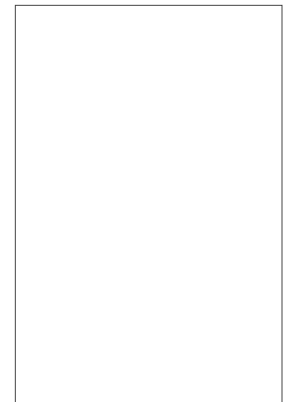

GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS PANTHER NEWSLETTER



In the News...Griffith High School!

Griffith High School is pleased to announce the following accomplishments/awards:

*Griffith High School has been designated as a Unified Champion School for the 2017-18 school year! Only 85



out of 410 IHSAA member institutions have received this designation, and Griffith High School received it! Congratulations!!
The criteria for this designation is as follows:

1 – All school sponsored activities must be planned, organized and administered by an Inclusive Student Leadership team that strives to do things WITH students with intellectual disabilities NOT FOR them. – Griffith High School has an organized, planned, and administrated school sponsored activities known to all of us as **Best Buddies.**

2 – The school must participate in at least one activity designed around Whole School Engagement that promotes and encourages awareness, respect and inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities. – Griffith High School has participated in the following:



Griffith Girls Soccer Team and Best Buddies participating in their 2nd Annual Soccer Match!

a. Speaker from Champions Together in conjunction with Wheel Chair Basketball Game

Thank you for your continued commitment to promote good sportsmanship among the members of your school community - administrators, coaches, parents, fans, the student body and, of course, your school's student-athletes.

-IHSAA

b. The R-Word Campaign (new for 2018-2019 = Respect)

3 – The school must organize and participate in at least one Unified Sports activity such as IHSAA Unified Track & Field, a Unified practice or clinic, or a Unified competition with students with intellectual disabilities OR local Special

Olympics athletes.

Griffith High School's Accomplishments in this area are as follows:

- a. **Flag Football** – New for 2018-19 and Sectional Host Site (Sanctioned IHSAA Sport)
- b. **Bocce Ball** – 6th place in the State
- c. **Bowling** – 6th Place in the State
- d. **Unified Track** – 6th Place in the State and Sectional Host Site (Sanctioned IHSAA Sport)

4 – Fundraising—The school must raise a minimum of \$1500 for the Champions Together project, and Griffith High School continues to raise more than the \$1500 minimum.

This is an outstanding program instituted by the IHSAA. In fact, it is the greatest thing IHSAA has ever done as an association. It has definitely changed the culture of our school and athletic program.

*IHSAA has announced the following Sportsmanship Award recipients and Griffith High School was one of the 45 schools in the state of Indiana for the 2017-18 school year! In fact, there were only 4 schools in NWI – Griffith, Wheeler, Kankakee Valley and Highland! Congratulations Griffith High School! Griffith received the following to receive this recognition:

1st in the State in Overall Sportsmanship Points in 2016-2017

2nd in the State in Overall Sportsmanship Points in 2017-2018

Mr. Orkis, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Adams, and Mrs. Riise would like to thank all involved, most importantly our students, for continuing to ensure that Griffith High School outranks high schools, not only in NWI, but throughout the state of Indiana, in order to be recipients of these awards!
CONGRATULATIONS!!!

AdvancED Engagement Review



As the mission of AdvancEd is to create a world of opportunities for every learner, they have cultivated an [AdvancED Improvement Network \(AIN\)](#) of more than 36,000 school institutions across the United States and in 70 other countries.

AdvancED has spent more than 81,877 hours observing classrooms across this global network. They have conducted research, identified trends and gathered insights on how to apply a research-based approach to determine what drives continuous improvement; they know schools because they are in schools.

With acknowledgment that continuous improvement is not a destination but rather a journey, it is their belief that whether underperforming or high achieving, all school institutions can and should improve.

On October 9-11, Griffith Public Schools will be participating in an Engagement Review by representatives from AdvancEd. During these three days, the AdvancEd team will meet with staff and administration, along with various stakeholder groups to gain an insight on how Griffith Public Schools continues to improve since their last visit.

Griffith Public Schools will:

- Evaluate learning environments by focusing on students;
- Reveal strengths and weaknesses using measurable data;
- Identify trends by comparing classroom observations across subjects, grade levels and other filters using our education technology;

- Implement powerful tools for professional development, peer learning and ongoing improvement; and
- Ensure the quality of education remains at the forefront through a variety of diagnostic and improvement tools.

At the end of this review, the AdvancEd team will determine and share areas of strength, concerns, and discuss accreditation. It is our goal that ultimately our district is once again accredited!

Mrs. Riise is on Twitter!



Mrs. Riise has entered the social media arena. You can follow her on @RiiseMichele for the latest information regarding Griffith Public Schools! In addition, our administrators have Twitter school accounts, such as @GriffithMiddle, @ScienceGriffith, or @CrossGHS. Feel free to follow any school within our district, as well as numerous other school specific organizations and athletic teams. What a great way to keep up on what is happening within our district! Please feel free to also share this information with your family and friends!



Panther Athletics

Griffith is proud of the Griffith girls soccer team on winning their first Sectional Championship on Saturday, October 6th! Congratulations Lady Panthers!

Here are other athletic accomplishments to



celebrate:

VARSITY FOOTBALL: CONFERENCE: 6-0

GIRLS' GOLF: CATHERINE BRYZYCKI QUALIFIED FOR REGIONALS

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY: QUALIFIED FOR REGIONALS

UNIFIED FLAG FOOTBALL: WON SECTIONALS AND QUALIFIED TO PLAY IN REGIONALS

VOLLEYBALL: GIRLS' SECTIONALS
START 10/11 AT 6:00PM
SATURDAY, 10/13 AT 10:00AM
CHAMPIONSHIP GAME AT 6:00PM

1:1 Technology Update

All Griffith Teachers are working on the following:

Apple Teacher Badges- It is a free professional learning program designed to support and celebrate educators using Apple products for teaching and learning. It allows teachers to build on their iPad and Mac skills that directly apply to student activities.

All Griffith Teachers will also complete an Apple Survey early in October. The results from the survey will design professional learning goals, understand teacher perceptions of technology, and identify instructional opportunities that deepen student learning.



Examples of Current happenings within the classrooms:

Mr. Stiener's 4th graders wrote poems and then put them to music using Garage Band.

Beiriger teachers using SeeSaw to showcase assignments and classroom activities.

Ms. Garvey's 4th graders are using their devices to make projects that correlate with the novel they are reading.

Teachers were able to attend the Powerschool Class Pages training and are getting their pages up and running.

MS/HS band teacher Aaron Alexander is having students create their own music using the electronic instrument, record live sounds through the audio recorder, and then edit their work.

Safety for All Griffith Public Schools!

Since the beginning of school, our administrators, directors, school board, and Griffith Police Department continue to meet to discuss the safety plan considerations to update our current plan. The following are safety projects/upgrades currently being completed:

- Sally Port entrances to all buildings
- Safety film for building entrance windows
- Review of District Safety Plan
- Maintenance area availability to community

- Removal of brick wall outside the pool area across from the football field
- Issuance of Hand held security wands by Governor Holcomb
- Speak Up App for Students (Speak UP is an international company that provides schools an opportunity to prevent the abuse, suicide, and bullying that takes place on and off the internet. When students anonymously report incidents through the web or phone app, they are not only helping the innocent victims of bullying, suicide, and cyberbullying but they are also empowering themselves by standing up for others and for themselves. The app will be available soon on student iPads.)

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!

GPS is currently hiring substitutes!

Are you looking for a new career or a have an interest in working with kids? Griffith Public Schools is now hiring substitute teachers for all schools in the district.

If you have a substitute license, the pay wage is \$72.25day.

If you are a licensed teacher, the pay wage is \$82.25 a day.

If you are interested in this new opportunity go to <https://www.applitrack.com/griffith/onlineapp/jobpostings/view.asp> for more information or call the Griffith Central Administration office at 219-924-42

What's Been Happening Around the District? Take a Look!





Legacy Foundation's On the Table:

We believe that the best solutions to local problems come from community members talking face-to-face and working together. Your voice matters!

When we come together as a community to listen and learn from each other, we have the power to impact both neighborhoods and lives. That's what On the Table is all about. While we know that there's no "quick-fix" to the issues facing our region, progress will result from residents and organizations working to make contributions that add up to a greater solution that helps unite the place we call home. On the Table is the channel for conversations to take place.

The On the Table event was held at Griffith Administration Office on Thursday, October 4th. Representatives from Griffith Police Department and Griffith Public Schools began the conversation with three of our Griffith seniors to ask them what they feel we can do together to create a better Lake County and how we can strengthen and ensure that our local community becomes a better place. Together, we felt that the discussion held that day will help drive progress and inspire action within Griffith community!



Special Education Update from Ms.Dumezich:

Greetings!! Our Special Education Committee continues to meet at least once per month. Our committee is made up of administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, guidance counselors, general education teachers, special education teachers, job coaches, parents, and community members. We have agreed on implementing a SERP (Social Emotional Regulation Program) in the 2019-2020 school year. This would replace the traditional identification of the ED or Autism Classroom. We believe this program will meet the unique needs of potential students who may be eligible for services in this program. The committee has agreed to keep a similar Intense Interventions Classroom in place for both the elementary and middle/high school program. A Therapeutic Program will be implemented for student's grades K-12 as well. At our last meeting in October, the committee explored several Co-Teaching Models. We will continue to explore these models at our 10/15 meeting. On November 14th, a group of teachers and administrators will attend a Co-Teaching training in Merrillville, IN. Last month, a group of 9 educators attended the Fall Educational Neuroscience Symposium with Dr. Desautels and colleagues at Butler University. We were able to look at brain development in depth and how it is affected by adversity. Our group participated in several brain aligned strategies that foster regulation and cognition in our students as well as ourselves. Two quotes that resonated with the GPS team were, "stop asking what's wrong with that child and start asking what happened to that child?" and "A dysregulated adult cannot regulate a child." The educators at GPS understand that social/emotional education needs to be addressed with ALL students. We will continue to work to meet the unique, individual student needs. Every child, each day, no matter what it takes!!

Important Dates:

October 12 - Quarter 1 Last Day

October 16 - Parent/Teacher Conferences from 1:45 - 3:45pm at the elementary schools

October 16 - Color Guard, Marching Band, Concert Band, and Symphonic Band Concert at 7pm in the Field house

October 17 - Coffee Night at 6:30pm in the Griffith MS/HS courtyard

October 17 - Parent/Teacher Conferences from 4-7pm at the elementary schools

October 17 - PSAT Test for grades 9-11 and ASVAB for grade 12

October 18 - Parent/Teacher Conferences from 4-7pm at the MS/HS

October 18 - Financial Aid Night at GHS in the LGI from 6-7pm

October 22-26 - Fall Break (No School for students)

October 30 - Athletic Fall Awards in the main Gym at 5:30pm

November 8 - School Board Meeting at 6pm in the LGI