



GROSSE POINTE
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Partners in Learning

Excellence in Education: Learning and Leading for Today and Tomorrow

Fall 2008

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Enrollment for new students

All enrollment forms are on the district website under the enrollment dropdown. Call 313/432-3083 today to make your registration appointment.

Call for your Gold Card

Gold Cards offer the district's senior citizens the opportunity to attend, without cost, various school sponsored events throughout the year. Free admission to athletic functions and dramatic and musical productions is our way of thanking local senior citizens for the support they have provided the Grosse Pointe Public School System. To obtain a calendar or Gold Card, please call 313/432-3007.

Project Find and Child Find

If your child age birth to six years is experiencing developmental delays, "Don't worry, but don't wait." Contact Acting Co-Directors of Student Services Rose Mendola or Sue Banner at 313/432-3856. 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 call 313/432-3856.

Grosse Pointe Public School System
389 St. Clair Avenue
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
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www.gpschools.org

We are prepared for a successful school year

It is probably no surprise that this is one of my favorite times of the year. I love the energy in all of our buildings as we opened our doors to students Wednesday, September 3, to begin a new school year.

Teachers are finalizing plans to incorporate what they learned in summer classes or read during their break into instruction this year. There are many learning opportunities presented during summer that are used to their full advantage by staff and students alike. For example, over 80% of our teaching staff holds advanced degrees and summer is a popular time to take those Masters, Specialists and Ph.D. classes. Also, due to options such as Camp Invention and writing, drama and television production classes as well as the more traditional enrichment and credit options, over 900 students participated in summer school this year. Learning doesn't end for our staff or students.

Just as individual students are thinking about the contents of their backpacks, our administrative team is double-checking the largest collection of textbook purchases in district history. Over \$1 million was spent on new textbooks this year after curricular teams carefully reviewed which options most closely match state and national standards and benchmarks, as well as our rigorous local standards. Some of these are for new courses like Robotics, Digital Seminar and Applied Medical Investigations that again demonstrate the unique community partnerships presented here. Such courses help students make connections between

what they are learning in school and how these lessons are applied in the world outside the classroom. Many textbooks also have online components so learning can be easily extended beyond the classroom, and materials

We are grateful for the participation of our community in the educational process

such as maps can be updated so the most current information is at our students' fingertips.

Technology is another area of exciting continued growth. The district's new 2008-2011 technology plan shows our concerted efforts to provide the best technological training and experiences for our students with appropriate staff development and knowledge of students' aptitude and expectations for this digital world.

All summer, administrative and support staff members have been enrolling students, with activities ranging from checking residency documentation, to providing professional development for new teachers, to counseling students on course selection.

Throughout the summer, many things have occurred which may not have been visible when driving past our buildings, and the last weeks of summer have a particularly hectic pace. Our facilities staff has worked to finish summer bond and sinking fund projects enabled by our community to ensure our beautiful buildings continue to provide a safe and secure environment that encourages learning.

We are grateful for the participation of our community at large in the educational process. Let the year begin.
- Dr. C. Suzanne Klein, Superintendent

BOARD BULLETIN

Beginnings bring clean slates, new goals and endless possibilities. Students may start a new school year with the intention to “get all A’s” or make a new friend. Perhaps they dream of setting a new athletic record or performing an original composition.

It is the Board’s hope that each and every student will accomplish something new and meaningful this year.

To support that hope, the Board, in concert with the Superintendent, sets district goals for the year. Goals help guide the district and staff on the mission to become the premier district in the state.

With this in mind we would like to share our vision for this year’s district journey.

Based on data accumulated through student performance in various tests and activities, the administration identifies academic areas that need improvement. In this issue you will find many testing results.

The Board receives the data along with the analysis of the data by the professional educators. The assessment continues with a plan of action. The Board then evaluates the plan to make sure it is congruent with the Board’s philosophy and vision for the district.

Other pillars of district performance include our financial status as well as the positive learning environment. Budget parameters are set in collaboration with administration following review of student enrollment and the rate of per-pupil reimbursement. Goals for the district learning environment include the state and security of our buildings, and the positive behavioral supports we apply for all our students.

Last spring a district survey was performed to obtain community input on the learning environment pillar of the district. This data is used to help formulate goals in that area.



Given this year’s data analysis the superintendent has recommended goals in several areas. The Board discussed and approves the annual district goals at the October Board meeting. The highlights will include plans to improve student achievement in math and writing, as well as increase use of technology and electronic tools to improve achievement and engage students in the learning process. Additionally, we will look to increase support for our struggling learners in math and language arts. Finally, we look to promote character and good citizenship through our school learning environment.

No ship sets sail without charting a course. Likewise, the school district does not open its doors without a plan to complete the mission.

The goals are what guide our vision. Our mission is to “ensure that each student is challenged to fully develop individual abilities, skills and character to succeed in life. We are committed to creating an environment that cultivates

knowledgeable, responsible, and caring citizens who embrace life’s possibilities with a passion for continuous learning.”

As the students embark on a new school year with individual dreams and hopes, rest assured that the Board together with administration is working to support the attainment of excellence for each and every student.

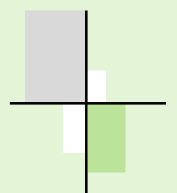
2007-08 Board of Education

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Angela Kennedy, Secretary
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Ahmed Ismail, Trustee
John Steininger, Trustee

Board meetings are typically the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 8 p.m. July through December they are held in South High School’s Wicking Library, 11 Grosse Pointe Boulevard. January through June they are in North High School’s Library, 707 Vernier.

Agendas and meeting times are posted in the Administration Building at 389 St. Clair Avenue, and on the district website www.gpschools.org

The Board of Education welcomes input through their email schoolboard@gpschools.org



2007-08 Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) Results						
	Reading	Writing	ELA*	Math	Science	Social St.
Grade 3	96%	76%	93%	97%	-	-
2006-07	95	74	92	95	-	-
Grade 4	94	66	90	93	-	-
2006-07	95	61	92	93	-	-
Grade 5	92	77	90	86	93	-
2006-07	95	79	93	92	95	-
Grade 6	95	91	96	89	-	92
2006-07	95	86	91	81	-	90
Grade 7	90	91	91	90	-	-
2006-07	94	85	93	84	-	-
Grade 8	94	88	93	87	91	-
2006-07	91	85	90	84	89	-

Spring 2008 (2007) Michigan Merit Exam Grade 11				
	All	Female	Male	Percent Tested
Reading	85% (83)	88% (85)	81% (81)	96% (97)
Writing	69 (66)	72 (73)	65 (60)	96 (96)
ELA	78 (77)	82 (81)	73 (73)	96 (96)
Math	73 (72)	71 (71)	74 (73)	96 (97)
Science	81 (79)	81 (81)	81 (78)	96 (96)
Social Studies	95 (96)	96 (98)	95 (94)	96 (97)

2007-08 ACT Mean Score Results for 12th Grade Students						
	% Tested	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
GPPSS	96.9%	22.6	23.0	23.5	22.7	23.1
State	98.1%	18.7	19.5	19.8	19.9	19.6
Nation	44.7%	20.6	21.0	21.4	20.8	21.1

2007-08 SAT Results for 12th Grade Students			
	% Tested	Critical Reading	Math Mean Score
GPPSS	24.4%	599.3	605.3
State	5.7%	581	598
Nation	47.8%	502	515

Advanced Placement (AP) Update
 The total number of AP tests taken by district students increased to 1,618 in 2007-08, up from 1,416 in 2006-07. The district's percentage of students taking tests remains significantly higher than our like districts and the state. In 2007, 58.9% of Grosse Pointe seniors took the tests, compared to 14.5% for Michigan. The district percentage of tests passed remains a very healthy 78.8%, well above state and national averages.

Percentages shown above are students achieving a satisfactory score.
 * ELA stands for English Language Arts.
 -/- designates grade levels where students were not tested in that content area

2007-08 Quick Facts

- **91% of Parents Participated in Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- **Average Daily Attendance of 95%**
- **Completion/Graduation Rate of 95.42%:** High school students who graduate in four (4) years
- **Dropout Rate of 3%:** students who do not complete the GPPSS high school program
- **Retention Rate of 96.99%:** District average high school enrollment minus high school dropout rate
- **Three (3) students earned credit by Successful Course Test-Out**
- **Six (6) students Dual Enrolled** concurrently in high school and post-secondary classes

School Improvement Update

Grosse Pointe Public School System has had a district Strategic Planning process in place since 1987. Goals of the most recent Strategic Plan include:

- 1) As a result of challenging educational programs, high student achievement and outstanding opportunities available for all its students, the Grosse Pointe Public School System is considered the state's premier school district.
- 2) A highly competent staff, committed to the highest standard of excellence, creates a positive learning environment for all students.
- 3) Technology is effectively integrated to support the work of students and staff so that learning results improve and productivity is enhanced.
- 4) The district's communication initiatives keep residents well informed, enhance community partnerships and attract new families to the district.
- 5) The district acts as a wise steward of its financial assets by following guiding principles to determine funding, controlling costs and maximizing the benefits received from its assets to support and enhance the instructional program, and successfully cultivating new sources of revenue.

Find the complete annual report and Strategic Plan at www.gpschools.org.

I Vote for Reading

Need a specific holiday gift idea for a third grade grandson or a fifth grade niece? The GPPSS library media specialists hope you will consider results of a district wide election as you make your selection. This idea began last spring when the seven specialists decided to use the concept "I vote for reading" to help students explore the electoral process.

"Kids are very specific about their reading preferences," said Libby Van de Putte, the library media specialist for Defer and Trombly. Building upon that knowledge, librarians had each classroom nominate favorite book candidates. Then librarians read them to younger students or encouraged older students to read them independently so they could make an informed decision.

A primary election was held early in the fall. Each student voted for their favorite book using a secret ballot. Then, the top ten books district wide for each grade were voted upon.

Lessons and ballots were adjusted as needed. For example, Kindergarten students voted by using a picture ballot, while older students' ballots resembled those used in actual elections. All discussed concepts such as having one vote, secret ballots, and the importance

of civic responsibility and participation. Here are the top student-selected titles.

Kindergarten - Snip Snap, What's That, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, Chicka Chicka 1, 2, 3, If You Give a Pig a Pancake, Pinkalicious, Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus, Mouse Count

Grade One - Dinosaurs Before Dark, The Pigeon Wants a Puppy, Biscuit, Pokemon, Bad Kitty, Click, Clack Moo, Get Well, Pikachu, Wacky Wednesday, Do Not Open this Book

Grade Two - Tuesday, Skippyjon Jones, The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog, Duck for President, The Stinky Cheese Man, Tonight on the Titanic, Horrible Harry, Goosebumps, Diary of a Fly

Grade Three - Goosebumps, Guinness Book of Records, Star Wars, Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's Journal, High School Musical

Grade Four - City of Ember, Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's Journal, Goosebumps, The Indian in the Cupboard, Guinness Book of Records

Grade Five - The Kid Who Ran for President, Harry Potter, Number the Stars, Marley: A Dog Like No Other, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Peak, A Series of Unfortunate Events, Loser, Tale of Despereaux

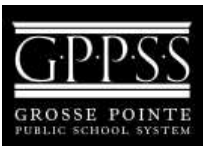
Pesticide Notification

As part of the Grosse Pointe Public School System's Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM), pesticides are occasionally applied. Under Michigan Regulation 637 as amended, 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 notice following any such application.

If you wish to be notified of pesticide applications during the 2008/09 school year, please submit the following information to the address below :

- Parent/Guardian Name
- Student Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- School Student Attends

Department of Support Services
Grosse Pointe Public Schools
389 St. Clair Avenue
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230



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