C.H.O.) Library and Resource Center at Trombly Early Childhood Center
- Engaging Preschoolers in Movement at Barnes
- Moving to the Beat of My Own Drum at Defer, and
- Richard Elementary Playground Replacement.

Those four grants were made possible through the Lois J. Warden Fund that has been established for important elementary programs within the school system.



Also funded this past spring were:

- Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine at Parcells
- Harmony Directors to Help Retrain Ensemble Skills at Brownell, Pierce, Parcells, North and South
- iPad Cart and 20 iPads at South, and
- Peer to Peer Program Funds at North.

To learn more, visit gpfpe.org, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @thegpfpe, or call 313-432-3058.



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GPPSS job postings

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

Healthy Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods

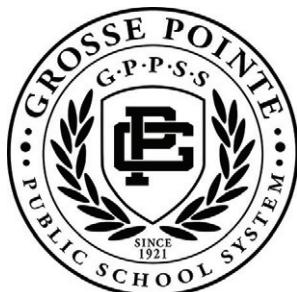
GPPSS is among 70 active members of HealthyGPHW.org, a community well-being initiative. The mission of Healthy GPHW is to reduce substance abuse among youth and across the community and promote optimal mental health through action, education and collaboration. Our vision: Healthy GPHW envisions the communities 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.

Family Center partnership

GPPSS continues to partner 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.

Visit familycenterweb.org or call 313-447-1374 for details.



2021 Board of Education

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Trustee Ahmed Ismail
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