
GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS PANTHER NEWSLETTER



Griffith Public Schools Letter Grades

“The Indiana Department of Education released the 2017-18 School Accountability Grades recently. Roughly 22 percent of schools improved one or more letter grades, with nearly 9 percent improving their letter grade to an A. Overall, close to 64 percent of schools received an A or B.”

Griffith Public Schools is proud to announce the following letter grades for each of our schools:

- Beiriger Elementary School: B
- Griffith High School: A
- Griffith Middle School: B
- Ready Elementary School: A
- Wadsworth Elementary School: A

Griffith Public Schools’ Corporation Grade: B

Dr. Jennifer McCormick, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction recently stated, “Our current accountability grades are an indication of the great education Indiana students are receiving. Our work is paying off and as a Department we will continue to partner with dedicated stakeholders to ensure every school and every student is successful.”

The Board of Trustees for Griffith Public Schools and Mrs. Michele Riise, Superintendent, are very pleased with the individual school and corporation grades. As Mrs. Riise states, “These grades truly reflect the dedication, time, and hard work from all staff and students at Griffith Public Schools. Without their continued commitment to do their very best, Griffith Public Schools would not be one of the top NWI Indiana public schools! Thank you to our students, parents, community, and staff!

Indiana's Assistant Principal of the Year!



It is indeed our honor to have on our staff Indiana's Assistant Principal of the Year! On Friday, November 16, 2018, the announcement was made! Mrs. Smith was honored at a luncheon with fellow Indiana administrators, and the celebration began with members of Griffith Public Schools' administration staff. We all know that Mrs. Smith is topnotch and a wonderful instructional leader to not only the staff but a mentor and great role model for our students! Congratulations Mrs. Delincia Smith! We wish you well as you compete for National Assistant Principal of the Year later this year in Washington, D.C.

Kindness Project

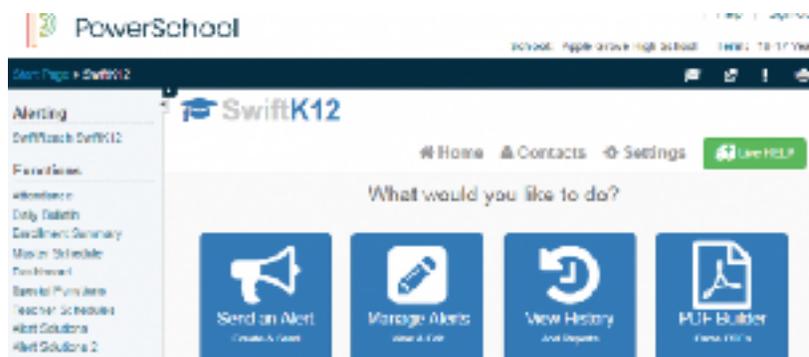
Shared By: *Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Zarndt*

Mr. Zarndt and his class have been talking about acts of kindness and giving back to those less fortunate than us. In previous years, his class has collected for the kids at St. Jude's House and put together Chemo Care Baskets and delivered them to patients receiving Chemotherapy. This year, Mr. Zarndt and his class are going to collect for the children at St. Joseph's Carmelite Home. The Carmelite Home provides Emergency Shelter Care, Open Residential Care, and Teen Mom and Baby Care. These services are typically utilized by children who have experienced a personal/family crisis. Some children spend a few days

there, while some children spend their entire childhood there. The Carmelite home provides a safe environment for children to learn and grow. Mr. and Mrs. Zarndt are committed and would love for their students to assist in giving these children a happy Christmas. The children at Carmelite are always in need of items. Mr. Zarndt has shared, "Our kids always learn so much from these projects, and it is a great way to teach them about empathy and giving to others, especially during the holiday season. They learn about giving and helping those less fortunate." Mr. Zarndt's class will be collecting for the next couple of weeks, and deliver the items closer to Christmas. If you would like to participate by donating to the cause, please drop off any of these items before December 14 at Wadsworth Elementary School's office.

- ♥Baby Diapers/ Pull-Ups (All Sizes)
- ♥Baby Wash
- ♥Baby Wipes
- ♥Latex Gloves
- ♥Hand Sanitizer & Wipes
- ♥Laundry Detergent
- ♥Toothpaste & Brushes
- ♥Combs, hair brushes, headbands & barrettes
- ♥Shampoo & Conditioner
- ♥Towels & Wash Cloths
- ♥Baby Crib Sheets/ Twin Sized Bed Sheet Sets
- ♥Underwear, T-Shirts, Pajamas & Socks (All Sizes)
- ♥18 Gallon Bins with Lids
- ♥Toys/Gifts (Must be Unwrapped so they can be matched to the appropriate aged child.)

Thank you in advance for helping our students help others!



Mental Health Concerns, Information and Speak UP Information

We realize that we have shared this information already; however, we feel that it is important to share this information in the December newsletter. Holidays are a tough time for families.

If you or someone you know is at risk of self-harm, suicide, or harmful towards others, please contact one of the following (All lines are free, confidential, and available 24/7):

National Suicide Prevention Hotline - Call 800-273-8255

LookUP - Call 800-284-8439 or Text LookUp to 494949

Mental Health Issues are common and treatable. Griffith Public Schools has a contract with Community Health Network and has a mental health therapist working with students in each of our schools. If you have questions or concerns please reach out to your school's school counselor for further information.

Speak UP

Alert Solutions' partnership with PowerSchool enables our SwiftK12 school notification system to be completely embedded within your district's PowerSchool application.

This partnership is a cutting edge approach to student family communication and provides users with the ability to send messages using real-time contact information already housed within PowerSchool.

The benefits of Alert Solutions' SwiftK12 application include:

- 24/7 Access to a [Reliable School Notification System](#)
- Eliminates Multiple System Sign Ons
- Improves Emergency Response Time
- Unlimited Messaging Packages

- Easily Activated within Minutes

SwiftK12 allows us to communicate in a more relevant manner.

With more states enacting anti-bullying laws, many school administrators are asking themselves what they can do to help combat this growing problem while maintaining compliance with the law.

Our Speak Up! anti-bullying platform is designed to help dramatically reduce school bullying and cyberbullying events while maintaining student anonymity.

Here's how it works:

1. Your School Receives a Unique Local Phone Number.
2. Students, Parents and Even Staff can Leave Voice or Text Messages Anonymously.
3. A Designated School Administrator is Notified of New Messages and Can Respond Instantly.
4. Messages are Archived Indefinitely for Easy Access and Online Reporting.

If you or your child has information to share, please don't hesitate in notifying us through this application. You can find it on our website at www.griffith.k12.in.us. Links shown below:

Bullying & CyberBullying
K-6 Students/Parents Hotline 219-533-0093
7-12 Students/Parents Hotline 219-533-0092
Call or Text Anonymously
[Bullying & Cyberbullying Prevention and Response](#)

The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe Production

The weekend of November 9-11 found our GHS Theatre Co. to be very busy putting on a fine production of "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe." Thank you to all who came out to support this production. The Theatre Co. will be sharing soon on how to purchase DVDs, photos, and extra show shirts. Stay tuned! Congratulations GHS Theatre Co on a job well done!





Panther Athletics

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

For more information, please contact:

Mr. Stacy Adams
Athletic Director
sadams@griffith.k12.in.us
(219) 924-4281 ext. 5016

Kathy Bakko
Athletic Secretary
kbakko@griffith.k12.in.us
ext. 5017

FieldHouse Open for Walkers

We are pleased to announce that Griffith Public Schools' Field House is open again this year for walkers. It will be open for the public to utilize during the winter months beginning after the Thanksgiving Break and end at Easter Break. The facility will be open between the hours of 6am - 7am. Please feel free to spread the word!



Indiana Latino Education Summit

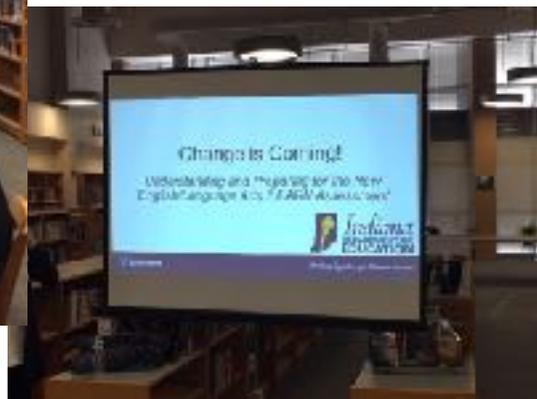
Our GHS students attended the 2018 Indiana Latino Education Summit on November 14, 2018. The event provided high school students across the state



of Indiana with valuable information on getting to and through college. Students attended workshops, such as: How to Choose a College that Best Fits Your Needs, Financial Aid 101, and What You Need to Know About the Transition to College. Students also had the opportunity to experience over 40 Indiana Higher Education Institutions. With access to resources via panels, roundtable discussions, and leadership development sessions, it is the hope of the Indiana Latino Institute that high school students will excel at attaining post-secondary achievements by attending and learning information at this summit.



ILEARN Professional Development



As shared in last month's newsletter, ILEARN is the new Indiana assessment which will be given in the spring of 2019. It will measure student achievement and growth according to Indiana Academic Standards. ILEARN is a summative accountability assessment for Indiana students and assesses the following:

- English/Language Arts (Grades 3-8)
- Mathematics (Grades 3-8)
- Science (Grades 4 and 6)
- Social Studies (Grade 5)
- Biology (High School)
- US Government (optional for High School)

On November 13th, IDOE Kristine David and Justin Mocas helped our teachers and administrators understand and prepare for the NEW ILEARN assessment. A special thank you to IDOE for the learning opportunity!

Winter Weather is Here!

With winter weather comes delays and cancellations in regards to school districts. It is a difficult decision for district leaders, and there are multiple factors that one has to take into account within minutes. Here are some reminders for parents/guardians:

1. **Remember to update phone numbers with building secretaries when there are changes.** If you change numbers, there will be no way of us reaching you with our call system to notify you of a delay or cancellation.
2. **DO NOT DROP OFF CHILDREN** at any school prior to the start of the school day or when doors are not open for student entry! Staff are not in the buildings on delays or cancellations which leaves your child unattended and freezing outside until the start of the school day. If you leave your child, we will contact the police and/or drop off at our local YMCA in which you will be charged a fee. **Schools are not babysitters during delays or cancellations!**
3. **When picking up your child after school, please adhere to the rules and get in the pick up line!** It only takes a few minutes for this system to work. With the snow that will be accumulating this winter, we do not want any child to be struck by a vehicle while walking to and from your car each day because a driver wasn't aware of the child due to the snow mounds!
4. **NOTE:** Chief of Police and our SROs have been notified of issues with drop off and pick up systems occurring once again throughout the district and will assist us in making sure the safety and security of our students are our top priority!

What's Been Happening Around the District?





Important Dates:

December 13: School Board Meeting at 6pm in the LGI Room at MS/HS with a Celebration of School Grades with Griffith Public Schools' staff!

December 21: Last day of the 2nd nine weeks and semester

December 24 - January 4: Christmas Break

January 7: First day back from Christmas Break