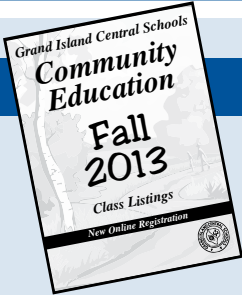


# The Grand Island Central School District BRIDGE

[www.k12.ginet.org](http://www.k12.ginet.org)

The Community Newsletter for the Grand Island Central School District



See Inside for the Fall 2013 Community Ed Brochure

**Welcome Back!**

First Day of School for  
Students Begins  
**Monday, September 9th**

## 2013-2014 School Hours for Students

### HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

7:28 am	Buses Drop Off
7:40 am	Schools Begins (MS)
7:43 am	School Begins (HS)
2:16 pm	School Ends (MS)
2:20 pm	School Ends (HS)
2:28 pm	Buses Depart

### HUTH - KAEGEBEIN - SIDWAY

8:50 am	Buses Drop Off
9:00 am	Schools Begin
3:05 pm	Schools End
3:10 pm	Buses Depart

### ST. STEPHENS

8:35 am	Buses Drop Off
8:45 am	School Begins
3:15 pm	School Ends
3:20 pm	Buses Depart

Please note that the actual schedule may be revised by no more than 5 minutes either way after the start of school once the bus patterns are established. There will be one late bus run for each public school building.



Welcome to the 2013-14 school year!

Over the course of the summer, I have had the opportunity to meet with many stakeholders to listen and learn from them about their impressions and expectations of our school district. It is abundantly clear to me this is a community that values education and expects a rigorous and well-balanced program.

In an effort to assist parents gain a deeper understanding of the new Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS), the impact they have on their children's schooling and how we can partner together, we have added a web page of information for families. The standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so they will graduate high school and be able to succeed in college courses and workforce training programs. The intent is to provide teachers and parents with benchmarks or

guideposts along a student's school career that indicate they are on a path to be college and career ready. This information is located in the "Parent Resources" section of our website.

The Ground Breaking Ceremony held on July 29 officially kicked off the capital project. The first phase of the project will unfold this fall with construction on the technology wing in front of the high school, updates to science classrooms and, after the fall sports season, demolition of the current football/track facility. Updates will be posted regularly under the "Capital Projects" section of our website.

I wish you a successful and rewarding school year. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions.

Teresa Lawrence, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



Construction work on the approved 3-year phase of the Capital Project has officially started with shovels in the dirt at a Ground Breaking Ceremony at the site of the new STEM Wing in front of the High School. Superintendent Dr. Teresa Lawrence hosted the event in collaboration with Campus Management, Cannon Design, the Grand Island Board of Education, and the Grand Island Town Board.



**Save the date!**

Mark your calendars to attend the Homecoming Game on October 19th. This will be the final game in this facility and a special ceremony is planned.

## BOE 2013-14 Meeting Schedule

Building Administrators Meeting: 6:00 p.m. in the District Office Conference Rm.  
 Executive Session: 6:30 p.m. in the District Office Conference Rm.  
 Board of Education Meetings: 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School Little Theater.

### September

- 16 BOE Meeting
- 30 Joint Town/School Board Meeting

### October

- 2 Building Tour & Bus Ride - Begins at 6PM at Transportation Center (Eco Island, Kaegebein, Sidway, Huth)
- 21 BOE Meeting

### November

- 13 Building Tour & Bus Ride - Begins at 6 PM at Transportation Center (GIHS, VCMS, Transportation Center)
- 18 BOE Meeting

### December

- 16 Meeting w/ High School Bldg. Admin BOE Meeting

### January

- 11 BOE Winter Retreat
- 13 Meeting w/Middle School Bldg. Admin/Regular BOE Meeting
- 27 First Budget Input Session (no BOE meeting)

### February

- 10 Meeting w/Kaegebein Bldg. Admin/BOE Meeting
- 24 Second Budget Input Session (no BOE meeting)

### March

- 10 Meeting w/Sidway Bldg. Admin/BOE Meeting
- 24 Third Budget Input Session (no BOE meeting)
- 31 Joint Town/School Board Meeting

### April

- \*22 Meeting w/Huth Road Bldg. Admin/BOE Meeting/Budget Adoption/E1B Budget Vote & Election

### May

- 12 BOE Meeting/Budget Hearing
- 19 Student Recognition - 5-7 (**no BOE Meeting**)
- 20 Annual Budget Vote & BOE Election

### June

- 9 Tenure & Retiree Reception/ BOE Meeting

\*Note, this is a Tuesday.

## Message From Your Board

On behalf of the Grand Island Central School District Board of Education, welcome to a new year of learning, growing and preparing for the future.

As the new 2013-2014 academic year begins, our district family has grown with new additions to the Board of Education, a new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Teresa Lawrence, a new High School Principal, Dan Quartley and several new faces in our teaching and support staff ranks.



The community will also notice that the capital project is now underway with the changes beginning at the high school and middle school complex. This capital project is a tribute to the entire community of Grand Island, and demonstrates its support in educating the next generation and the value of investing in our future. This capital project will help ensure we continue to serve the children of Grand Island with up-to-date facilities that will facilitate learning for their success in the future.

The Board of Education welcomes all community members to attend board meetings and appreciates the feedback from the community as we continually strive to strike the delicate balance of delivering a top tier education, in tough economic times, while negotiating complex regulations. Our meeting schedule is posted on the district website ([www.k12.ginet.org](http://www.k12.ginet.org)) and the Board receives email at [boe@k12.ginet.org](mailto:boe@k12.ginet.org).

Thank you,

Tak Nobumoto

President - Grand Island Board of Education

## Emergency Closings

As a matter of policy, schools will remain open whenever possible. However, when school must be closed because of weather conditions or other situations endangering the health or safety of children, announcements will be made over local media stations.

We always strive to make this decision in a timely manner so that all families can make alternate arrangements, if needed. The following is a list of the local media stations contacted by the school district. Please consult your local stations for information regarding school closings.

WGR - 550 AM	WBEN - 930 AM	KISS - 98.5 FM	WHTT - 104 FM
WNED - 970 AM	WUFO - 1080 AM	WYRK - 106.5 FM	WNSA - 107.7 FM
WECK - 1230 AM	WHLD - 1270 AM	YNN	WGRZ - Ch 2
WLVL - 1340 AM	WBUF - 92.9 FM	WIVB - Ch 4	WKBW - Ch 7
WBLK - 93.7 FM	WJYE - 96.1 FM		

Also, the district will send out a recorded message on the Rapid Response System. **If you have not received a call from this system during a school closing, it may be that we do not have current contact information.** Please review the information provided to the school on a regular basis and send in a signed note with any changes, corrections, or additions.

If no announcement is made between 6 and 9 a.m., you can assume that school will be open as usual.

## Sign Up For E-News

If you are a current e-news subscriber and you have a child/children moving up to a new building this September, please check the subscribed category selections you have chosen to insure they meet your needs for the upcoming school year. You don't want to miss any news or announcements from your new principal! You're not an e-news subscriber? Sign up now for regular news and updates from the building principals and district administration. Just visit the district website at [www.k12.ginet.org](http://www.k12.ginet.org) and click on the "sign up for e-news" button in the lower left corner.



## Testing, testing, 1... 2... 3

Assessments - Testing - Teacher “accountability”...there has been much media attention and chitter-chatter about these terms during the past several years, but many of us wonder, “What does this mean for me and my child?”

Ultimately, everyone is looking to ensure that our students, our children, our next generation of adults who travel through our school system, graduate with the skills, experiences, knowledge, and dispositions to help them to become healthy, successful contributing members of our community. While the Grand Island Schools’ Mission is to foster academic excellence, personal growth, and social responsibility within our students, we are challenged to bring this mission to life within the parameters of state and federal mandates. For many years, these mandates have focused on annual assessments to help schools and districts determine if we are meeting our academic goals for our students. These assessments were, until last year, the New York State English Language Arts and Mathematics tests in grades 3-8 and Regents levels exams.

More recently, however, there has been a focus on increasing the rigor of our programming to ensure that students are graduating with college and career readiness. This has led to a comprehensive approach to educational programming and assessments for districts state-wide and schools nation-wide. With the adoption of the Common Core Learning Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics, Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade, the curriculum that our teachers need to master and deliver to our students has become a mandate for deeper understanding. Additionally, the grade level assessments in which our students participate have also increased in rigor in light of these newer expectations.

While much of this has been common to the dialogue around educational programming during the most recent years, this year, we will experience yet another layer reflecting the complexity of this rigor. As our annual testing results are released from the State Education Department this year, we are likely to see a drastic change in the assessment results. New York State has been disseminating critical information to help

us to forecast this change and understand the factors that will be contributing to an anticipated drop in student achievement.

In March of this year, Ken Slentz, the Deputy Commissioner of Education, Office of P-12 Education noted, “Student scores on the Common Core assessments will not be comparable to scores from prior-year tests because the assessments are based on different, more rigorous standards. As such, the number of students meeting or exceeding the Common Core grade-level expectations should not necessarily be interpreted as a decline in student learning in educator performance.” This reflects the understanding that both the content being assessed AND the assessments themselves, are different from past years. This new baseline will be used to help guide us and our program, to inform our practice as we move forward.

*“...the number of students meeting or exceeding the Common Core grade-level expectations should not necessarily be interpreted as a decline in student learning in educator performance.”*

Moreover, students were assessed on a set of “curriculum standards” for which the state has yet to post complete accompanying curriculum, and on material for which they have had only one year of instruction. Given the significant shifts in expectation and limited time on learning, results are expected to be lower than in prior years. This will also have an impact on the “growth scores” that grades 4-8 teachers will receive from the state as part of the new accountability system.

New York State further recognizes these anticipated results and has indicated that no schools will be identified as Focus Districts or Priority Schools (schools in need of improvement) based on the 2012-2013 assessment results. (You can read more about this at [www.engageny.org/resource/field-memo-transition-to-common-core-assessments](http://www.engageny.org/resource/field-memo-transition-to-common-core-assessments).)

In addition to the changes in curriculum and student assessment, the State Education Department has also changed what was previously considered the “passing score” for our students. These new levels, (applied at the high school) referred to as Aspirational Performance Measure (APM), raise the bar schools must meet to demonstrate adequate student performance. The phrase, “75 is the new 65,” reflects the implications of the APM on how our schools

## Register for the Parent Portal

The Infinite Campus Parent Portal is a web based tool that provides parents/guardians access to timely and secure information about their child’s academic progress and school records. The Parent Portal is now open for parents of middle and high school students.

Important information and instructions regarding access can be obtained on the district website.

You can use your Smart Phone or iPad with the following QR code to access the Parent Portal information.



In an effort to reduce costs, school buildings will utilize the Parent Portal to send out communications throughout the year including report cards, schedules, and census verification.

performance rate will be calculated and reported. While students, in the past, were required to demonstrate 65% achievement on the Regents levels assessments, we must now target 75% or higher on the English Regents exams and 80% or higher on the Mathematics Regents exams, for all of our students.

It will be important for all of these factors to be understood and shared in order to keep the appropriate perspective as the 2012-2013 assessment results are published. While the challenges of state and federal mandates continue to act as the framework around which we must work, it is critical for us to remember and acknowledge the dedication of the faculty and staff of the Grand Island Central School District. Every day, teachers, administrators, support staff and our community, continue to embrace our students and hold our Mission statement in the forefront of our work. Every child matters and together, we are building our future, one student at a time.

Additional information regarding Common Core Learning Standards and Assessments can be found on our Parent Resources page at [www.k12.ginet.org](http://www.k12.ginet.org).

# Notification of Rights Under the PPRA

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) affords parents and students who are 18 or emancipated minors (eligible students) certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

**Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (protected information survey) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED):**

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;

6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

**Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:**

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;

**Inspect, upon request and before administration or use:**

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above;
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

Grand Island Central School District has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect

student privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information. Grand Island Central School District will directly notify parents and eligible students of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. Grand Island Central School District will also directly notify parents and eligible students, such as through U.S. Mail or e-mail, at least annually at the start of each school year, if known, of the specific or approximate dates of the following activities and provide an opportunity to opt a student out of participating in administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.

Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

## Patriotism, Citizenship & Human Rights Education

The Board of Education recognizes and affirms the importance to students of learning to appreciate the sanctity of life and the dignity of the individual. In order to promote a spirit of patriotic and civil service and obligation, as well as to foster in students of the district moral and intellectual qualities which are essential in preparing them to meet the obligations of citizenship, the board requires students over the age of 8 who are attending district schools to attend instructional courses in patriotism, citizenship, and human rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust. The board also directs that all students attending district schools in grades 8-12 receive instruction

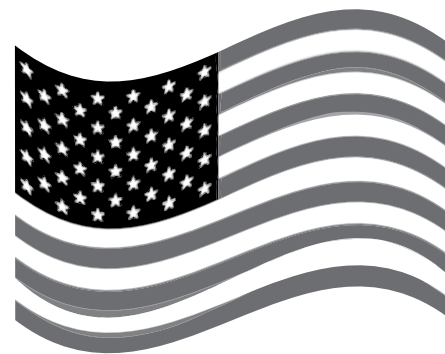
in the history, meaning, significance of the United States Constitution, the New York State Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

The curricula for such courses must include the subjects specified by the Board of Regents and be for the period of instruction, as mandated by the Regents, which is necessary in these subjects in each of the appropriate grades.

One week during each school year a uniform course of exercises shall be provided to teach students, in age-appropriate manner, the purpose, meaning and importance of the Bill of Rights Articles in the United States and the New York State Constitution. These exercises shall be in addition to the above required courses.

The board directs that the above-named subjects, as mandated by law, be addressed in the instructional curricula provided by the district.

(Education Law Section 801)



## Visiting the School

Parents and the public are encouraged to visit their schools. Parent orientation and open house programs are scheduled in each building. Parents wishing to confer with teachers or staff at other times should phone their child's school to arrange for an appointment. When visiting, report to the main office. Enter the main entrance door; other doors are normally locked during the day from the inside to protect the children and staff.

## Public Access to School Records

School district records are open for public inspection and copying. Access is limited to the extent that it would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Requests to inspect and/or copy district records can be made through any administrator. If you need assistance locating information, the district office staff will assist you. Copies of documents are 25 cents per page.

# Attendance Policy

The Board of Education recognizes that regular school attendance is a major component of academic success. When a student is absent, tardy, or leaves early from class or school without excuse, the attendance clerk/nurse will notify the student's parent(s) by telephone or in writing of the specific absence, remind them of the attendance policy, and review relevant intervention procedures with them.

Copies of this policy will be made available at the District office to any community member, upon written request.

## Excused and Unexcused Absences

Excused absences are defined as absences, tardiness, and early departures from class or school due to personal illness, illness or death in the family, family farm work requirements, religious observance, quarantine, required court appearances, attendance at health clinics, approved college visits, approved music, art and athletic competitions, approved cooperative work programs, military obligations, or such other reasons as may be approved by the building administrator.

All other absences, tardiness and/or early departures shall be considered unexcused absences.

All absences, whether excused or unexcused, must be accounted for. It is the parent's responsibility to at least orally notify the school office within at least twenty-four (24) hours of the absence. Parents should provide a written excuse upon the student's return to school. Failure to provide an acceptable oral or written excuse shall be deemed an unexcused absence.

## General Procedures/Data Collection

For students in grades kindergarten through twelve (12), each student's presence or absence shall be recorded after the taking of attendance in each period of scheduled instruction.

Any absence for a day or portion thereof shall be recorded as excused or unexcused in accordance with the standards set forth in this policy.

Additionally, in the event any student arrives late for or departs early from scheduled instruction, such tardiness or early departure shall be recorded as excused or unexcused in accordance with the standards articulated in this policy.

## Attendance Incentives

The District will design and implement systems to acknowledge a student's efforts to maintain or improve school attendance.

At the building and classroom levels, administrators and teachers are encouraged to schedule instruction, programs and events in order to reduce days of chronically high absenteeism.

## Intervention

The District shall appoint a committee of administrators, faculty representatives, parents and students whose purpose shall be to design intervention procedures to be implemented by the District.

The Committee shall determine appropriate intervention strategies and potential penalties for violation of the attendance policy in the District. In instances of absences, a representative of the District shall meet with the student to review the attendance policy and regulations, explain the ramifications of unexcused absences, and stress the importance of class attendance. Parents shall also be notified of this meeting. This meeting should ascertain the reason for the absence. Notification shall thereafter be sent to the parents and placed in the student's record with regard to such unexcused absences from school. Both students and parents should be warned that noncompliance with the attendance policy and regulations will result in disciplinary action.

For any further instances of an unexcused absence, tardiness and/or leaving school or class early, additional progressive disciplinary action may be warranted.

Where necessary, the Superintendent may seek to involve the juvenile justice system either through the Department of Probation or Family Court by filing a Person in Need of Supervision Petition. Where the student's absenteeism is due to the parents'/guardians' failure to enable or permit the student's attendance and the student is of compulsory school age, the District, as mandated reporters under the law, shall report the matter as educational neglect to the appropriate State officials.

## Disciplinary Consequences

Unexcused absences will result in disciplinary action consistent with the District's code of conduct. Those penalties may include, but are not limited to, detention or in/out-school suspension. Students may also be denied the privilege of participating in or attending extracurricular events. In addition, designated staff member(s) will contact the student's parents.

## Attendance/Grade Policy

For each marking period, a student's final grade may be based on classroom participation as well as student's

performance on homework, tests, papers, projects, etc. Unexcused absences will affect a student's class participation grade for the marking period and any absence from class which is not made up may result in a loss of points from the student's classroom participation grade for the marking period.

At the high school level, any student with unexcused absences in excess of those set forth in the regulations will not receive credit for that course.

However, students with properly excused absences may make up the work to each absence, and those absences will not count toward the minimum standard.

To ensure that parents and students are aware of the implications of this minimum attendance requirement, the teacher or other designated staff member(s) will advise the student and contact the parent(s) by telephone and mail at appropriate intervals prior to the student reaching the levels of unexcused absences as set forth in the regulations.

In implementing this policy, students who are unable to attend school or a class on a given day due to their participation in a school-sponsored activity (i.e., music lessons, field trips), may arrange with their teachers to make up any work missed. This also applies to any student who is absent, tardy or leaves early from school or a class due to illness or any other excused reason. Students who arrange with their teachers to make up any work missed shall, upon the completion of any make up work assigned, be given credit for classroom participation for the day/class period missed. A student's parent(s) or guardian(s) should make arrangements with the main office for home instruction or for such classroom assignments for short-term absences to allow the student to make up the work to enable him/her to earn a grade for work completed and classroom participation.

All students with an excused absence are expected upon their return to consult with their teachers regarding missed work. Only those students with excused absences will be given the opportunity to make up a test or other missed work and/or turn in a late assignment for inclusion in their final grade. Make up opportunities must be completed by a date specified by the student's teacher for the class in question. A parent may request to review their child's attendance record upon written application to the building principal

# Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student educational records. Educational records subject to this protection include all academic, attendance, health, guidance and special service reports. FERPA requires schools to inform parents and students annually of these rights, such as by this notice for the current school year. Under FERPA, parents and students over 18 years of age (eligible students) have the following rights:

**1. Parents and eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days from the date in which the school receives a request for access.**

Parents or eligible students who wish to review their records should submit a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect to the school principal or other appropriate "school official." A "school official" is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff (including health or medical staff and law enforcement personnel), school board member, or a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a specific task (such as attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist or evaluator.)

After processing the written request for inspection of a student's education records, the school official will make arrangements for the access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and the place where the records may be inspected. A copy fee of \$0.25 per page may be charged provided that such fee does not effectively prevent parents or eligible students from exercising their rights to inspect and review these records.

**2. Parents and eligible students have the right to request the amendment of the student's educational records that the parent or eligible student believes to be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.**

Parents or eligible students who seek to amend a record should submit a written request to the school principal which clearly identifies the part of the record they want changed, and why it is incorrect or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing and their right to file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office at the U.S. Department of Education. Additional

information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

Please note that the school is not required to consider requests for amendment under FERPA that: (1) seek to change a grade or disciplinary decision; (2) seek to change opinions or reflections of a school official or other person reflected in an education record; or (3) seek to change a determination with respect to a child's status under special education programs.

**3. Parents and eligible students have the right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without their consent.**

Generally, schools must have written permission/consent from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education records. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:

- to a school official with a legitimate educational interest (i.e., the official needs the record to fulfill his or her professional responsibility);
- to another school district to which the student seeks or intends to enroll;
- to specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- to appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- to organizations conducting certain studies on behalf of the school;
- to accrediting organizations;
- to comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- to appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- to state and local authorities, within the juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

In addition, schools are also permitted to release information, without prior written consent of the parents or eligible student, which has been appropriately designated as "directory information" by the district. Grand Island Central School District has designated the following information as "directory information":

- student's name, address and telephone listing
- participation in officially recognized activities and sports

- weight and height of members of athletic teams
- photograph/video
- degrees, honors and awards received
- date and place of birth
- grade level
- enrollment status
- the school most recently previously attended if not Grand Island

*NOTE: Specific examples include honor roll, merit roll, annual yearbook, playbills, newsletters, website and graduation programs.*

Photo/directory information, which is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) such as Grand Island Central School District to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three photo/directory information categories - names, addresses and telephone listings - unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want Grand Island Central School District to disclose "photo/directory information" from your child's education records, you must notify the building principal in writing that you do not want "photo/directory information" disclosed. The written notice to the principal about photo/directory information must be received no later than 14 days after the date of publication of the notice (or within 15 days of newly enrolling in the district). A notice is provided below.

**4. Parents and eligible students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Grand Island Central School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.**

The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

Additional information on local school policy may be obtained from building principals or Pupil Services at Grand Island Central School District, 1100 Ransom Road, Grand Island, New York 14072.

# Photo/Directory Information Opt Out Request Form

I am exercising my rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, to hereby request that all photo/directory information (see sample list on page 6) of my child not be released. We acknowledge that such photo/directory information will not be published\* in any form including District publications, such as honor roll, merit roll, playbills, yearbooks, websites, newsletters, newspapers, etc.

Print name of parent or legal guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent or legal guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of student (if 18 or older): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of student(s) and School(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: Please list the first and last name of each student for whom you are authorizing to opt-out of the district photo/directory information.*

Please return this form to the following address:

Karen Fischer  
Grand Island Central School District  
1100 Ransom Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

If you have any questions, please call 773-8800.

*\*Please note that we are acknowledging that this directory information, regarding your child, WILL NOT be published in any form.*

## Building & Grounds

### Use of School Facilities

The Board of Education encourages community groups to use school facilities when they are not being used for school programs. As in the past, groups desiring to use school facilities should make their requests well in advance by filling out the appropriate application forms from the Technology Department, 773-8887. An up-to-date insurance form must accompany the completed application before consideration can be made for scheduling of the facility. Your cooperation in complying with the above is appreciated and every effort will be made to accommodate your facility request.

### Pesticides

If you would like a 48-hour prior notification of the application of pesticides that are scheduled to occur in your school, please call Thomas Rachow, pesticide representative, at 773-8824 or e-mail ThomasRachow@k12.ginet.org to receive the request for the pesticide application notification form.

### AHERA Annual Notification

Under EPA regulations, the school district is required to notify all employees and occupants that asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) are present in each of

the schools. The location of asbestos in each building can be found in the asbestos management plan located in the main office of each school. In order to protect the health and safety of every person who comes into the schools, the district has conducted periodic surveillances to detect any problems. Trained personnel continue to maintain the asbestos in a condition that will provide a safe environment for everyone. If you have any questions regarding the above information please contact the Business Office at 773-8805.

## Title IX and Section 504

The Grand Island Central School District hereby advises students, parents, employees and the general public that it offers employment and educational opportunities, including vocational education opportunities, without regard to sex, race, color, national origin or handicap. Inquiries regarding this nondiscrimination policy may be directed to:

Title IX Coordinator - Cheryl Cardone - Director, Pupil Personnel Services  
Section 504 Coordinator - Cheryl Cardone - Director, Pupil Personnel Services, 1100 Ransom Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

Complaint Procedure: A parent, student or employee who wishes to complain of violation of rights may do so by written complaint mailed, or delivered, to the official designated above.

The complainant should sign a statement

after completing the form supplied by the coordinator.

The coordinator shall interview the complainant within five working days after receipt of complaint. The complainant may produce witnesses and be accompanied by a representative.

The coordinator may have the person against whom the complaint is directed appear at the first interview or at an adjournment thereof.

The person or organization charged may appear with representation and may cross examine complainant and witnesses and call witnesses in explanation or defense. Complainant may cross examine and rebut.

The coordinator shall determine the facts and decide the issue as to violation and make recommendations to eliminate the violation if one is found. All decisions of

the coordinator are subject to review by the superintendent of schools within 10 working days of receipt of coordinator's decision. The superintendent may exercise discretion to have more evidence and witnesses and hear further argument by the persons concerned in the complaint.

The superintendent may reverse, amend or affirm the coordinator's decision and the superintendent's decision shall be final.

If complainant fails to appear at time of hearing, the complaint may be dismissed. The coordinator may excuse default in appearance on good cause shown.

Ultimately, an appeal can be made to the Commissioner of Education through the Occupational Education Civil Rights Coordinating Unit, State Education Dept. Albany, NY 12230.

# Code of Conduct Summary

## REVISED TO INCLUDE THE NEW DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT REGULATIONS - effective July 1, 2013

The goal of DASA is to create a safe supportive school climate where students can learn and focus, rather than fear being discriminated against and/or verbally and/or physically harassed. All public elementary and secondary school students have the right to attend school in a safe, welcoming, considerate and caring environment.

The Board of Education of the Grand Island Central School District has adopted and implemented a written policy on school conduct and discipline designed to promote responsible student behavior.

All students are entitled to exercise their constitutional rights as long as they do not interfere with the rights of others, or the orderly process of the school. The school has the right to adopt reasonable regulations in order to provide an orderly school environment. We demonstrate that we value our rights by behaving in a responsible manner. Specific rights and responsibilities are set forth within the Code, which cover such topics as attendance, dress and discipline.

In accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act, School District policy and practice must ensure that no student is subject to discrimination or harassment, based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity, or sex by school employees or students on school property, on a school bus, or at a school function. The Dignity Act emphasizes the creation and maintenance of a positive learning environment for all students. In addition, the amended Dignity Act requires the development of measured, balance, progressive and age-appropriate responses to discrimination, harassment, and bullying of students by students and/or employees. Remedial responses should place the focus of discipline on discerning and correcting the reasons why discrimination, harassment and bullying occurred. They should also be designed to correct the problem behavior, prevent another occurrence of the behavior, and protect the target of the act. Appropriate remedial measures may include but are not limited to:

- Peer support groups
- Assignment of an adult mentor at school that the student checks in with at the beginning and end of each school day.
- Corrective instruction that reemphasizes

behavioral expectations or other relevant learning or service experience.

- Engagement of student in a reflective activity, such as writing an essay about the misbehavior and its impact on others and how the student might handle the situation differently in the future and/or make amends to those who have been harmed.
- Supportive intervention and/or mediation where the constructive conflict resolution is modeled.
- Behavioral assessment or evaluation.
- Behavioral management plans or behavior contracts, with benchmarks that are closely monitored.
- Student counseling and parent conferences that focus on involving person is parental relation in discipline issues.

### Student Dress Code

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance.

A student's dress, grooming and appearance, including hair style/color, jewelry, make-up and nails shall:

1. Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.
2. Recognize that extremely brief garments such as tube tops, net tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, plunging necklines (front and/or back), short shorts, cutoffs, muscle shirts/tank tops, and see-through garments are not appropriate.
3. Ensure that underwear is completely covered with outer clothing.
4. Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is deemed inappropriate and/or a safety hazard as determined by the Administrator will not be allowed.
5. Not including the wearing of hats in the classroom except for a medical, religious or relevant instructional purpose.
6. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, and libelous or denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
7. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.

8. Jewelry shall not be worn during the participation of athletic events and physical education including, but not limited to, any body piercing.

A listing of what would be considered acceptable as well as unacceptable clothing is disseminated to students and their parents periodically throughout the year if these are the revisions and through a letter along with the High School Student-Parent Handbook and the Middle School Agenda, which is given to all students.

Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so or who repeatedly fails to comply shall be subject to discipline.

### Prohibited Student Conduct

The Board of Education expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.

Students are prohibited from using or having on or in an operational mode any paging device, mobile telephone, cellular telephone, laser pointer or pen or any other type of telecommunications or imaging device during instructional time, except as expressly permitted in connection with authorized use in classrooms. While students are permitted to possess such devices during the school day, they are prohibited from using them in any manner which invades the privacy of students, employees, volunteers or visitors. Students are not permitted to use any form of information technology, including their own personal electronic devices to intimidate, harass or threaten others. This type of harassment is generally referred to as cyber bullying. If a student violates this prohibition, then he/she is subject to discipline under this provision and/or any other provision in the District Code of Conduct that may be applicable to the circumstances involved. Any electronic device that is permitted on school property is encouraged to be kept on the person and in a concealed manner.

Teachers and all other Board personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and behavior (including possession/use of electronic devices) and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance and conduct in the school setting.



# Code of Conduct Summary (cont.)

The best discipline is self-imposed, and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their misbehavior.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when: he/she/they

- a. Engage in conduct that is disorderly (e.g., making unreasonable noise, running in hallways, trespassing, using language that is profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive, etc.)
- b. Computer/electronic communications misuse and destruction, including any unauthorized use of computers, software, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; evading the District's content filter; using an outside wireless network; including any software or other work of any other individual; or any other violation of the district's acceptable use policy.
- c. Unauthorized use of personal electronic devices/equipment (i.e. cell phones, MP3 devices, cameras, iPads, iPods, nooks, kindles, and other personal electronic devices deemed inappropriate by the administration).
- d. Unauthorized use of personal computer, laptop, tablet or 3-reader and/or other computerized information resources through the District computer system is prohibited.
- e. Engage in conduct that is insubordinate, such as failure to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect or lateness for, missing or leaving school without permission or skipping detention.
- f. Engage in conduct that is disruptive and/or violent, such as failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school personnel in charge of students; committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator, another student, any other person lawfully on school property or other employee or attempting to do so.
- g. Intentionally, recklessly and/or negligently damage or destroy school district property or the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, or other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.

- h. Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others and/or cause emotional harm (e.g., lying, stealing, defamation, discrimination, bullying, harassment, etc.)

- **Discrimination** - means discrimination against any student by a student or students and/or employee or employees on school property or at a school function including but not limited to discrimination based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.
- **Harassment/Bullying** - means the creation of a hostile environment by conduct of threats, intimidation or abuse, including cyberbullying as defined in Education Law 11(8), that
  - o has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being: or
  - o reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety;
  - o reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a student; or
  - o occurs off school property and creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property. The term threats, intimidation and abuse shall include verbal and non-verbal actions.
- **Emotional Harm** - means harm to a student's emotional well-being through creation of a hostile school environment that is so severe or pervasive as to unreasonably and substantially interfere with a student's education.

- i. Engage in cyberbullying through any form of electronic communication. This may include, among other things, the use, both on and off school property, of electronic technology, including but not limited to, e-mail, instant messaging, blogs, chat rooms, pagers, cell phones,

gaming systems and social media websites, to deliberately harass or threaten others.

- j. Engage in misconduct while on a school bus. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving and fighting will not be tolerated.
- k. Engage in any form of academic misconduct (e.g., plagiarism, cheating, altering records, etc.)

## Reporting Violations

All students are expected to promptly report violations of the code or conduct to a teacher, guidance counselor, bus driver, monitor, security, supervisor, the building principal or his or her designee.

### Additional Reporting Requirements for Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying

The amendment to section 100.2(kk) of the Commissioner's Regulations revises the regulation to conform to and implement the reporting requirements of Chapter 102 by adding provisions for reporting of incidents of harassment, bullying/cyberbullying and discrimination to the superintendent, principal, or their designee, including requirements that:

- School employees who witness harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination, or receive an oral or written report of such acts shall promptly orally notify the principal, superintendent, or their designee not later than one school day after such employee witnesses or receives a report of such acts, and shall also file a written report with the principal, superintendent, or their designee not later than two school days after making an oral report.
- The principal, superintendent or the principal's or superintendent's designee shall lead or supervise the thorough investigation of all reports of harassment, bullying and/or discrimination, and ensure that such investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written reports.
- When an investigation verifies a material incident of harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination, the superintendent, principal, or designee shall take prompt action, reasonably calculated to end the harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination, eliminate any hostile environment, create a more positive school culture and climate, prevent recurrence of the behavior, and ensure the safety of the student or students against whom such behavior was directed.

(continued on page 10)

# Code of Conduct Summary (cont.)

- The principal, superintendent, or their designee shall notify promptly the appropriate local law enforcement agency when it is believed that any harassment, bullying or discrimination constitutes criminal conduct.
- Pursuant to Education Law Section 13, retaliation by any school employee or student shall be prohibited against any individual who, in good faith, reports or assists in the investigation of harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination.

Any weapon, alcohol or illegal substances found shall be confiscated immediately, if possible, followed by notification to the parent of the student involved and the appropriate disciplinary sanction if warranted, which may include permanent suspension and referral for prosecution.

## Disciplinary Penalties, Procedures and Referrals

Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair and consistent so as to be the most effective in changing student behavior. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, school personnel authorized to impose disciplinary penalties will consider the following:

1. The student's age.
2. The nature of the offense and the circumstances that led to the offense.
3. The student's prior disciplinary record.
4. The effectiveness of other forms of discipline.
5. Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate.
6. Other extenuating circumstances.

As a general rule, discipline will be progressive. This means that a student's first violation will usually merit a lighter penalty than subsequent violations. In certain instances, a minimum period of suspension may exist as more fully set forth in the Code of Conduct. The full Code also sets forth instances where procedural due process shall be followed together with the extent of such process. Parents and students are urged to consult the full Code of Conduct for a more complete explanation of the specific procedures and penalties. Attention should also be given to the Student Handbooks, which are provided annually to all students.

If the conduct of a student is related to a disability or suspected disability, the student shall be referred to the Committee on Special Education and discipline, if warranted, shall be administered consistent with the separate requirements of this Code

of Conduct for disciplining students with a disability or presumed to have a disability. A student identified as having a disability shall not be disciplined for behavior related to his/her disability.

**A. Penalties:** Students who are found to have violated the district's Code of Conduct may be subject to the following penalties, either alone or in combination (oral warning; written warning; written notification to parent; detention; suspension from transportation, athletic participation, social or extracurricular activities; in-school suspension; removal from classroom by teacher; short-term (five days or less) suspension from school; long-term (greater than five days) suspension from school; or permanent suspension from school.

**B. Procedures:** The amount of due process a student is entitled to receive before a penalty is imposed depends on the penalty being imposed. In all cases, regardless of the penalty imposed, the school personnel authorized to impose the penalty must inform the student of the alleged misconduct and must investigate, to the extent necessary, the facts surrounding the alleged misconduct. All students will have an opportunity to present their version of the facts to the school personnel imposing the disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.

**C. Referrals:** Referrals may also be made for counseling, the filing of a person in need of supervision petition in Family Court or as a juvenile delinquent and/or juvenile offender the County Attorney.

## Alternative Instruction

As far as is practical in the Grand Island Central Schools, alternative educational environments will be considered and offered to students where appropriate.

## Discipline of Students with Disabilities

The Board recognizes that it may be necessary to suspend, remove or otherwise discipline students with disabilities to address disruptive or problem behavior. The Board also recognizes that students with disabilities are entitled to certain procedural protections whenever school authorities intend to impose discipline upon them. The District shall take into account whether or not any discipline will result in a change of placement for the student. In the event a suspension or removal of a student with disabilities is deemed necessary, the District's Committee on Special Education

shall intervene and review the relationship between the disability and the behavior and/or to develop or review behavioral intervention plans. Parents are directed to the complete Code of Conduct together with Federal and State authority and regulatory criteria for a more complete review of the procedural safeguards in place. Such Code shall also set forth the procedures for expedited due process hearings, where warranted.

This Code of Conduct affords students with disabilities subject to disciplinary action no greater or lesser rights than those expressly afforded by applicable federal and state law and regulations.

School personnel may order the suspension or removal of a student with a disability from his or her current educational placement.

## Student Conduct on School Buses

### Waiting for the Bus

Students are to arrive at the stop at least five minutes, but not more than ten minutes before the bus is scheduled to stop. If your child misses the school bus NEVER let them run after the bus. NEVER drop off your child behind the school bus at another stop.

As the bus approaches, students are to line up fifteen feet from the road. Students are not to approach the bus until it has stopped and the driver has opened the door. If the student has to cross the road to get to the bus from your bus stop, observe these precautions:

Make certain that the red lights are flashing. Wait for the driver to signal to begin crossing. The driver will signal with the P.A. or by using their thumb or forefinger to signal when it is safe for the student

to approach the end of their driveway or curb. When at the end of their driveway or curb, students are to look both ways (left and right) to make certain that all traffic has stopped, and it is safe for them to cross the road. After they have crossed, students are then to walk along the shoulder of the road to the door entrance. Students are to be alert to any warning issued by the driver over the P.A. system.



# Code of Conduct Summary (cont.)

Additionally, all students are to understand that if the horn blows while they are crossing the road, they are to immediately return to the side of the road that they started from. When students are boarding the school bus they must stay out of the school bus danger zone. They are to never walk behind the bus or touch or reach under the bus.

## Unloading the Bus

Students are not to leave their seat until the bus has come to a complete stop and the driver has opened the door. Before stepping off of the bus students are to look to the right to make certain that a car, motorcycle, bicycle, etc. is not passing the bus on the right. Crossers are to walk out along the shoulder of the road at least 10 feet (ten steps) in front of the bus. When it is safe to cross, the driver will aim with their thumb and forefinger at the student and then point toward the center of the road to signal when it is safe to proceed to the center of the road/edge of the bus. At the center of the road, all students are to individually stop and look both ways (left and right) to make certain that all traffic has stopped and it is safe for them to proceed across the road.

## Student Searches

To achieve an atmosphere on school property and at school functions that is safe and orderly, any school official authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty on a student may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the district code of conduct. Students are not entitled to any sort of "Miranda"-type warning before being questioned by school officials, nor are school officials required to contact a student's parent before questioning the student. However, school officials will tell all students why they are being questioned.

In addition, the board authorizes the superintendent, building principals, the school nurse and district security officials to conduct searches of students and their belongings if the authorized school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will result in evidence that the student violated the law or the district Code of Conduct.

## Student Lockers, Desks, and Other School Storage Places

The rules in this Code of Conduct regarding searches of students and their belongings



do not apply to student lockers, desks, and other school storage places. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to these places and school officials retain complete control over them. This means that student lockers, desks and other school storage places may be subject to search at any time by school officials, without prior notice to students and without their consent.

## Police Involvement in Searches and Interrogation of Students

Before police officials are permitted to question or search any student, the building principal or his or her designee shall first try to notify the student's parent to give the parent the opportunity to be present during the police questioning or search. If the student's parent cannot be contacted prior to the police questioning or search, the questioning or search shall not be conducted. The principal or designee will also be present during any police questioning or search of a student on school property or at a school function.

## Visitors to the Schools

The Board encourages parents and other district citizens to visit the district's schools and classrooms to observe the work of students, teachers and other staff. Since schools are a place of work and learning, however, certain limits must be set for such visits. The building principal or his or her designee is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds. For these reasons, the following rules apply to visitors (e.g., anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school) to the schools:

1. All visitors to the school (other than those attending school functions that are open to the public) must report to the office of the principal upon arrival at the school. There they will be required to sign the visitor's register and will be issued a visitor's identification badge, which must be worn at all times while in the school or on school grounds. The visitor must return the identification badge to the principal's office before leaving the building.
2. Parents or citizens who wish to observe a classroom while school is in session are required to arrange such visits in advance with the classroom teacher(s), so that class disruption is kept to a minimum.
3. Teachers are expected not to take class time to discuss individual matters with

visitors.

4. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the principal or his or her designee. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation warrants.

## Public Conduct on School Property

The building principal or his or her designee shall be responsible for enforcing the conduct required by this Code.

When the building principal or his or her designee sees an individual engaged in prohibited conduct, which in his or her judgment does not pose any immediate threat of injury to persons or property, the principal or his or her designee shall tell the individual that the conduct is prohibited and attempt to persuade the individual to stop. The principal or his or her designee shall also warn the individual of the consequences for failing to stop. If the person refuses to stop engaging in the prohibited conduct, or if the person's conduct poses an immediate threat of injury to persons or property, the principal or his or her designee shall have the individual removed immediately from school property or the school function. If necessary, local law enforcement authorities will be contacted to assist in removing the person. In addition, the district reserves the right to pursue a civil or criminal legal action against any person violating the Code.

## Grand Island Central School District and Building Dignity Act Coordinators

### District

Cheryl Cardone.....773-8815

### High School

Dan Quartley

Andres Arroyo

Michael Lauria.....773-8820

### Veronica Connor Middle School

Jerry Parisi

Eleanor Payne.....773-8830

### Huth Road

Kerri Nowak.....773-8850

### Kaegebein

Mary Haggerty.....773-8840

### Sidway

Denise Dunbar.....773-8870

# Notification of Sex Offenders

In accordance with the Sex Offenders Registration Act (Megan's Law), the Board of Education enacts this policy to minimize the possibility that a sex offender will come in contact with school-age children, and to assist law enforcement agencies in preventing further criminal activity. Furthermore, the district shall cooperate with local police authorities in promoting and protecting the safety and well being of students. Community members shall also be directed at all times to the local law enforcement authorities for further information with regard to any sex offender whose name appears on the registry and about whom the district has been notified.

It is the policy of the Board of Education to disseminate all information which the district receives from local authorities in conjunction with Megan's Law to designated staff members who might have possible contact with the offender during the course of their school duties including, but not limited to, building principals, supervisors, teachers, office personnel, coaches, custodians, bus drivers and security personnel. The superintendent reserves the right to automatically disseminate information to additional members of the staff, designated supervisors of non-school groups that regularly use district facilities and have children in attendance, parents of district students and other residents, who, in the opinion of the superintendent, have an immediate need to be notified of such data in order to protect the safety of our students.

All staff shall be informed of the information received by the district pursuant to Megan's Law upon written request to the applicable building principal/designee or supervisor. Residents shall also be notified of the availability of this information. Written requests for such information shall be directed to the district office. Such residents shall, however, be directed to the local law enforcement officials pursuant to Megan's Law. Residents shall be reminded of the security measures and the personal safety instruction which exist at the schools. Residents shall also be annually notified of the existence of this policy and the availability of the information, upon written request to the district.

Staff members shall inform their immediate supervisor if they observe within the school building, on school grounds, at school activities, or at or near bus stops, any individual whose description matches the information which was provided to the district by local law enforcement authorities. Such law enforcement officials will be notified of this information by the district as appropriate.

Residents shall also be notified to contact the local law enforcement authority to obtain additional information at any time a request is made of the district. Any information which the school district receives regarding a sex offender from a source other than the Sex Offender Registry, and which

is maintained independent of the requirements of Megan's Law, will be made available by the district, upon written request, and in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Law. Such information/requests shall also be directed to local police authority for further handling and investigation.

As part of the implementation of the Project SAVE legislation, the Board of Regents has approved regulations concerning the reporting of child abuse in an educational setting. This regulation, along with the Education Law as modified effective July 1, 2001, established certain rights and responsibilities of parents with respect to the reporting of child abuse in an educational setting. Part of that new legislation requires that a written statement be provided to the parent of the child who is the subject of an allegation of child abuse in an educational setting.

The new law requires certificated school personnel to complete a written report of any allegation of child abuse in an educational setting which must be promptly forwarded to the school administrator (e.g. building principal) of the building in which the alleged child abuse occurred. If the alleged abuse occurred in a school other than a school within the school district of the child's attendance, the report of such allegations must be promptly forwarded to the Superintendent of Schools of the school district of the child's attendance and the school district where the abuse allegedly occurred. Upon receipt of the written report, the school administrator or superintendent must first determine whether there is reasonable suspicion to believe that an act of child abuse has occurred and, upon making such a determination, depending on the source of the allegation, notify the child's parent, provide the parent with a written statement setting forth the parental rights and responsibilities under the law, and forward the report to appropriate law enforcement authorities. This letter specifically satisfies such notice requirements and sets forth your rights as a parent and your responsibilities under the law.

More specifically, in any case where an oral or written allegation is made to a teacher, school nurse, school guidance counselor, school psychologist, school social worker, school administrator, school board member, or other school personnel required to hold a teaching or administrative license or certificate, that the child has been subjected to child abuse by an employee or volunteer in an educational setting, that individual shall, upon receipt of such allegation, promptly complete a written report setting forth the full name of the child alleged to be abused; the name of child's parents; the identity of the person making the allegation and their relationship to the alleged child victim; the name of the employee or volunteer against whom the allegation was made; a list of the specific allegations of child abuse. Such a report must be personally delivered to the school administrator.

A willful failure to make the required report will be considered a Class A misdemeanor. However, individuals who in good faith comply with the reporting requirements will be entitled to immunity from any civil liability which might otherwise result from such action.

Upon receipt of the written report, the administrator must first determine whether there is "reasonable suspicion" to believe that such an act of child abuse has occurred. The administrator must also forward a written report to relevant law enforcement authorities and refer such report to the Commissioner of Education.

Any failure to submit a written report of child abuse to an appropriate law enforcement authority as required by law, whether or not willful, shall be punishable by a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 upon administrative determination by the Commissioner of Education.

Reports and other written material submitted pursuant to this law with regard to allegations of child abuse in an educational setting, and photographs taken concerning such reports that are in the possession of any person legally authorized to receive such information shall be confidential and shall not be redisclosed except to law enforcement authorities involved in an investigation or as expressly authorized by law or pursuant to a Court ordered subpoena.

If an indictment or conviction should occur after a report is made, the District Attorney is required to notify the District Superintendent where the acts of child abuse occurred and the school district where the child is attending, if different. The District Attorney must also notify the Commissioner of Education in the event a license or certified school employee is convicted of any crime involving child abuse in an educational setting.

The Commissioner, upon receiving notice of the conviction, shall then make a determination as to whether the individual possesses good moral character in accordance with Part 83 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations. The district shall similarly consider the applicability of Education Law Section 3020-a with respect to further disciplinary proceedings.

The Superintendent or other school administrator shall not make any agreement to withhold from law enforcement authorities, the Superintendent or the Commissioner, where appropriate, information concerning allegations of child abuse in an educational setting against an employee or volunteer in exchange for that individual's resignation or voluntary suspension from his or her position.

If the Superintendent or school administrator makes such an agreement violative of this prohibition against "silent resignations," it shall constitute a Class E felony, and shall be punishable by a civil penalty of up to \$20,000.

For Information contact Pupil Services: 773-8816.

# Central Registration, Special Education & Pupil Services



## Central Registration Procedures

All students new to the District must complete the registration process. The following is a step-by-step procedure.

**Step 1:** Please call 716-773-8800 (Extension 0) to set up an appointment to register your child. Registration materials (Enrollment Packet) may be found on the Grand Island Central School District's website - [www.k12.ginet.org](http://www.k12.ginet.org) - or you may pick up enrollment packets at the District Office.

**Step 2:** Registration at District Office, 1100 Ransom Road. You must bring all of the required documents.

**Step 3:** After registration is completed at District Office, please call your child's respective school to schedule an appointment for enrollment.

## School Phone Numbers

Grades K-1	Sidway:	773-8870
Grades 2-5	Huth Road:	773-8850
Grades 2-5	Kaegebein:	773-8840
Grades 6-8	Middle School:	773-8837/8844
Grades 9-12	High School:	773-8860/8866

## Special Education Services

Each school district in New York State is required by law to establish a Committee on Special Education which, comprised of parents and professional school personnel, reviews the needs of each child referred and determines if she/he is educationally disabled. Appropriate services or programs for identified children are then recommended by the Committee to the Board of Education. These programs take the form of part-time services, full-time special classes, or home instruction. Special classes, resource rooms, and consultant teachers are available at all schools.

When the Committee on Special Education has determined that students with special education needs cannot be provided for in the Island schools, appropriate off-Island instructional programs are arranged at the district's expense.

The school district is also responsible for the placement of preschool children, ages 3 and 4, who have been identified by the Committee on Preschool Special Education as educationally disabled. This committee is made up of district personnel, a parent, a representative of

Erie County, a representative of a preschool education agency, and regular and special education teachers.

Contact the chairperson of the Committee on Special Education or your building principal if you feel your child may require special educational services. A NYS Parent's Guide to Special Education for Children ages 3 to 21 is available upon request.

## Speech Services

The district's speech improvement services are designed to treat and diagnose language and speech disorders. All kindergarten and third grade students are screened by a speech therapist. Parents who are concerned about their child's speech patterns are encouraged to confer with their child's classroom teacher or building principal. Screening and/or evaluation may be available, and results would provide referrals to either Committee on Special Education or to the parent for private therapy.

## Psychological/Counseling

Students who are experiencing learning and/or social adjustment problems may be referred to a school psychologist, community counselor or social worker. Referrals can be initiated by parents or school personnel. Results of assessments are shared with parents and teachers in an effort to provide a better understanding of the student and how to meet his or her needs. Referrals may be made to the Committee on Special Education if needed. Results will be shared with parents for pursuit of private therapy if needed.

## Home Tutoring

Students who are home-bound or hospitalized because of illness, accident or other disabling condition are eligible for home instruction if a doctor certifies that the anticipated absence will be at least 20 school days. Elementary students normally receive five hours of home instruction per week and secondary students receive 10. Review of private physician's orders for home tutoring may be made by the school physician.

## Home Instruction by Parent

Parents who wish to instruct their child at home must submit a letter of intent to the Superintendent of Schools by July 1 annually.

## Accident Insurance

The school district provides "excess cost" accident insurance to all students enrolled in district schools. Coverage applies to those activities sponsored by the Grand Island Board

of Education. Medical benefits are schedule indemnities. Benefits are paid only in excess of the benefits available from any other group, blanket or individual insurance plans under which the student may be covered. The student's family is responsible to first submit accident claims for payment under those plans. After all eligible costs have been paid by those plans, school insurance will pay on the total covered amount, balance or portion of the balance according to the schedule, subject to that particular school accident.

## Home School Communications

Good communications are the basis of understanding that unites home and school efforts in support of youth. We will do our best to keep you informed of your child's progress, instructional offerings, proposed program changes and general levels of student achievement through report cards, parent conferences, notes and phone calls, open house programs, board meetings, news releases and advisory councils.

If you have a concern with your child's education, or with any aspect of the school system, we invite you to call the individual most closely associated with your concern. Initially your concern should begin with your child's teacher. When a problem relates to a building, call the principal; if it is a bus problem, call the Supervisor of Transportation; if you are concerned with the appropriateness of your child's educational placement, call the Director for Curriculum and Instruction. If you have not been able to resolve your concern at those levels, then call the Superintendent of Schools. If you still feel your communications are unsatisfactory, contact the Board of Education.

Remember, there are two sides to every story. To by-pass the classroom teacher, the building principal or the superintendent of schools discredits them and is not fair to school personnel, yourself and your child.

## Kindergarten

The full-day kindergarten curriculum emphasizes the Learning Center approach. It helps individualize learning experiences while capitalizing on student curiosity and interests. Youngsters are involved in directed and free-choice activities encompassing reading, mathematics, social living, science, art, music, and motor activities.



# Health Services

The health services department firmly believes that a child needs to be healthy in order to be a good learner. Registered professional school nurses, with their specialized training and skills, impact heavily on the total health and educational development of the school-aged child. School nurses meet the needs of the school-aged child by using their health assessment, intervention, health education and counseling skills. School nurses strive to improve the quality of education as well as the quality of life for the student. District health services work in tandem with the home to assure good student health!

## Physical Examinations

New York State law requires physical examinations for all athletes, new students, special education students and for all students in Pre-K, kindergarten, grades 2, 4, 7, and 10. Your private physician knows the most about your child's physical health, growth and previous immunizations against disease, and therefore is best able to advise you and the school regarding his or her educational program. Physical examination forms are available in the health offices and on the district website. In the event the school does not receive the completed form for your child by October 1, we will schedule a health appraisal during the school year to be conducted by the school physician. Nurses annually conduct vision, hearing, height and weight measures. Parents are informed of any health problems identified.

## Illness & Injury

The nurse is available to administer first aid to students for illness or injury that occurs during the school day. Parents are notified of any serious injury or illness. It is the responsibility of the parent to provide any follow-up medical care for their child. The school nurse does not take the place of a doctor. Please do not expect her to diagnose illness or treat injuries sustained outside of school. Parents are also responsible for transporting their child when he/she needs to be dismissed early due to illness or injury. Parents must have an alternate emergency number available in the Health Office in the event they cannot be reached.

As part of a required school health examination, a student is weighed and his/her height is measured. These numbers are used to figure out the student's body mass index or 'BMI'. The BMI helps the doctor or nurse know if the student's weight is in a healthy range or is too high or too low. Recent changes to the New York State Education Law require that BMI and weight status group be included as part of the student's school health examination. Beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, a sample of schools will be selected each year and notified that they will be required

to submit aggregate weight status data to the Department of Health. Only summary information is sent. No names and no information about individual students are sent. However, you may choose to have your child's information excluded from this survey report by submitting a written request to your child's school nurse by October 1 of each year.

## Administering Medications

These procedures must be followed for all prescription and over the counter medications. This includes cough drops, lozenges, lip balms, skin creams and analgesics, etc. All medications must be brought to school by the parent. Students are not permitted to transport prescription or over the counter medication on the bus. Written orders signed by a physician, and instructions by the pharmacist must accompany the medication. These instructions must include the student's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, the route (the way it is given), time interval, the duration, possible side effects, etc. (A pharmacy label does not constitute a written order from a physician.) It must be kept in a container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy, doctor or manufacturer. Parents may wish to ask the pharmacist to split the prescription into two labeled containers, one for home and one for school. Written permission must be submitted by the parent and kept on record in the Health Office, requesting that the school district comply with physician's orders. A copy of the prescription and over-the-counter medication request form is available in the health office and on the district website. During field trips or other school activities, classroom teachers will be advised by the nurse regarding procedures. Students assessed by their licensed healthcare provider as being self-directed may carry and self-administer an inhaler or epi-pen once written permission is on file. Any medication that is not picked up by an adult at the end of the school year will be discarded by the school nurse as per New York State guidelines. These procedures will be strictly enforced for your child's protection.

## Immunization Requirements

No student will be admitted to school without appropriate immunization certification from a physician or clinic according to the following schedule: 3 doses of diphtheria containing toxoid (DPT, Dtap, DT or Td); 3 doses of polio virus vaccine (OPV or IPV); 1 dose rubella vaccine administered after 12 months of age; 1 dose of mumps vaccine administered after 12 months of age; 2 doses of measles vaccine, the first administered after 12 months of age and the second after 15 months of age (measles, mumps rubella may be given

as MMR). One dose of Varicella vaccine (varivax) for all children born on or after January 1, 1998 (administered after 12 months of age). Students entering 6th grade on or after September 1, 2005 must provide written medical proof of being immunized or proof of immunity against Varicella disease. Students who are entering 6th grade on or after September 1, 2007 and who are 11 years of age or older must receive an immunization containing tetanus toxoids, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap). Children born on or after January 1, 1993 must have received 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine.

The school offices will be open during summer hours for completion of immunization records. Please call the respective office for a time to present your certification.

**Sidway Elementary Health Office**  
Mrs. Catherine Zangh (773-8870 x2)

**Huth Road Elementary Health Office**  
Mrs. Marian Farrell (773-8850 x2)

**Kaegebein Elementary Health Office**  
Mrs. Ann Marie Stewart (773-8840 x2)

**Veronica E. Connor Middle School Health Office**  
Mrs. Angela Howarth (773-8838)

**Grand Island High School Health Office**  
Mrs. Cynthia Sharpe (773-8827)

## Calling All Nurses

Grand Island CSD is always looking for qualified registered professional nurses to join our team of substitute nurses. This is a great opportunity for any RN who is a stay at home parent, or works part time and would like to supplement what they do. Working with children in the educational setting is both challenging and rewarding at the same time, and may give you an opportunity to work in the same building that your son/daughter attends school. We would provide an orientation to the different buildings so that you would become familiar with our district's policies and procedures.

We are always in need of nurses to attend field trips, ride the bus with special needs students, assist with screening procedures or to provide sub coverage in one of our 5 health offices within the district. Please consider joining our team! If interested or have any questions, please contact your child's school nurse where they attend school, or call Cindy Sharpe, RN our District's Nurse Team Leader at 773-8827.

## Food Services

The following are the established meal prices for the 2013-2014 school year:

Elementary Breakfast	\$1.00	Free and reduced breakfasts/lunches will be available to students whose family income falls within the eligibility criteria as established through federal guidelines. Reduced breakfasts/lunches will be available at a cost estimated at \$.25 for 2013-2014. Privacy will be respected for all participants in this program. Applications for participation in the free and reduced price breakfast/lunch program will be distributed to all students in early September and can also be found on the district website at <a href="http://www.k12.ginet.org">www.k12.ginet.org</a> - Departments & Services - Food Services.
Sidway Lunch	\$2.00	
Huth & Kaegebein Lunch	\$2.25	
MS/HS Breakfast	\$1.25	
MS Lunch	\$2.75	
HS Lunch	\$2.75	
Milk	\$.50	
Adult Lunch	\$4.25	

## School Meals

As was described last year in this publication, the Federal Government has made and continues to adjust the requirements for school meals.

The major adjustments for this year occur in the School Breakfast Program. At breakfast, schools must offer all three required food components in at least the minimum required amounts for the meal to qualify as a reimbursable meal. The components are: grains (with optional meats/meat alternates); juice/fruit/vegetable; and milk. For a breakfast to qualify as a reimbursable meal four components must be offered and three must be chosen by the student.

For Example, the District may offer the following:

- A Muffin 2 oz. equivalent (grain)
- Toast 1 oz. equivalent (grain)
- Fruit ½ cup
- Milk 8 fluid ounces

The student would have to take three of the above items for the meal to qualify as reimbursable. Items that could be offered as alternatives for grain include cereal, a hard-boiled egg, a half cup of fruit or eight ounces of milk. In order for any of these items to be counted as a grain alternate a grain equivalent must already be included in

the offering. In the example above the hard-boiled egg could be substituted for the toast.

New for 2013-2014 is similar to the lunch requirement that at least half the grains offered must be whole grain-rich. The District is already in compliance with this requirement.

The lunch requirements instituted for 2012-2013 will remain in effect for the 2013-2014 school year. We will still be preparing lunches on the following five components:

- 1) Milk: We can only offer 1% low fat white and fat free white or flavored.
- 2) Whole Grains  
2012-'13 school year: half of all grains must be whole grain  
2013-'14 school year: all grains must be whole grain rich.  
K-5: 1 oz. min. daily, 8-9 oz. weekly  
6-8: 1 oz. min daily, 8-10 oz. weekly  
9-12: 2 oz. min. daily, 10-12 oz. weekly
- 3) Fruits: Students will be offered ½ to one cup daily.
- 4) Vegetables: Students will be offered ½ to one cup daily.  
Most notably these will come from 5 groups which must come once a week from the following:

- a) dark green
- b) orange/red
- c) starchy
- d) beans/legumes
- e) other (as defined in USDA 2010 Dietary Guidelines)

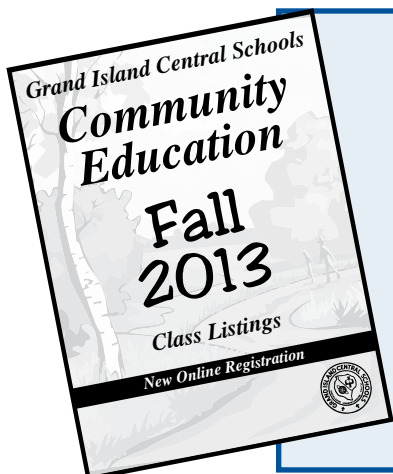
- 5) Protein: Meat/Meat Alternative  
Grades K-5: 1 oz. min. daily,  
8 oz. min. - 10 oz. max. weekly  
Grades 6-8: 1 oz. min. daily,  
9 oz. min. - 10 oz. max. weekly  
Grades 9-12: 2 oz. min. daily,  
10 oz. min. - 12 oz. max. weekly

The requirements for average daily calories is:

Grades K-5:	550-650
Grades 6-8:	600-700
Grades 9-12:	750-850

As we move forward in future years, the requirements for calories, fats and sodium will be addressed and meals will have to be prepared accordingly.

The goal has been to prepare foods and improve nutrient density by limiting calories, serving more fruits, vegetables, legumes and whole grains, limiting sodium and saturated fat, requiring trans fat to be zero grams and serving only low fat (unflavored) and fat free milk.



### Check out our *NEW* Fall Community Education courses!

*Fast Quilted Projects*  
*Beginner Basket Weaving*  
*Sheila's Fitness Jam*  
*Zumba Combo*  
*20/20/20 Fitnessjam*  
*Pilates*  
*Sat Prep Course For November SAT*  
*Notary Public Training*  
*American Red Cross 'Citizen' CPR*

*Holistic Arts . . . Create Your Life*  
*Don't Give Up On Happiness*  
*Genealogy*  
*Planning For Longevity?*  
*Protecting Your Assets: New Laws And Updates*  
*Long-Term Care Insurance: Does It Make Sense?*  
*Financial Strategies For The Special Needs Family*  
*Kidzfitnessjam*  
*Kidsplay Nfl Flag Football Leagues*

## School Bus Safety Rules

A school bus safety packet is distributed to parents of kindergarten students at orientation. The information contained in the packet is applicable to all students. If you would like a copy of the information, please contact the Transportation Center.

High school and middle school students may walk up to five tenths (.5) of a mile to a bus stop. Students in grades 2-5 may walk up to three tenths (.3) of a mile to a bus stop; kindergarten and first grade students may walk up to two tenths (.2) of a mile to a bus stop. Parents of K-1 students are requested to meet their children at the bus stop to help ensure their child's safety.

If you would like to volunteer to be a bus monitor on the Sidway/St. Stephen buses for the first week of school, please contact the Transportation Center. Transportation to and from home is provided.

**Medical Concerns:** If you have any medical or other concerns you would like to share with your child's bus driver, please contact the Transportation Center.

**After School/Late Run Buses:** Many times parents call the Transportation Center looking for their child because they were not aware that he/she was staying after school. Please have your child notify you in advance that they plan to stay after school, the reason or event, and the expected time home. Each after-school late run bus has a large area of the Island to cover. Drop-offs may not be the same as the regular AM-PM bus stop. Additionally, drop-off times may vary each night, depending on how many students are on the bus and where they live.

**After School/Late Bus Dismissal Times**  
Kaegebein & Huth (Monday-Thursday)  
4:00 PM (until May 19)

GIHS/ VCMS (Monday-Thursday)  
4:00 PM (until the day before local exams begin)

Please have your child check the map(s) located at each school office to see which bus they should take. Bus schedules and service are subject to change.

**Regulations and Safety Rules:** In order to assure safe transportation to and from school, students must behave while riding the bus. Misbehavior that distracts the driver is a very serious hazard to the safe operation of the bus, and as such, jeopardizes the health, safety and welfare of all the passengers. Continued misbehavior (three offenses) or misbehavior of a serious nature, will result in the suspension of riding privileges. If riding privileges are suspended, your child is still obligated to attend school and you are obligated to assure that he/she gets to and from school. VIDEO

**CAMERAS ON THE SCHOOL BUS MAY MONITOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND CONVERSATION.**

**Passing Stopped School Buses:** Legislation which amends the Vehicle and Traffic Law in relation to overtaking and passing a school bus is in effect. The amendment expands the term "public highway" to include any area used:

- a) For parking of motor vehicles;
- b) As a driveway located on the grounds of a school or a Board of Cooperative Educational Services facility;
- c) As a means of access to and egress from such school or facility.

Therefore, when a bus is stopped on school property to receive or discharge students and the red lights are flashing, it is unlawful to pass that bus. The penalty will be the same as a highway violation. First offenders will face a fine of \$250 to \$400, five (5) points and possible imprisonment of up to 30 days.

## Alternate Pickup and Drop Offs:

The district recognizes the variety of parent work schedules and is willing to assist by arranging transportation schedules where possible. To accomplish this, approval for alternate pickups and drop offs are contingent upon the following:

### Long Term Alternate

1. The student must be eligible for transportation service.
2. In the case of a non-licensed day care center, the alternate address must be within the attendance area of the child's school.
3. Only one alternate address will be accepted.
4. Alternate address must be on an existing bus route.
5. Space must be available on the bus.
6. A request form must be filed at the Transportation Center at least five days prior to the effective date. All forms can be found at [www.k12.ginet.org](http://www.k12.ginet.org).
7. To ensure your child's safety, the bus driver, teacher, school and Transportation Center need to know your child's proper bus and bus stop. For this reason, all alternate transportation requests for the start of the school year must be submitted to the Transportation Center by Aug. 23.

### Daily or Emergency Alternate

1. All the conditions of a long-term alternate need to be met with the exception of #6. This request must be in writing and approved by the principal or designee of the school the child attends, and the Transportation Center notified.
2. The request will include the name, address and phone number where the parent can be reached as well as name, address and phone number of the person at the alternate address.

Alternate transportation request forms may be obtained at the Transportation Center. Office hours are 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Telephone 773-8890 if you need further information.

## Waiting for the Bus

Be on time for the bus. Students are to arrive at the stop at least five minutes, but not more than 10 minutes, before the bus is scheduled to stop. Bus routing is a combination of individual house stops and corner stops.

In inclement weather, students sometimes wait inside their house until the bus arrives. The extra time that the bus has to wait for a student at a stop, disrupts the bus schedule. This results in students who are on time waiting longer in the same weather at their bus stop. If your child misses the school bus, NEVER let him/her run after the bus. NEVER drop off your child behind the school bus at another stop. If your child is running along the side of the bus as it begins to pull away, he/she could very easily be run over by the bus. Also, it is dangerous for younger siblings to stand at the bus stop. They have a tendency to get too close to the bus when it pulls away. Students are not to push, pull, fight, or chase other students at the bus stop. It is highly recommended that parents/guardians accompany their elementary child to the bus stop in the morning and be at the bus stop to receive their child in the afternoon. Students should be instructed what to do if no one is home when they get there. Example: go to neighbor's house. Parents are legally responsible for the safety of their children from home to the bus stop, or from the bus stop to home.

As the bus approaches, students are to line up 15 feet from the road. Students are not to approach the bus until it has stopped and the driver has opened the door. In general, buses are to stop 10 feet back from where a student crosses. If the student has to cross the road to get to the bus he/she should observe these precautions:

Make certain that the red lights are flashing. Wait for the driver to signal to begin crossing. The driver will signal with the P.A. or by using their thumb and forefinger. The driver will aim at the student and then point toward the road with their thumb and forefinger to signal when it is safe to approach the end of the driveway or curb. At the end of the driveway or curb, students are to look both ways (left and right) to make certain that all traffic has stopped, and it is safe to cross the road. After they have crossed, students are then to walk along the shoulder of the road to the door entrance. Students are to be alert to any warning issued by the driver over the P.A. system.



Additionally, all students are to understand that if the horn blows while they are crossing the road, they are to immediately return to the side of the road that they started from. When students are boarding the bus they must stay out of the school bus danger zone. They should never stop to pick up anything while in the bus danger zone. They are to never walk behind the bus or touch or reach under the bus.

## **Unloading the Bus**

Students are not to leave their seat until the bus has come to a complete stop and the driver has opened the door. Before stepping off the bus, students are to look to the right to make certain that a car, motorcycle, bicycle, etc. is not passing the bus on the right. Crossers are to walk out along the shoulder of the road at least 10 feet (10 steps) in front of the bus. This distance is to be used in conjunction with the principle that the students are to go far enough out so that they can see the driver and the driver can see them. Students are to remember: "I can see you, you can see me." When it is safe to cross, the driver will signal with the P.A. or by using their thumb and forefinger. The driver will aim with their thumb and forefinger at the student and then point toward the center of the road to signal when it is safe to proceed to the center of the road/edge of the bus. At the center of the road, all students are to individually stop and look both ways (left and right) to make certain that all traffic has stopped and it is safe to proceed across the road.

Students are to be alert to any warning issued by the driver over the P.A. system. Additionally, all students are to understand that if the horn blows while they are crossing the road, they are to immediately return to the side of the road that they started from. When students get off the bus, they must stay out of the school bus danger zone. They should never stop to pick up anything while in the bus danger zone. They are to never walk behind the bus or touch or reach under the bus. The bus is to remain halted until students are out of the school bus danger zone. Vehicle Traffic Law (V.T.) 1174 states that before the bus leaves the stop, all students must be "at least 15 feet from the bus and either off the highway, street or private road, or on a sidewalk." Students going to mailboxes, paper boxes, bringing in the garbage cans, etc., make this rule a particular concern. Parents must not supersede the bus driver's directions to their children by calling them across the road or in any way distracting them from the bus safety procedures established by this policy.

## **House Numbers**

One of the more difficult aspects of driving a school bus is trying to drive while looking

for numbers on mailboxes and houses that don't exist, are too small, or are not centrally located. Please make certain that your mailbox and house are properly numbered with minimum four-inch high numbers (Grand Island Town Ordinance). Mailboxes should be numbered on both sides and readily visible. The more houses/mailboxes on your street that are not properly numbered, the greater the likelihood that your house will be missed. This is as true for school buses as it is for the fire company, police, or ambulance responding to an emergency.

## **Items Carried on School Bus**

The Board of Education, in coordination with the New York State Department of Transportation Regulations, Section 721.22, will limit the carrying of items on school buses to those that can be carried in the hands or on the lap of the student, or secured under the seats so as not to interfere with the safety or comfort of passengers.

### Acceptable Items:

Books, small back packs, small book bags, lunch boxes.

### Not Allowed on the school bus:

Glass containers, pressurized containers, hockey sticks, hockey bags, skate boards, defensemen lacrosse sticks, large projects, suitcases, animals, birds, fish, reptiles, worms, etc., with or without cages, sharp items such as umbrellas with sharp points, string art, etc.

Elementary students are not allowed to use electronic equipment on the bus, for ex: iPods, DS, cell phones, cameras, etc.

## **Musical Instruments**

There are three (3) basic rules that must be observed:

1. The aisle must be clear at all times. An instrument cannot extend into the aisle from a seat.
2. All instruments must be held in the student's lap. Small elementary students with large instruments must be able to physically handle carrying the instrument on the bus and maneuver through the aisle to their seat.
3. An instrument cannot occupy a seat.

Baritone saxophones, tubas, cellos, string bases, guitars and large drums cannot be transported on the bus. Instrument cases of questionable size for a student to hold on their lap are: bassoons, tenor saxophones, trombones, French horns, baritone horns, bass clarinets.

Any item that, in the opinion of the Supervisor for Transportation, is a safety hazard will not be allowed on the school bus. Although bus safety rules might seem to offer little latitude, the rules are there to protect students.

## **Transportation of Students to Non-Public Schools**

In accordance with New York State Education Law Section 3635, parents or legal guardians residing on Grand Island desiring to have their child transported to a non-public school must, for each child, each year, submit a written request for such transportation by April 1 proceeding the next school year, to Transportation Center, 2451 Baseline Road, Grand Island, NY 14072.

In order to be eligible for transportation, the maximum distance from the student's home to the requested non-public school shall not exceed 15 miles. If the district is providing transportation for eligible students to a non-public school, transportation may be provided from a central pick-up point to the non-public school for those students who live beyond the 15-mile maximum limit.

In addition, to be eligible for transportation, a student must be 5 years old by Dec. 1. To verify the age of a kindergarten student the original birth certificate must be submitted along with the written request.

New residents, after April 1, must submit a written request within 30 days after establishing residency in the district. All forms can be found at [www.k12.ginet.org](http://www.k12.ginet.org).

## **Transportation When the Public School is not in Session**

Transportation will not be provided to any school when Grand Island public schools are closed due to weather conditions. Nor will transportation be provided to any school off Grand Island that is located within the boundary of a public school that is closed due to weather conditions. Transportation will not be provided when Grand Island public schools, as listed in the school calendar, are not in session. Transportation during the school year will be provided when Grand Island public schools are in session for staff development. Students with disabilities assigned to schools by the Committee on Special Education will be transported if their program requires their attendance.

## **Off Island School Bus Pick-Up & Drop-off Information**

Parents will be notified in late August of their child's AM bus stop information. Off-Island buses start picking up at 6:30 AM and exchange at 7:15 AM at the Transportation Center. PM bus stops may vary from the AM stop. PM drop-off times take a minimum of two weeks to be established. Early dismissals and the number of students riding on the bus will also affect the drop-off times. Parents of younger students requiring further bus stop/time/location information are to contact the Transportation Center.



# Fall 2013 Athletic Schedule

## FOOTBALL - VARSITY

09/06	@ Hamburg	7:00 pm
09/13	@ N. Tonawanda	7:00 pm
09/21	Niagara Wheat	2:00 pm
09/28	KenEast	2:00 pm
10/05	Sweet Home	2:00 pm
10/12	@ Starpoint	2:00 pm
10/19	Will North	1:00 pm



## FOOTBALL - JV

09/07	Hamburg	10:00 am
09/12	No. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
09/21	@ Niagara Wheat	10:00 am
09/28	@ KenEast	10:00 am
10/05	@ Sweet Home	10:00 am
10/12	Starpoint	10:00 am
10/19	@ Will North	10:00 am

## FOOTBALL - MODIFIED

09/13	Lockport	4:30 pm
09/19	LewPort	4:30 pm
09/25	@ Kenmore	4:30 pm
10/03	Franklin	4:30 pm
10/10	@ N. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
10/17	Hoover	4:30 pm
10/24	@ Niagara Falls	4:30 pm

## GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING

09/10	N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
09/13	@ KenEast	5:00 pm
09/17	@ LewPort	5:00 pm
09/20	KenWest	5:00 pm
09/24	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
10/01	@ Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
10/04	Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
10/11	@ N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
10/15	KenEast	5:00 pm
10/17	LewPort	5:00 pm
10/22	NFL JV Meet @ NT	TBA
10/23	NFL Meet @ NW	TBA
10/24	NFL Meet @ NF	TBA
10/25	NFL Meet @ NW	TBA
11/1- 11/2	Sectionals	TBA

## BOYS SOCCER

08/30	@ SweetHome Tour	2:00 pm
08/31	@ SweetHome Tour	12:00 pm
09/03	@ LewPort	4:00 pm
09/05	@ N. Tonawanda	4:30/6:30 pm
09/07	Niagara Falls	10:00 am
09/11	@ KenWest	4:30 pm
09/17	KenEast	4:30 pm
09/20	@ Lockport	4:30 pm
09/23	Niagara Wheat	4:30 pm
09/25	N. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
10/02	@ Niagara Falls	4:30 pm
10/05	KenWest	2:30 pm
10/08	LewPort	4:30 pm
10/11	@ KenEast	4:30 pm
10/15	Lockport	4:30 pm
10/17	@ Niagara Wheat	4:30 pm

## GIRLS SOCCER

09/05	N. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
09/07	@ Niagara Falls	10:00 am
09/10	@ Orchard Park	5/7 pm
09/11	KenWest	4:30 pm
09/14	LewPort	10:00 am
09/17	@ KenEast	4:30 pm
09/20	Lockport	4:30 pm
09/23	@ Niagara Wheat	4:30 pm
09/25	@ N. Tonawanda	4:30/6:30 pm
10/02	Niagara Falls	4:30 pm
10/04	@ KenWest	4:30 pm
10/05	@ Aquinas(NL)	5/7 pm
10/08	@ LewPort	4:30/6:30 pm
10/11	KenEast	4:30 pm
10/15	@ Lockport	4:30 pm
10/17	Niagara Wheat	4:30 pm



## GOLF

09/04	@ KenWest	4:00 pm
09/06	@ LewPort	4:00 pm
09/10	Niagara Wheat	4:00 pm
09/11	@ Niagara Falls	4:00 pm
09/13	N. Tonawanda	4:00 pm
09/16	@ Lockport	4:00 pm
09/18	KenEast	4:00 pm
09/20	KenWest	4:00 pm
09/24	LewPort	4:00 pm
09/25	@ Niagara Wheat	4:00 pm
09/27	Niagara Fall	4:00 pm
09/30	@ N. Tonawanda	4:00 pm
10/02	Lockport	4:00 pm
10/04	@ KenEast	4:00 pm

## GIRLS TENNIS

09/04	@ N. Tonawanda	4:00 pm
09/06	Lockport	4:00 pm
09/09	@ KenEast	4:00 pm
09/11	@ LewPort	4:00 pm
09/13	KenWest	4:00 pm
09/16	@ Niagara Falls	4:00 pm
09/18	Niagara Wheat	4:00 pm
09/19	Maryvale (NL)	4:30 pm
09/20	N. Tonawanda	4:00 pm
09/23	@ Lockport	4:00 pm
09/25	KenEast	4:00 pm
09/27	LewPort	4:00 pm
10/01	@ KenWest	4:00 pm
10/03	Niagara Falls	4:00 pm
10/08	@ Niagara Wheat	4:00 pm



## CROSS COUNTRY

09/06	@ Oakfield Ala. Relays	TBA
09/10	@ Reservoir	TBA
09/14	@ W.Seneca Inv	TBA
09/21	WNY Officials Inv	10:30 am
09/24	Lock.LP @ GI	4:30 pm
09/28	McQuaid Inv	11:00 am
10/01	GI @ NT	4:30 pm
10/08	GI, KE @ KW	4:30 pm
10/12	@ Pembroke	TBA
10/15	GI, NW @ NF	4:30 pm
10/19	Clarence Inv	TBA
10/26	NFL Meet	1:00 pm
11/01	Section VI Champ	TBA

## MODIFIED GIRLS & BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

09/18	@ East Aurora	5:00 pm
09/25	GI Invite	5:00 pm
10/02	@ JFK HS	5:00 pm
10/09	@ Amherst MS	5:00 pm
10/16	@ Starpoint HS	5:00 pm
10/23	@ Clarence HS	4:45 pm

## BOYS VOLLEYBALL

08/30	@ Maryvale	TBA
09/10	@ N. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
09/14	@ Cheektowaga	TBA
09/16	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
09/20	Niagara Wheat	4:30 pm
09/21	@ KenWest Tourn	9:00 am
09/24	@ KenEast	5:00 pm
09/26	Niagara Falls	4:30 pm
09/30	KenWest	4:30 pm
10/02	No. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
10/08	Lockport	4:30 pm
10/10	@ Niagara Wheat	4:30 pm
10/15	KenEast	4:30 pm
10/17	@ Niagara Falls	4:30 pm
10/19	GI Tourn	8:00 am
10/21	@ KenWest	5:00 pm
10/23	@ W.Seneca West	5:00 pm
10/25	@ Lancaster (NL)	5:00 pm
10/28	@ St. Joe's (NL)	5:00 pm

## GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

09/04	Niagara Falls	4:30 pm
09/06	KenWest	4:30 pm
09/07	@ St. Mary's (V)	TBA
09/10	N. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
09/12	@ Niagara Falls	4:30 pm
09/13	@ LewPort	4:30 pm
09/17	Lockport	4:30 pm
09/18	LewPort	4:30 pm
09/20	@ Niagara Wheat	4:30 pm
09/21	@ Eden (V)	TBA
09/24	KenEast	4:30 pm
09/30	@ KenWest	4:30 pm
10/02	@ No. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
10/05	@ Frontier (V)	TBA
10/05	@ N. Tona. (JV)	TBA
10/08	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
10/10	Niagara Wheat	4:30 pm
10/15	@ KenEast	5:00 pm
10/16	@ Wilson	4:30 pm
10/19	@ N. Ton Tourn (V)	TBA
10/21	Lancaster (V)	5:00 pm

## MODIFIED BOYS VOLLEYBALL

09/25	@ No. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
09/27	Franklin	4:30 pm
09/30	Kenmore Middle	4:30 pm
10/01	@ Hoover	4:30 pm
10/04	@ Franklin	4:30 pm
10/07	@ Kenmore Middle	4:30 pm
10/15	Franklin	4:30 pm
10/17	Kenmore Middle	4:30 pm
10/18	Hoover	4:30 pm
10/21	@ No. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
10/23	N. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
10/25	Hoover	4:30 pm
10/28	@ Franklin	4:30 pm

## MODIFIED GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

09/27	@ Niagara Falls	4:30 pm
10/01	Hoover	4:30 pm
10/03	@ Franklin	4:30 pm
10/07	Kenmore Middle	4:30 pm
10/09	Lockport	4:30 pm
10/10	@ CSAT	4:30 pm
10/15	N. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
10/17	@ LewPort	4:30 pm
10/23	Niagara Falls (back)	4:30 pm
10/24	Hoover	4:30 pm
10/28	Franklin	4:30 pm
10/30	@ Kenmore Middle	4:30 pm



# Back to School Updates

## Sidway Elementary

Kindergarten screening for new entrants will be held on September 3. If you are new to the district and/or did not have your child screened for Kindergarten in June, please call the District Office at 773-8870 to register and set up a screening appointment.

Sidway parents and students will have an opportunity to drop off school supplies and briefly meet teachers on Friday, September 6 between 10:30 - 11:30 am. This is the only opportunity as the teacher's time is scheduled the remainder of the day.

The first day of school is Monday, September 9 and is a full day of school. Please make sure your child is wearing the adhesive name tag sent home in their placement letter. This helps to ensure that your child gets to his/her classroom. All faculty and staff are on hand to assist on the first few days and weeks of school. Until we get to know your child, the name tag is critical! Your child will come home with a more permanent bus tag that should be attached to the backpack on the first day.

Please know that at Sidway we recognize that you are your child's first teacher. We look forward to picking up where you left off and working with you to provide a rich learning environment for your child. You can help by making sure your child is well rested and prepared for school. We will do the rest!

## Huth Road Elementary

### Open House Grade 2 Wednesday, September 4, 6 p.m.

This special program will help your children feel comfortable with their new classrooms, classmates, and teachers before school begins. Be sure to bring their labeled school supplies! The evening's program will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m., plan to stay until 7:30 p.m. Only our second-grade teachers will be with us this evening. If you would like to meet with specials teachers or support service teachers, we invite you to return for our Grades 3-5 Open House.

**Razkids:** Last year's Huth Road Elementary students all received login information to Razkids for reading practice and IXL for math practice. Please encourage your children to continue to log on to their accounts daily and spend just a few minutes staying sharp.

### Open House Grade 3-5 Thursday, September 12 (Parents only, please)

Grade 3 7:30-8:15 p.m.  
Grade 4: 6:00-6:45 p.m.  
Grade 5: 6:45-7:30 p.m.

All programs begin in the auditorium with Mrs. Nowak followed by classroom presentations 15 minutes later. Parents of second-graders are also welcome to visit with specials teachers as needed.

## Grand Island High School

Freshman Orientation will be held on Thursday, September 6 in the high school auditorium. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m.

### Open House will be held on Wednesday, September 18 from 6:15 - 8:30 p.m.

#### Homecoming Week:

The bonfire will be held on Thursday, September 26 starting at 6:30 p.m.

The Homecoming Game is at 2 p.m. against Kenmore East on Saturday, September 28.

That evening the Homecoming Dance will be from 7:00 - 10:30 p.m.

## Kaegebein Elementary

The first day of school, Monday, September 9, is a full day of school and breakfast and lunch will be served. Prices remain the same this year (\$1.00 breakfast, \$2.25 for lunch). If your child qualified for free or reduced lunch last year, they will continue to qualify for up to two weeks to allow you to complete the application form for this year.

If your child is new to the district and Kaegebein (or did not participate in last year's visit from Sidway Elementary), a new student orientation will take place August 29, at 9:30 a.m.

If you pre-ordered school supplies last spring, they will be waiting for your child on the first day. School supply lists were included in the last report card, are posted on our school website, or copies can be picked up in our main office.

There will also be presentations on our Title One programs from our reading teachers, information on our Digital Literacy Program and information on the Common Core Standards and our new curriculum and instruction initiatives from Mrs. Haggerty.

Please review the information packet sent with your child's placement letter and check his/her backpacks for additional information regarding school events. Information can also be obtained via e-news alerts on the District website. Look for the blue rectangle that says "click here to sign up for e-news".

Kaegebein Staff and Faculty look forward to seeing you soon!

## Kaegebein Open House

### Thursday, September 12 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Several presentations are scheduled to take place:

Grade 2 - 6:30 p.m.

Grade 3 - 7:00 p.m.

Grade 4 - 7:30 p.m.

Grade 5 - 8:00 p.m.

PE presentations for grades 4 & 5 at 6:30 p.m. and for grades 2 & 3 at 7:30 p.m.

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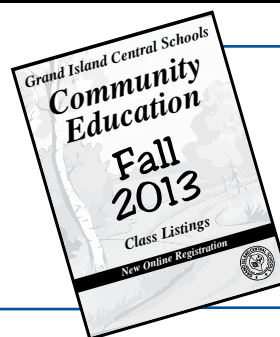
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**Casey's Corner School Store Agenda Sale**

Casey's Corner School Store at Grand Island High School will once again be selling agendas for students for the new school year. These agendas will also contain the "hall pass" pages that many teachers like to use. Agendas are available at New Student Orientation on September 5 and during the first few weeks of school until supplies last at Casey's Corner. The cost of agendas will be \$7.00. Proceeds from this sale last year enabled Casey's Corner to give scholarships to outstanding business students at graduation.



*See Inside for  
the Fall 2013  
Community Ed  
Brochure*

**VCMS News**

Students will receive a great deal of paperwork on the first day of school. These forms should be completed and returned as soon as possible but no later than Friday, September 13. In addition, please keep us informed of any changes in this information that may occur during the school year.

The instructional day at Veronica Connor Middle School runs from 7:40 AM - 2:15 PM. On the first day of school, students will report to an Administrative Homeroom where they will receive his/her schedule, locker combination, school supplies (if previously ordered), and a Student Agenda. Students will be given ample time that day to practice opening their lockers.

Important procedures and dates reminder:

1. If a student is going to be absent from school, parents are asked to contact the VCMS Main Office the morning of the absence. A voice mail message may be left or a secretary will be available to take your call after 6:30 AM. A written excuse should be submitted to the main office upon the student's return.
2. A student who requires an early dismissal for a dental, doctor or other necessary appointment is to bring the note from a parent to the Attendance Clerk before going to 1st Period. A parent (or their designee) is required to pick up his/her child in the office and sign him/her out so we know with whom a child is leaving.
3. If your child has any physical limitations, please contact our school nurse at 773-8838 to make her aware of any conditions. Medical excuses written by a physician should be given to the school nurse. It is her responsibility to see that physician's directions are understood and carried out. Physicians may excuse students from physical education or may place restrictions on the activities in which a student participates.
4. As in the past, a Student Agenda will be used by all students. There is no charge for the agendas. However the cost will be \$5.00 for a replacement, if a child loses his/her planner.

**VCMS Revised Schedule for  
First Day of School:  
Monday, September 9, 2013**

Administrative Homeroom 7:40-7:58  
18 minutes

Mod 1	8:02 - 8:40	38 minutes
Mod 2	8:44 - 9:22	38 minutes
Mod 3	9:26 - 10:04	38 minutes
Mod 4	10:08 - 10:46	38 minutes
Mod 5	10:50 - 11:20	6th Lunch
Mod 5/6	10:50 - 11:30	40 minutes
Mod 6/7	11:24 - 12:04	40 minutes
Mod 7	11:34 - 12:04	7th Lunch
Mod 7/8	11:34 - 12:14	40 minutes
Mod 8/9	12:08 - 12:48	40 minutes
Mod 9	12:18 - 12:48	8th Lunch
Mod 10	12:52 - 1:32	40 minutes
Mod 11	1:36 - 2:16	40 minutes