



# Griffith Public Schools

Superintendent of Schools, District Discipline Advisor  
Michele Riise

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August 10, 2018

Dear Griffith Public Schools' Parents, Legal Guardians, and Community Members:

As we look forward to students returning to school on August 14, 2018, I would like to take this opportunity to share some information about the upcoming school year. Once again, we are planning some initiatives that we hope will enhance your child's education and your relationship with the school.

This year will continue to be shaped by our mission and vision as outlined in our strategic plan. Our accomplishments, this past school year, have been monumental, and we will continue our focus on teaching and learning so that our students graduate college and career ready. While maintaining the implementation of the strategic plan, this year we will focus on addressing 1:1 technology, social/emotional and suicide training for staff, transition of Special Education programming and services, High Ability and Title 1 programming and services, college and career readiness, increase of STEM/PLTW offerings, graduation pathways work, curriculum and assessment, and school safety. Clearly, it is a year of great ambition and promise. Henry Ford once stated, "If you think you can do a thing or you think you can't, you're right." I know that we can meet all of these initiatives because we have a faculty and staff who believe in the promise of educational excellence. We know that we have work to do, work that requires commitment, focus, and collaboration, and we know that we will succeed.

With all of this in mind, we, at Griffith Public Schools, have recognized the importance of professional development for our teachers and staff and currently have approved it as one of our core commitments in which we value. In addition, our administration has noticed that our high school students who attend CTE offerings at Hammond Area Career Center are losing valuable instruction time due to a conflict of start/end times with Hammond Schools, as well as our own Griffith students who ride buses were unable to be dropped off or picked up at the designated times so a loss of instruction time occurred. In order for positive changes to effectively happen within the district for the betterment of our students, a change to our start/end times, as well as late start Tuesdays, were approved by the school board on February 8, 2018. The following changes will be effective for the 2018-19 school year:

## **Student Start/End Times:**

MS/HS: 7:45AM – 2:45PM

Elementary: 8:45AM – 3:30PM

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**Achieving Success ★ Academic Excellence ★ Panther Pride**

**Early Departure Time for Students on Tuesdays:**

MS/HS: 12:30PM Departure on Tuesdays

Elementary: 1:30PM Departure on Tuesdays

**Please note the following:**

Athletics and Extra-curricular activities/events are being addressed with the appropriate personnel. Just as in the past, at no time will these offerings be denied due to this change.

Next, Wadsworth Elementary School and Middle/High School have recently implemented changes to their student drop off/pick up for this school year. You will be receiving a message regarding these changes, as well as you can view them on our website. Please know that these changes are due to a recent safety audit that was conducted in the spring. A group of Griffith Police, Administrators, Directors, and Central Office personnel met to discuss our traffic flow at each of the buildings regarding the suggested changes from the audit. It was agreed upon that these changes needed to occur in order to ensure the safety of all students and staff at Griffith Public Schools. Please adhere to these changes as we begin school on August 14, 2018.

We are also recognizing several new staff this year to Griffith Public Schools. They are as follows:

Beller	Mindy	Ready	3rd grade
Borman	Tiffany	Beiriger	6th grade
Carver	Deborah	Ready	Title I
Davis	Emily	HS	Choir
Johnson	Misheala	Elementary	Counselor
Lampkins	Theresa	Elementary	GAP
Massey	Ashley	Wadsworth	Title I
Pospychala	Brooke	Beiriger	5th grade
Young	Pamela	Beiriger	Kindergarten
Chance	Jon	MS/HS	Asst. Principal
Martinez	Melissa	Wadsworth	Kindergarten for R. Bassick
Terry	Chrisanne	HS	Counselor for E. Hanas
Johnson	Brad	MS	English for K. Harnew
Ontiveros	Claudia	MS	Counselor for D. Lamb
Hannah	Regina	Ready	F/T Custodian
Haley	Shannon	Beiriger	F/T Custodian

Scullar Irby	Alicia Desiree	Beiriger Beiriger	P/T Custodian P/T Custodian
Dumezich Blissett	Leah Joe	Central Office Central Office	Director of Spec. Ed Food Svc. Director
Brewer	DeAngela	MS/HS	Attendance Secretary

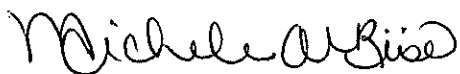
Kandi Bredar moved to Beiriger.  
Anthony Zarndt moved to Wadsworth.

Wishing all of them well at their new positions!

Lastly, we are hosting our second Community Informational Night on September 6, 2018 at 5:30pm in the LGI Room at MS/HS Building. Please plan to attend. You will hear information about our current financial state, updates on our strategic plan, special education and grants, as well as feature our 1:1 technology initiative. It is our hope and intent that everyone who attends will learn more about what Griffith Public Schools is all about!

We are looking forward to the start of a great school year and the faculty & staff are excited about working with you and your students again this year in helping to make Griffith Public Schools a district where "Students Come First!". Best wishes for a great 2018-19 school year!

Sincerely,



Michele Riise, Superintendent

