



GROSSE POINTE
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Partners in Learning

Excellence in Education: Learning and Leading for Today and Tomorrow

Spring 2008

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Register now for fall

If you have a child who will be attending a GPPSS school for the first time this fall, now is the time to register. All enrollment forms are on the district website under the enrollment dropdown. Call 313/432-3083 today to make your registration appointment. Since staffing levels are set based on enrollment counts, enrolling today will help us allocate staff efficiently.

There are still a few slots left for the tuition based extended day kindergarten program. Call 313/432-3083 today for more information!

Gold Card Calendar available

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 drama 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.

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Spring is a time for wonderful events such as fine and performing arts performances. Shown here is Grosse Pointe North's award-winning orchestras and bands that performed their annual spring concert at Detroit's nationally recognized Orchestra Hall on April 12.

Student MEAP scores are high and stable

The district uses numerous assessments to determine how well students are learning. These include: classroom quizzes, common assessments used across the district, the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) computerized exams done three times per year for grades 1-8, the GP Writing Assessment

administered annually for grades 1-9, ACT, SAT and Advanced

Placement scores, and the Michigan Educational Assessment Program. MEAP scores are among the most commonly known as they are used by public schools across the state for comparison year to year, against other districts, and as a component of Adequate Yearly Progress reporting.

MEAP scores from tests students took last fall were recently released. In general, our scores are consistently over 90% and have improved or remained high and stable. A chart showing the district scores is posted on our district website.

The phenomenal success of our students – particularly in reading and mathematics – is a testament to our highly qualified staff and coordinated efforts to update and align each subject area with state standards and benchmarks. While the scores for our schools and district have been

Fall elementary and middle school MEAP scores a 'phenomenal success'

published widely already, what is less well known is the work behind that demonstrated success.

We start with a philosophy of inclusion, utilizing accommodations to ensure as many general and special education students as possible are tested. Then results from all the assessments described above are compared to identify patterns of achievement in each school.

The Board of Education and administrators look at the largest picture. They identify goal areas for the district and lay those out in the annually updated Strategic Plan.

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New courses add depth to academic options

Exciting new courses were recently approved by the Board of Education for this fall. They include Mandarin Chinese, a robotics course, and Medical Investigations.



Medical Investigations class

The opportunity to shadow local medical professionals is a key component of a unique high school science pilot program at North that is designed for seniors intending to pursue careers in medicine or technology. Students will assist in laboratory research and clinical rounds by shadowing doctors, researchers and other medical personnel at:

- Wayne State University, School of Medicine
- University of Michigan, Biomedical Engineering Department
- Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe
- Henry Ford Hospital, Warren

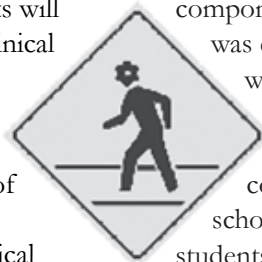
In addition, staff from these prestigious medical institutions will travel to Grosse Pointe North to conduct class seminars and lectures.

“By partnering with Grosse Pointe Schools in this new course, we believe we are providing invaluable opportunities and experiences to high school students that will translate into high caliber medical school applicants,” said David Pieper, Assistant Dean of Wayne State’s School of Medicine, Department of Continuing Medical Education. “Our ultimate goal is to educate better physicians for the future. This new course will help us do that.”

The course is the outgrowth of an extracurricular program called “Health Careers Investigations Club” that was founded by Renee Seago, certified registered nurse anesthetist of Beaumont, who was also instrumental in developing the pilot science course.

Robotics class grows from FIRST program

A popular after-school program, the FIRST robotics competition, has led to approval of a pilot course within the school day at South. The “Gearheads” have received considerable financial and mentoring support from General Motors, and it is hoped that the opportunity to receive course credit for this hands-on application of math, science, and marketing concepts will continue to bolster the after-school



component. The logo seen here was developed by students whose marketing plan has brought numerous awards at FIRST competitions. College scholarships earned by these students have already totaled over \$40,000 this year.

Mandarin Chinese

Over the past several months, the Educational Planning Leadership Council (EPLC) Chinese Language Study Group has evaluated the feasibility of offering Mandarin Chinese. The committee included teachers, administrators, parents and students. Information gathered included a study of existing programs in similar districts, a survey of students in grades 6-10 and parents to gauge interest in Chinese study, and consideration of alternative study options if Chinese is not offered. The interest is there, and the course will run at the middle and high school levels based upon actual student enrollment. Chinese has been offered as an after- and summer school class in the district.

Destination Imagination

The regional tournament for Destination Imagination for Grosse Pointe teams did a fantastic job. Of the 17 Grosse Pointe teams competing, 13 went on to compete at the state level and five teams took first place. The state competition was held at Central Michigan University on Saturday, April 19, after this newsletter went to press. You can view the results at www.micreativity.org/region8.

DECA students head to Atlanta

Six students representing Grosse Pointe South and five students representing Grosse Pointe North’s DECA Clubs (Distributive Education Club of America) qualified to attend the International DECA competition in Atlanta this April: **North** - Abigail L. ’08, Adam G. ’08, Andrew C. ’09, Jackie S. ’10, and Gianna M. ’10; and **South** - Kelly B. ’08, Dan D. ’11, Theresa H. ’08, Jamie S. ’08 and the team of Hannah S. ’08 and Danika S. ’08. Both teams took the State Competition in March by storm, with South winning a total of 56 medals and North winning 22. At the State competition, students competed against the best competitors from every district. The top five students in each event then qualified for the international competition. DECA is a business club, where students are required to demonstrate a mastery of marketing and economic concepts in a competitive format. South DECA Club is coached by teacher Bill Cayo and North’s by teacher Michelle Davis.

You be the Chemist

Grosse Pointe students made a clean sweep of the top five awards at the Wayne Regional You Be the Chemist Challenge. Created by the Chemical Educational Foundation, the You Be The Chemist Challenge competition aims to engage grade 5-8 students in a dynamic event that partners members of the chemical industry with schools and organizations in the communities in which they operate. Our top three winners will continue on to compete at the State Challenge on April 26th.

Camp Invention is June 23-27

Creativity and brainstorming are the building blocks to your child's future! Camp Invention® emphasizes those skills and more and GPPSS is proud to be among the select districts in Michigan that will serve as a host site at Ferry Elementary June 23-27.

Children will create exciting new games and transform ordinary household items into extraordinary inventions during this week-long summer adventure for those entering grades 2-6. Children will participate daily in five activity-oriented modules focused on science literacy, math, history and the arts.

Debra Duffey, a teacher at Parcels Middle School, will direct the camp and local teachers will teach the five modules. High school and college students will be hired to serve as camp counselors. The camp features a low staff-to-participant ratio of 1:8. The camp fee includes snacks and a t-shirt.

Registration for each camp is limited to 110 children, so register early. In addition to registering online, you may also register at 1-800/968-4332, via fax at 330/849-8528 or by mail at Camp Invention, 565 White Pond Drive, Akron, OH 44320. For more information, visit the Web site at www.campinvention.org or contact Michigan's Regional Coordinator, Kathy Gualtieri, at kgualtieri@wowway.com or 248/835-1318.

Project Find

If you have a child between the ages of birth and six years that is experiencing developmental delays, "Don't worry, but don't wait." Contact Denise Sweat at 313/432-3856.

Child Find

If you suspect your child has a disability affecting his or her school performance, please notify your child's teacher, counselor, or principal or call Denise Sweat, Director of Special Education, at 313/432-3856.

Lifelong learning all year long

Explore Grosse Pointe Public School System's Summer Learning Options

Summer school classes and workshops

June 12th may mark the official end of the traditional school year, but learning doesn't end there in the Grosse Pointe Public School System. The district offers a wonderful educational summer program that will enrich and enlighten your children. Courses that reinforce the curriculum are combined with appealing activities offered at all three levels. Most courses are taught by the district's own capable, dedicated staff.

There are several new five-week courses being offered this year and new mini sessions have been added to fit into busy summer schedules.

High school classes begin July 7 and elementary and middle school classes begin July 8, unless otherwise noted.

The complete summer school brochures along with registration forms can be accessed online at www.gpschools.org/summerschool.

For more information, contact Heather Halpin in the Elementary Summer School Office 313/432-3094, or Ranae Beyerlein in the Secondary Summer School Office at 313/432-3095.

Camp O'Fun June 16-August 22

Camp will be at Ferry Elementary School. It is open from 7:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except the day of July 4.

Camp O' Fun is for campers 4 years, 9 months -10 years, with The Club House for campers 10 years and over. Both provide a comfortable and safe environment where children can explore, play and relax, with a maximum of 10 students per counselor. Rates for Camp O'Fun are \$210 for residents and \$220 for non-residents per week, or \$50 per day. Advanced notice is required and forms are on the website.

For more information, contact Cheryl Dorman, Supervisor at 313/432-3009.

MEAP scores, continued from page one

The detail work for each subject area is carried out by curricular planning teams. Led by curriculum specialists, these teams include teachers, principals, administrators, parents and business leaders. The teams compare what our students demonstrate on assessments to State standards and benchmarks (what they are expected to know). If a significant number of students are not testing well in a particular area, that section of the curriculum receives particular attention. Content may be added, deleted or changed, or the sequence of lessons or courses may be adjusted to improve results.

The teams rotate through a curriculum revision schedule. For example, both science and social studies were under

review this year. While the fall MEAP scores for those areas are in the 90s, the district will be excited to watch what happens as changes are implemented next year, with impact expected on 2009 scores. English Language Arts will begin review this fall.

School Improvement teams take one step closer. They develop school-appropriate goals and measurements based on their school scores. And teachers and curriculum specialists take another step in – looking at individual class and student scores to adjust instruction at that level.

There is always more to be done, but I can assure you that we will not stop in our endeavor to meet the needs of each and every student, each and every day.

- Dr. C. Suzanne Klein, Superintendent

Students and staff are recognized

Student Recognitions

- Pierce Middle School had six students win seven regional level Gold Key Awards from The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for their personal essay/memoirs and one student (CJ Ryder) win the prestigious national Gold Award which places her writing into the top 1% of the 100,000 nationally submitted works!
- Eva Dou, Editor of South's *Tower*, was named Michigan's High School Student Journalist of the Year by the Journalism Education Association.
- South's Jordan Long was named the Division II State Champion for diving. In this meet, he broke the Division II State record of 477 points with a score of 496 points.
- On March 19 at the University of Michigan Dearborn, the Grosse Pointe North Chemistry Team did an outstanding job in the American Chemical Society's Chemistry Olympiad competition. Two students each won a \$250 award and qualified for the National competition.
- Grosse Pointe North's music program was named one of the Top 100 in the country and is a Grammy Foundation finalist.

Staff Recognitions

- South's Mark Davids has been chosen as the 2008 Michigan Science Teachers Association (MSTA) High School Science Teacher of the Year.
- Coach Dan Greisbaum has been selected as one of the newest members of the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. He will be recognized at the annual Hall of Fame Banquet and All Star game at Comerica Park on June 15th and 16th respectively.
- Tom Zaglaniczny, Building Engineer at Trombly Elementary School, has been selected by the Michigan Education Association as the winner of the Leon Brudder Award as Educational Support Person of the Year.
- Jeff Nardone was selected as a 2008 recipient of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Key.
- Rosemary Padesky was chosen to be GPPSS Support Employee of the Year.

Details on these and other recognitions are posted on the district website under News and Information. Please help us congratulate these students and staff members for a job well done.

District celebrated Earth Day April 22

As part of the Energy Task Force's ongoing efforts, the entire district participated in Earth Day activities April 22. From 2:15-3:15 p.m., all classrooms that were able to safely do so turned off their lights, similar to the Earth Hour celebration by communities across the globe at the end of March.

Teachers on the task force also shared activities appropriate for each grade level, including elementary friendly websites with Earth Day activities, a middle school advisory class math problem to calculate the energy savings in their building by shutting off the

lights that one hour, and a collection of energy efficient ideas from students that were emailed to task force chair Rich.VanGorder@gpschools.org.

That day, Melissa Bryan was announced the winner of the logo contest to go with the Task Force theme, "Ready, SET, Go!" She received a \$150 cash prize courtesy of three unions (Grosse Pointe Paraprofessionals, and Local One 6E Coordinating Council and Education Support Personnel) and the administration. All submissions are being featured on the district website and Cable Channel 20/902.

Two State Championship Teams!

South's Lady Blue Devils Hockey



The Lady Blue Devils Ice Hockey Team captured its eighth State Championship on March 8th at the Detroit City Sports Ice Arena. Their team goal was to finish undefeated and they did by going 19-0-2.

North's Girls Basketball



North's girls' basketball team of 12 players defeated a very competitive and talented East Lansing team to capture the Michigan High School Athletic Association Class A State Championship game at Eastern Michigan University on Saturday, March 8.

Mark your calendars

Graduation ceremonies are fast approaching. This year they are:

- June 11 at North High School, and
- June 12 at South High School.

Diplomas for veterans

If you were a Grosse Pointe high school student who left before graduation to serve our country for the Korean War or World War II, you may be eligible for a high school diploma. Those interested in learning more should call the Superintendent's office at 313/432-3003.

GPFPE issues \$100,000 Reading Challenge

The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education (GPFPE) is pleased to announce the \$100,000 Reading Challenge. This community wide campaign will raise funds to accelerate implementation of the innovative and successful Foundations of Analysis Synthesis Translations (F.A.S.T.) reading system.

The life of one local student has been changed forever thanks to F.A.S.T. In an effort to give back, his family wishes to honor his passion for helping other children who struggle with reading. So, the GPFPE is pleased to announce a generous leadership gift of up to \$50,000 made by the John and Marlene Boll Foundation to the \$100,000 Reading Challenge. His mother Kristine Mestdagh shared, "After spending time in some of the local public schools and watching the



teachers and children use the F.A.S.T. Learning Program, we have been so encouraged. The stories of success continue to overwhelm us and we are thrilled that the Grosse Pointe Public Schools have incorporated this program into the school system."

The district will use funds raised to accelerate teacher training and classroom implementation for kindergarten and first grade classrooms and in areas of greatest opportunity at the middle and high school levels.

GPFPE asks that contributions to the \$100,000 Reading Challenge be sent to: GPFPE, c/o Northern Trust Bank, 120 Kercheval Avenue, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. For questions about the Challenge or GPFPE, call 313/432-3058 or email ourfuture@gpfpe.org.

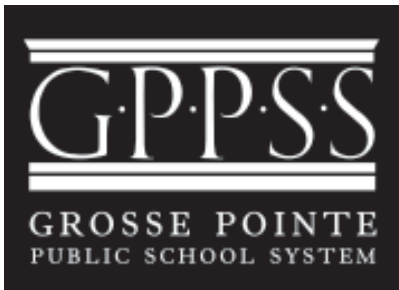
Pesticide Notification

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 Ave.
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230



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