

April 16

Pointes of Promise

GPPSS Music Department has been recognized once again as being a **2020 Best Community for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation**. We are 1 of 14 school districts in the state with the designation this year. The application is comprehensive and has questions about the curriculum, cross-curricular teaching, our teachers' training, opportunities for students during the school day, after school, and summer camps, as well as support for the arts and arts education within the broader community. Thanks to all of you for your support of the Music Department and the experiences that you provide students each and every day in the GPPSS.

North's Audry Rakozy was selected as a recipient of the 24th Annual **Michigan Education Association Scholarship** in the amount of \$1,200! Because of her record of outstanding accomplishments in both academic achievement and service, she was chosen (out of 401 applicants) as one of the best public high school students statewide to receive the MEA scholarship award. Only 29 new MEA Scholarships will be awarded this year.

South's Dominic Dulac was notified by the Louisa St. Clair Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, that he has been named as a **State Winner of the DAR Good Citizens contest!** He was selected from among the group of exceptional winners from all fifty-two of the DAR state chapters. Kris Fontichiaro, Regent of the Louisa St. Clair Chapter NSDAR, said, "Our Chapter is privileged to have a student of your talents to sponsor in this process and we wish you all the best as you graduate and move forward with your education."

North's Melissa Haubert won the Detroit News CATCH Scholarship in the Performing Arts category!

5th Grade Camp update

Due to the Stay Safe, Stay Home order, the 5th Grade Camp **Parent Meeting** previously scheduled for April 23 has been **postponed**. We are working with the camp to **reschedule** that meeting during registration **the week of August 24th**. As the 5th Grade Camp experience is part of the orientation, team-building, and welcome plan for incoming 5th grade students, and is at a location within Michigan, GPPSS is hopeful this activity will run as scheduled in the fall. This is in contrast to the 8th grade Washington DC trip which is being postponed to the spring at all 3 middle schools, as it requires out of state travel, and can be used as a capstone activity for 8th grade students before they transition to high school. In all activities, the district will of course follow safety guidance from authorities, and contingency plans are in development.

GPPSS Spirit Week April 20-24

Numerous members of our community have reached out to ask for a district-wide spirit week. Using their suggestions, we have developed a week of activities based on suggested themes. We will provide additional detail each day on the website and social media @GPSchools and @GPPSS. As it is Earth Week, you get bonus points for creative ways to participate by re-using materials you find around the house. Here is a quick overview. We'd love for you to pick a day or an activity a day and play along!

Monday: Health Care Worker Appreciation

- Head outside to clap for essential workers at change of shift (6:50 p.m.)
- Consider donating to a cause

- Write a letter to essential workers and place in the dropbox behind the Administration Building 389 St. Clair

Tuesday: Class of 2020

- Decorate your front door with activities your student loves (a concert outfit, a jersey, a piece of artwork - bonus points for reusing materials at no cost as it is Earth Week)
- Wear your school spirit
- Post a picture with the hashtag #OneGP @GPPSS @GPSchools

Wednesday: Earth Day

- Review your city's recycling guidelines as a family
- Photo Scavenger Hunt (unique rock, flower, 5 leaves, something you love to play, an essential worker you want to thank, something that starts with the letter G or P or H or W, something you will recycle, an animal)
- Post a picture of your family re-using something creatively

Thursday: Neighbor Kindness

- Send a card to a friend, family member, senior or veteran (addresses on web www.gpschools.org or deliver to dropbox behind 389 St. Clair and GPPSS will distribute to The Helm, hospitals and veteran centers)
- Set up lawn chairs on your driveway or front yard and socialize maintaining 6 feet distance (6 p.m.)
- Facetime, Zoom, Google Meet with a family member or friend

Friday: Self Care

- Think about what you do to practice mental health - coloring, music, exercise, quiet time - and do it!
- [GPPSS Physical Education family activities](#)
- [GPPSS Elementary Music activities](#)

Help us share the fun on Facebook @GPSchools or Twitter @GPPSS with the hashtag #OneGP

Board of Education update

At Monday's virtual meeting, which is available for viewing on demand on [Livestream](#) and twice daily this week on our cable channel 20, the district presented a draft of the Continuity of Learning Plan that is now at Wayne RESA for approval. That document will be shared once approved. All of the agenda [action items](#) passed 7-0 including the March 23 minutes, the bid for the PA and clock systems, Turner construction fees and cost recommendations, TEC environmental consultant recommendation, and the human resources report. The HR report included appointing Jodie Randazzo the permanent principal of Ferry Elementary, and Walt Fitzpatrick the principal of Kerby starting in the fall of 2020. Both Jodie Randazzo and Julie Bourke had been serving in interim principal positions and were thanked for their impressive work and dedication to our students. Julie Bourke will return to a teaching position within the district. The April 27 meeting is also anticipated to be virtual due to COVID Stay Home orders, and agenda items include the minutes, HR report and approval of the district's [reconfiguration curriculum](#). There were 54 teachers and administrators on the eight curriculum committees that developed the proposals that passed [Educational Programs Leadership Council](#) (EPLC) 20-2 and are up for Board approval next meeting. The committees include 6th grade English Language Arts and Communications, 6th Grade Life Skills, 6th Grade Advisory, 5th grade report cards, 5th and 6th grade Innovation and

Design, 5th grade World Language, 5th grade Support and Enrichment, 5th grade Extra PE. Under Information and Discussion the board discussed the Middle School Program of Studies, and the Health Care Report. With elective surgeries postponed, due to COVID, the health care costs are down, but an anticipated rise once these begin again will likely impact next year's budget.

Kindergarten online pre-enrollment deadline is May 1

While Young Five numbers were higher than usual, Kindergarten numbers remain below our average for this time of year. If you have a kindergarten student, **please complete the [online pre-enrollment](#) before the May 1 deadline.** GPPSS appreciates your help getting the word out to friends and neighbors with little ones as well. Staffing assignments are based on actual enrollment not projections. After May 1, GPPSS cannot guarantee placement at your 2020 home school. Residency documents will be collected when we resume business as usual.

Advanced Placement Test Information Parent Webinar

Updated - April 16, 2020

On **Thursday, April 16 from 7-8PM EST**, Trevor Packer, Senior Vice President of AP and Instruction, will be hosting a webinar for parents and guardians to share information about this year's at-home AP Exams and how to help your student prepare. Trevor will be joined by Jane McBride Gates, Provost and SVP, Academic and Student Affairs from Connecticut State Colleges & Universities and Kristin Brandt, AP Live Human Geography teacher from Glenbard West High School. This webinar will go into detail about the online exams and format, how to prepare at home for them, and answer common questions parents and students may have. We encourage parents and their AP students to sit in on this webinar together. If you are a parent of an AP student, you can register for the webinar [here](#) and tune in live with your student(s) on 4/16. You can also share this registration link and webinar information with your communities as many of you know parents of AP students. A recording of the webinar will be available via the registration link after the live event.

Online Resources:

Students: <https://apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org/students>

AP Live (YouTube resources): <https://www.youtube.com/user/advancedplacement>