
GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS PANTHER NEWSLETTER

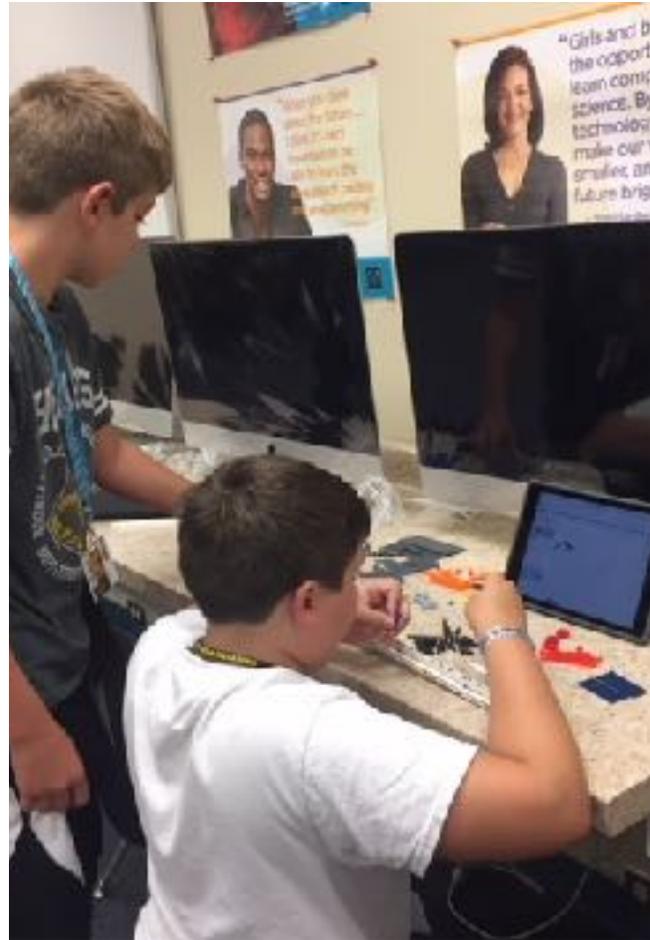


1:1 Technology Initiative

Technology serves a major function in our classrooms. Not only do we have our students utilize technology to collaborate and connect with students across the globe but the purpose of technology integration in our classrooms is to engage our students, create active learners, encourage individual learning and growth, prepare students for the real world, and increase student engagement.

Technology serves a major function in Griffith Public Schools' classrooms.

Griffith Public Schools is excited to offer iPads to each student in grades K-12. Students were given their devices during the first couple weeks of school. Here are the facts: The iPad is to be used by the only by the student with whom it is checked out to for the entire school year. This iPad is to be utilized for school and educational related work and is to be turned in at the end of the school year. If a student transfers out of Griffith Public Schools before the end of the school year, the iPad must be returned to the office. In addition, it is a choice by the individual classroom teacher as to when the iPad is sent home for students to complete his/her homework. Just as we don't dictate what books or other tools need to go home at night, Griffith Public Schools won't dictate when and if the iPad is sent home on a nightly basis.



Robotics students working after school on a project with the use of their iPads.

Is Griffith going to replace textbooks with digital content?

“Technology has become a fantastic and useful tool in the classroom.”

-SARAH IVY

We are currently in a period of transition from sole dependency on textbooks to an environment that allows access to a much greater range of educational materials and experiences. Printed textbooks will still be available during this transition period. Over time, we will be adopting digital textbooks and resources as they become available and when appropriate for each of the content areas.

Why are we moving to Digital Instruction?

The changing landscape of the world’s information from analog form to

digital form will certainly require today's student to have a different set of skills than what was required just a decade ago. Future graduates must not be equipped with just the three R's, but also must be equipped with 21st century skills of problem solving, critical thinking, communication, and technological literacy. Students will need to be able to quickly and accurately find answers to questions, synthesize information, communicate and collaborate with colleagues in this global world.

Thanks to our parents and community, our teachers are learning alongside our students. With our weekly early release on Tuesdays, our teachers are provided the necessary time for professional development. Technology changes by the minute, and as educators we need to keep up with the times in order to best prepare our students for this ever-changing world that we live in. Research tells us that technology can have a profound impact on your child's learning. By embracing and integrating technology in the classroom, we are setting our students up for a successful life outside of school.

The proliferation of social media and technology has changed the way educators teach, how students learn, and the way teachers and students communicate. Together as Panthers, we are going to discover how technology is shaping our classrooms this year. While on our journey this year, we will be sharing our stories through social media, website, and this corporation newsletter. It only takes a few minutes to read!

If at any time you have questions regarding this initiative or your child's IPAD, please feel free to contact your child's building administrator or the Director of Technology for Griffith Public Schools.



U.S. News & World Report

Indiana high school students typically follow the Core 40 curriculum, which includes required classes in English language arts, math, social studies and science, among others. Students who fulfill

additional requirements can earn a diploma with academic or technical honors. Learn more from the [Indiana Department of Education](#).

Among Indiana schools in the 2018 [U.S. News Best High Schools](#) rankings, there are four gold medal schools, 39 silver medal schools and 79 bronze medal schools.

Griffith Public Schools is proud to announce that for the first year ever...Griffith Senior High School is ranked 51st within Indiana! Students have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement® course work and exams. The AP® participation rate at Griffith Senior High School is 29 percent. The student body makeup is 54 percent male and 46 percent female, and the total minority enrollment is 51 percent.

Griffith Senior High School is recognized in the [National Rankings](#) and earned a bronze medal. Schools are ranked based on their performance on state-required tests and how well they prepare students for college.

Congratulations Griffith High School on this wonderful achievement!

Panther Community Informational Night

Our corporation held our second Community Informational Night on September 6, 2018 at 5:30pm in the LGI room at the MS/HS Building. This night featured the following agenda items: Updates on strategic plan, corporation finances, special education and grants, and technology. Please feel free to attend future Community Informational Nights in order to hear the latest Panther News!



Panther Athletics

Sports teams require a lot of commitment and dedication from a student athlete. These activities, also, do not always occur in a school day or within district lines which causes a student to arrive home late and prevents them from going to bed early due to the demands of assessments and homework. However, athletic teams

find ways to utilize their leadership not only on the field or court, but in their community. We want to thank our student athletes this year for all that they do for Griffith Schools! This years fall boys/girls sports are as follows:

Football - Tennis - Volleyball - Cross Country - Cheer Pantherettes - Soccer

Take the time to come and watch our fall student athletes in action. To find the latest sports schedule, please utilize the following link: <https://griffithpanthersathletics.bigteams.com/>

For more information, please contact:

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Hammond Area Career Center Partnership

It is with great pleasure that we announce our Hammond Area Career Center Partnership as we move within our central office to student-led projects in the marketing/branding of our Griffith Public Schools' products, such as a Griffith website marketing video, corporation letterhead and business cards! With 21st century learning, students are being offered every opportunity to get involved with projects, and eventually lead projects themselves, all while gaining credit towards graduation. In fact, student-led projects enable schools, such as Hammond Area Career Center, to extend beyond the limitations of a subject-focused curriculum and prepare students with crucial transferable skills such as creativity, problem

solving, learner independence and research. With the Hammond Area Career Center, our students, along with area students from various surrounding schools, are being exposed to projects, such as the ones we are intending to complete with their assistance this school year.

AREA CAREER CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Area Career Center enrolls more than 500 students in career classes each year.
- Most programs offer the opportunity to earn an industry-recognized certification.
- Students can earn the additional requirements needed to earn an Academic Honors and/or Technical Honors Diploma. Students are better prepared for future success in college and careers.
- Over 50% of the students that attend the Area Career Center are pursuing post-secondary education one year after high school graduation.
- Students may have the opportunity to participate in work based learning in their career field.
- Students can earn 3 to 30 college credits that are free, saving them hundreds of dollars in future [tuition costs](#).
- Health Careers II students may earn a Certified [Nursing Assistant](#) (CNA) certification by completing state requirements.
- Industrial Maintenance/Welding students can earn an American Welding Society Certification.
- Computer Information Technology students can earn A+ & [CCENT](#) Certification.
- Cosmetology students have an opportunity to complete the state-required 1,500 hours of instruction and practice, qualifying them to take the state licensing examination upon graduation.
- Culinary & Pastry Arts & Sciences students can earn ServSafe and Pro-Start Certification.
- [Early Childhood Education](#) Services students can earn the Childhood Development Associate (CDA) Certification.
- Auto Technology students can begin the process to earn ASE Certification.
- Criminal Justice & Law, Dental Assisting, Early Childhood Education Services, and Health Careers students are able to obtain First Aid and CPR certification.

- Area Career Center students have an opportunity to participate in Career and Technical Student Organizations, such as HOSA and Skills USA .

Students that have attended the career center have gone on to earn bachelor degrees, associate degrees, and/or full-time employment. The Area Career Center's goal is COLLEGE AND CAREER PREPARATION for ALL students. Over 50% of the students that attend the Area Career Center are pursuing post-secondary education one year after high school graduation.

If your child would like to know more about these programs, they should make an appointment with his/her guidance counselor.



Safety for All of Griffith Public Schools!

At the end of the 2017-18 school year, a safety audit was completed. During this audit, the team reviewed district and school emergency procedures, monitored drop off and pick up locations and procedures at each building, checked the safety and security at each building, not limited to but including cameras, availability of storage rooms to outsiders, and building access after school hours, and provided suggestions for the district and school board to consider to increase our security level.

This summer, our administrators, directors, school board, and Griffith Police Department reviewed the safety audit considerations and created a plan of action. During that time, a safety grant was submitted and approved. The following are safety projects/upgrades currently being completed or completed prior to the start of school:

- Additional Safety Resource Officer
- Sally Port entrances to all buildings
- Safety film for building entrance windows
- Additional cameras

- Additional signage
- Police Officers assisting drop off and pick up areas at MS/HS
- Crossing Guard at Beiriger
- Review of District Safety Plan
- Maintenance area availability to community
- Additional elementary counselor

If at any time, you have questions or concerns regarding your child's safety, please don't hesitate to call your building principal. Together, we will work to ensure that our students are safe and secure while getting a rich, fulfilling education at Griffith Public Schools!



What is Graduation Pathways?

Graduation Pathways

Graduation Pathways is a rewrite of the current high school graduation requirements. Recommendations were established by the State Board of Education that will create an educated and talented workforce who are able not just to meet the needs of business and higher education but able to succeed in all postsecondary endeavors. To account for the rapidly changing, global economy, every K-12 student needs to be given the tools to succeed in some form of quality postsecondary education and training, including an industry recognized certificate program, an associate's degree program, or a bachelor's degree program.

These recommendations seek to ensure that every Hoosier student graduates from high school with 1) a board awareness of and engagement with individual career interests and associated career options, 2) a strong foundation of academic and technical skills, and 3) demonstrable employability skills that lead directly to meaningful opportunities for postsecondary education, training, and gainful employment.

Students in the graduating class of 2023 must satisfy all three of the following Graduation Pathways Requirements by completing one of the associated Pathway Options:

Graduation Pathway Requirements	Graduation Pathway Options
1) High School Diploma	Meet the statutorily defined diploma credit and curricular requirements.
2) Learn and Demonstrate Employability Skills (complete at least one of the following)	Learn employability skills standards through locally developed programs. Employability skills are demonstrated by one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project-Based Learning Experience; • Service-Based Learning Experience; • Work-Based Learning Experience.
3) Postsecondary-Ready Competencies (complete at least one of the following)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honors Diploma: Fulfill all requirements of either the Academic or Technical Honors diploma; • ACT: College-ready benchmarks; • SAT: College-ready benchmarks; • ASVAB: Earn at least a minimum AFQT score to qualify for placement into one of the branches of the US military; • State-and Industry-recognized Credential or Certification; • State-, Federal-, or Industry-recognized Apprenticeship; • Career-Technical Education Concentrator: Must earn a C average or higher in at least 6 high school credits in a career sequence; • AP/IB/Dual Credit/Cambridge International courses or CLEP Exams: Must earn a C average or higher in at least three courses • Locally created pathway that meets the framework from and earns the approval of the State Board of Education.

Feel free to research more about this matter on the Indiana Department of Education website. If you are a parent of a student in the graduating class of 2023 and have questions, please contact your child's school counselor.

Parents of MS/HS Students....Please Read the Following Information

In accordance with our effort to continually improve student safety and security at Griffith High School and Griffith Middle School, we are requiring all students who utilize Griffith Public Schools Transportation to display their Student I.D. to their respective Bus Driver and Bus Aides upon entering the school bus. **This practice is effective immediately.** Students who need to be issued a valid and current Student ID need to make arrangements with the Griffith High School and Griffith Middle School Office personnel.



Let's Meet our New Director of Special Education/Grants

Let's take a moment to introduce our new Director of Special Education/Grants....Ms. Leah Dumezich. Ms. Dumezich was approved as our Director of Special Education/Grant in June. The interviewing committee of administrators, staff, and parents felt strongly that she could guide Griffith Public Schools into creating a great learning environment for our special education students. Ms. Dumezich has the following background:

1. She has taught special education not only at the MS/HS in Griffith but also elementary as well.
2. She worked as a diagnostician and understands the evaluation process and what is needed to ensure that student needs are being met in his/her IEP.

3. She understands that the goal of our families is to ensure that his/her child is able to function independently once they have departed from high school. This means different things to all of the families. For one child, it may mean that he/she is able to work and live independently from his/her family with support while for another child, it may mean that he/she is able to participate in post-secondary learning with some support. Ms. Dumezich truly understands the whole child concept!

4. she has a strong background in this special education area and currently holds a masters degree.

Administration and Board of Trustees fully support the decision of this committee and felt that Ms. Dumezich will be a great asset not only to the special education families but to Griffith Public Schools as well. We look forward to working with her more closely in her new role.

Important Dates:

September 4 - Early Release for Teacher PD

September 11 - Early Release for Teacher PD

September 18 - Early Release for Teacher PD

September 25 - Early Release for Teacher PD

