



# Tiger Tracks

Be Respectful, Be Ready, Be Safe



Gurrie Middle School  
1001 S. Spring Avenue  
La Grange, IL 60525  
708-482-2720

December 21, 2018

2018, Issue 4

[www.d105/gurrie.net](http://www.d105/gurrie.net)

School Closing Hotline: 708-482-2722

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**CALENDAR**

**December**

22 Winter Break Begins

**January**

- 7 Classes resume
- 10 LT Student Orientation Meeting  
Gurrie, 11:00 a.m.
- 10 LT Parent Orientation Meeting  
Gurrie, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Midterm, Trimester 2
- 14 PTO Meeting
- 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
No School
- 25 8th Grade Graduation Picture &  
Gown Measurement
- 25 PTO: TGIF 3:25p.m.
- 28 Board of Education Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

**SPORTS CALENDAR**

**December**

- 17 Boys' Basketball at Washington
- 18 Boys' Basketball vs. Washington Red

**January**

- 8 Boys' Basketball vs. Highlands
- 10 Boys' Basketball vs. Pleasantdale
- 15 Boys' Basketball at Park Red
- 17 Boys' Basketball vs. Willow Springs
- 24 Wrestling vs. Brookwood
- 29 Wrestling at Northbrook Maple



**Attention!!  
8th Grade Parents  
LT Parent Orientation Meeting**



On Thursday, January 10th, at 7:00 p.m. representatives from Lyons Township High School will be here at Gurrie Middle School to speak to parents about the high school experience.

This informative evening will be of great value to all parents, particularly those whose 8th graders plan on attending at Lyons Township High School. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. This evening is designed for parents only. Students will have an orientation with LT representatives earlier that same day.

# *From the Principal's Desk*



Happy Holidays!

This is such a busy time of year and life at Gurrie has been no exception.

Our Gurrie family sat down together for the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Thanksgiving Feast on November 20<sup>th</sup>. This year we had over 400 people attend with tables stretching from the cafeteria to Spring Avenue. We welcomed many special guests including former district and Gurrie staff, LaGrange fire fighters, local police, business and government leaders and others who we are thankful for. Serving Thanksgiving dinner for four hundred plus is no easy task and the planning and preparation that goes into making the event possible is tremendous. Despite the amount of work that it takes to hold such an event, when everyone is seated, and all are enjoying an opportunity to share a meal and conversation with each other, it is well worth the effort. I want to thank the parent volunteers who took the time to come in and help make the event a success. Thanks to all the families who took the time to prepare food, everything was delicious! Thanks to our staff who worked so hard organizing and preparing for the event.

A few weeks ago, eighth graders from across the township had the opportunity to visit Lyons Township High School on Future Freshman Night and learn about the many opportunities that await them at LT.

Starting in January, the transition process for our eighth graders begins to move more rapidly. On the morning of Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, our eighth grade students will meet with representatives from LT here at Gurrie as part of a student orientation. That evening, parents are invited to attend a parent orientation at 7:00 p.m. in the Gurrie gym. Representatives from LT will be available including their Principal, Dr. Brian Waterman, and many of the Division Chairs. Please plan on attending the evening orientation. It is a great opportunity to hear about the programs that are offered at LT and ask questions you may have.

We will again be using our student history of MAP scores and their December assessment results (along with other data and teacher recommendations) to make recommendations for initial placement freshman year. On Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, LT counselors will come to Gurrie to meet with students and discuss elective course selection. Final placement decisions will be made with course placements mailed to parents in February. Please note that parent input regarding course selection is encouraged and if you have any concerns or questions about your child's placement, you should call the appropriate department chair at LT and discuss those concerns. Parents will have the opportunity to discuss those placement decisions with LT after the initial placements have been sent home.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable winter break. Happy New Year!

Respectfully,

Ed Hood



## Social Worker FYI

Jeannette Pedersen, 708-482-2720 ext. 1221  
jpedersen@d105.net



### **Top 8 Ways for Families to Reconnect this Holiday Season** from Robin McClure, former About.com Guide

Between the frenzy of school and holiday parties, shopping, cooking, and spending, sometimes the spirit of the season seems anything but happy. Stress, over-extended schedules, and concerns over how the money just seems to be flying out of the wallet can turn the season of joy to that of anxiety and hassle. But parents CAN turn the holidays into a time of family and cherished quality time. How? Here are eight ways to help families reconnect and enjoy the season.

#### **1. Ways to Strengthen the Relationship Between Parent and Child**

It's better to give than to receive, right? Then turn the saying into a true practice by volunteering TOGETHER as a family. Where? How? The options are endless. A best bet is to choose as a family. Here are some options to get the brainstorming started: Salvation Army bell ringers, helping to sort and inventory items at a local food bank or clothing collection agency, or helping to groom and care for animals at a local shelter.

#### **2. Emphasize Gifts from the Hearts and Hands**

Why would anyone want a homemade gift when money can buy the latest and greatest on the market? If your child thinks like this, then this is a value that really should be stressed this season. The holidays are the time to celebrate families and to show love and appreciation to those they love, and not just for the gifts. And what better gesture than a gift made by the hands and from the heart? Gifts can be as simple as a cherished handprint, a scrapbook, or a service such as housecleaning.

#### **3. Help Kids Learn about Dollars and Sense**

Children can start learning about the value of money at a young age, and a good time to teach about budgeting and finances is around the holidays. Letting children shop for an inexpensive gift is a great way to teach how far—or not—a buck will go. It's okay for parents to talk about how much things cost. Educate kids that spending is a choice, and that there a difference between a “want” and a “need”.

#### **4. The Gift of Time**

Many parents try to force holiday spirit on their families through movies, shopping, and extra activities, often with the result of overload. The best gift a parent can give is time! Kids love evenings by a fire with hot cocoa and reading holiday books, and may prefer a holiday video watched together as a family than waiting in line at a busy movie theater. Family games, walks in the park, and even looking at holiday lights while listening to seasonal tunes are what memories are made of.

Cont. next page

### **5. Making Memories and Establishing Traditions**

Does your family have a special holiday tradition? If not, add one, and enjoy how it adds to the sense of family tradition and togetherness. How about sharing memories during a special meal. Decorating the tree as a family? Opening one special gift with just your family that has special meaning? Starting a journal with contributions by each member? Having a family PJ night? Building traditions can add to the holiday joy and strengthen families.

### **6. Reflection and Goal Setting Made Easy**

Regardless of the holidays on the calendar, families should embrace the end of the year and the new year that lies ahead by setting a direction for the future. Family members can brainstorm together and develop common goals, or at least share personal goals and ask for members' support. Whether it is to eat together more often, to make healthier choices, to limit extracurricular activities, or to work smarter, share your dreams and focus for the new year!

### **7. Let There Be Too Many Cooks in the Kitchen**

Stir up some fun in the kitchen this season for family togetherness. Make a gingerbread village each year, with each member crafting an individual cottage. Or bake up sugar cookie cut outs and use imagination with the decorations. Consider stringing popcorn and cranberries while enjoying some home-cooked soup and bread around the fire at the same time. Cooking together brings family members together, and is a great way to combine food, fellowship and fun!

### **8. Learning Thank You's From The Heart**

Kids don't just "know" how to be grateful. It's a taught behavior from parents and other adults. A child's natural tendency is to think selfishly, but parents should emphasize an equal amount of selflessness. While it's natural for children to possess a case of the "greeds" around the holidays, parents should use the season to teach manners, respect for elders, grace, giving, and gratitude.

## **Nurse's Notes**

Dear Parents and Teachers:

Vision and hearing screenings have been done on all 8th graders, all new students, and those receiving special services.

If you have a 7th grade student and you have concerns about your child's hearing and /or vision, please send a note to the school nurse, and your student will be screened within the next few weeks.

District Nurses



*The students and staff of Gurrie Middle School wish to thank the PTO for all of their generosity in time and talent during this school year.*

*Happy Holidays!*

# First Trimester All A's Honor Roll

## 7th Grade

Rayna Aaronson  
Melanie Almeida  
Michael Badrov  
John Barrette  
Brandon Betancourt  
James Brejcha  
William Brown  
Lydia Busker  
Thomas Butters  
Anna Bylsma  
Sean Cherry  
Claire Collins  
Nataly Contreras  
Samuel Costello  
Caitlin Crowe  
Sarah Crowe  
Thomas Culver  
Lillian Davis  
Aidan Diaz  
Aidan Dill  
Mckayla Duran  
Kaitlyn Filkins  
Bianna Flores

Alita Folkening  
Michael Frankhauser  
Caroline Fuller  
Gunnar Garelli  
Thomas Goryl  
Poppy Graber  
Ashlyn Grelewicz  
Andrew Guerrero  
Olivia Hill  
Sophia Imielski  
Avery Jasinski  
Diego Jauregui  
Katarina Jecmenic  
Minna Johnson  
Hannah Kallal  
Brennan Kirby  
Jacqueline Kogen  
Sarah Kutlich  
Alex Lonsway  
John McLane  
Abisai Medina  
Reese Metz  
Abigail Michaelson  
Dean O'Bryan

Lizet Ojeda-Acuna  
Milana Pacholski  
Celestine Perusich  
Andrew Peto  
Aleksia Petrovich  
Caroline Pooler  
Annie Price  
Katherine Prystalski  
Dylan Rickman  
Oscar Rojo  
Madeline Rowen  
Gabrielle Sanchez  
Charlotte Schulz  
Campbell Schumacher  
Jude Short  
Emily Spelson  
Caden Strack  
Sophia Szymanski  
Ilija Tomich  
Carson Turner  
Jurnee Warkentien  
Maksymilian Washchuk  
Nikolette Weiss  
Isabel Wirtz

Austen Wisniewski  
Camille Woods

## 8th Grade

Emilija Bozovic  
Connor Deneen  
Sophia Dike  
Malia Fink  
Andrew Follenweider  
Julia Fulgencio  
Cynthia Garcia  
Sara Gjorgievska  
Tristan Hall  
Alexa Hoffenberg  
Karman Kapsa  
Paige Klun  
Samuel Kogen  
Evan Konkey  
Charlotte Lange  
Caroline LaVoie  
Gabriella Luburic  
Jeanne Mardegan  
Sophia Morrissey  
Monica Nunez

Piper Oldenburg  
Margaret Pacholski  
Matthew Pierpaoli  
Gianna Pigatto  
Margot Pooler  
Lillian Prendergast  
Lillian Renick  
Lindsey Rickman  
Samantha Shanahan  
Grace Sneed  
Nikolas Soofi  
Daniel Walsh  
Patrick Wenstrup  
Alyssa Wong



# First Trimester High Honor Roll

## 7th Grade

Mario Aleksandrovski  
Anson Babb II  
Angelique Balderrama  
Samuel Burcal  
Danyela Cahue  
Colin Cartwright  
Samantha Cervantes  
Yahir Contreras  
David Diaz  
Ryan Dowling  
Sebastian Escobedo  
Aldair Garcia  
Angelina Garcia  
Ryan Huynh  
Jakob Kawczynski  
Jackson Koos  
Madison Kosenesky  
Shelby Lawrence

Emilio Lopez  
Alexis Machay  
Maxwell Marquardt  
Ethan Mason  
William May  
Dwayne Morrow  
Nathanael Mukite  
Katarina Neskovic  
Landon Nill  
David Paulus  
Montserrat Pelayo-Valadez  
Rozlyn Piagnarelli  
Claudio Rodriguez  
Raymond Rosenbach  
Junior Rubalcaba  
Samantha Santana  
Thomas Shishman  
Daniel Torres  
Grace Turner

Ava Wisniewski

## 8th Grade

Santos Anda  
Nikki Avizius  
Luis Belasquez-Dominguez  
Emmett Driscoll  
Patrick Engels  
Jonathan Flores  
Angel Garcia  
Eric Gonzalez  
Madeline Gonzalez  
Olivia Guerra  
Lindsay Hammond  
Adam Koppel  
Grant Kostrzewa  
Adam Kwak  
Emma Kwak  
Daniel Lee

Rosa Lopez  
David McKay  
Jacklyn Pedroza  
Niklas Polonowski  
Carlos Rangel Gonzalez  
Yazmin Rangel  
Lauren Robinson  
Peter Sanchez  
Conor Schmitt  
Mia Sekulovski  
Ian Stortz  
Christiauna Thorpe  
Kevyn Vital  
Emily Walsh  
Sophie Zielinski



# First Trimester Honor Roll

## 7th Grade

Nicholas Aguilar  
Angel Alvarez  
Henry Alvarez  
Ryan Blumberg  
Maria DePierre Rodriguez  
Yanira Flores  
Angel Garcia Martinez  
Jonathan Garcia  
Yasir Garcia  
Alondra Gaytan Molina  
Angelina Geronimo  
Shawn Jenkins  
David Jovcevski  
Brian Kloes  
Adam Kreczko  
Doryan Kubik  
Xavier Leverette  
Benjamin Lockley  
Oliver Maksimovic  
Grant Maloney

Alexander Mata  
Kendahl Payton  
Ilija Randjelovic  
Juan Ries-Salinas  
Allison Rodriguez  
Meraly Rubio  
Yanelly Solis  
Matija Stojmenovic  
Laine Tegan  
Samantha Urbina Medina  
Kevin Zapata

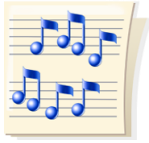
## 8th Grade

Julia Alvarado  
Scott Beery  
Brady Brantner  
Devell Britton Jr.  
Jacob Campbell  
Liam Carolan  
Aidan Collins  
Roland Connelly  
Lucas Cuchran  
Peri Deroche  
Denisse Elizondo  
Hannah Eskra  
Alyse Follenweider  
Kaleb Garcia  
Jackson Garelli  
Grace Gonzales  
Natalia Gonzalez-Espinoza  
Victor Herrejon  
Emma Kallal  
Jackson Kirk  
Brandon Linhart

Robert Llanes Aguilera  
Christian Marcial  
Fatima Martinez Gallegos  
Karen Martinez  
Matthew Meehan  
Jessica Navarro  
Aidan Nill  
Krupali Patel  
Jahari Pittman  
Charles Reagan  
Isabella Ries-Salinas  
Anthony Rivera  
Michael Rocha  
Calum Rogers  
Ethan Rosenkranz  
Raiel Ruiz  
Luis Salinas  
Johan Santos-Sacramento  
Olivia Sawickis  
Thania Silverio  
Connor Spellman  
Kyle Timmerman

Thomas Tobolaski  
Marco Toledo  
Alexis Toledo-Miguel  
Michelle Torres  
Jake Warkentien





# Music Notes



Once again, thank you to all students and families for making the first semester of the 2018-2019 school year a success! Students, families, and community members all helped, and our fundraiser profit came in far over budget! Our Music Parents Association, along with our food sorters, chaperones, and fundraising chairs cannot be thanked enough for their tireless efforts.

The LTHS Solo and Ensemble Contest will be held at LT's South Campus on March 9th, 2019. All 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade band and orchestra students are highly encouraged to participate in this wonderful event! Students will be receiving music after break. The registration forms are due on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Students should consider using an accompanist this year. Please contact Mr. Valdez or Mr. Schwartz with any additional questions.

The GMS Jazz Ensemble will be performing at the Lyons Township Jazz Band Festival on February 27<sup>th</sup> at LTHS South Campus. This is a fantastic opportunity for the students to meet their future LT directors and get to know the program!

There will be no Concert Band, Symphony Orchestra, or Gurrie Choir morning rehearsals the week of 12/17-12/21. We will be back to our regular schedule after break!

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra students will be going to Lyons Township High School on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> this year for a day of workshops. More information coming soon!



## Time to Replenish School Supplies!

The middle of the school year is a good time to replenish your child's school supplies. Students need a supply of pens and pencils in their lockers. Individual classes may also need new binders, folders, or spirals. Math classes require calculators and rulers. Check with your child to see that he/she has the proper supplies to work successfully in classes and meet the Gurrie expectation of being prepared.

## Trimester 1 Perfect Attendance

### 7th Grade

Nicholas Aguilar  
Mario Aleksandrovski  
Melanie Almeida  
John Barrett  
Brandon Betancourt  
James Brejcha  
Samuel Burcal  
Anna Bylsma  
Danyela Cahue  
Colin Cartwright  
Anthony Chavez Gonzalez  
Sean Cherry  
Nataly Contreras  
Caitlin Crowe  
Thomas Culver  
Lillian Davis  
David Diaz  
Aidan Dill  
Michael Frankhauser  
Jonathan Garcia  
Alondra Gaytan Molina  
Thomas Goryl  
Olivia Hill  
Ryan Huynh  
Avery Jasinski  
Diego Jauregui  
Shawn Jenkins  
Hannah Kallal  
Kellan Knop  
Jackson Koos  
Sarah Kutlich  
Benjamin Lockley  
Maxwell Marquardt  
Ethan Mason  
William May  
Lizet Ojeda-Acuna  
Milana Pacholski  
Montserrat Pelayo-Valadez  
Christopher Phipps Jr.  
Annie Price  
Katherine Prystalski  
Claudio Rodriguez  
Madeline Rowen  
Meraly Rubio  
Gabrielle Sanchez  
Jude Short  
Eliezer Soto Gracia  
Caden Strack  
Laine Tegan  
Jurnee Warkentien  
Nikolette Weiss  
Isabel Wirtz  
Austen Wisniewski  
Camille Woods

### 8th Grade

Hussein Bato  
Luis Belasquez-Dominguez  
Brady Brantner  
Devell Brittmon Jr.  
Liam Carolan  
Aidan Collins  
Sophia Dike  
Denisse Elizondo  
Patrick Engels  
Jonathan Flores  
Kaleb Garcia  
Jackson Garelli  
Lindsay Hammond  
Victor Herrejon  
Alexa Hoffenberg  
Jackson Kirk  
Roberto Llanes Aguilera  
Aidan Nill  
Fernando Peralta Alvarado  
Niklas Polonowski  
Jocelyn Ramirez  
Carlos Rangel Gonzalez  
Osvaldo Rojo  
Raiel Ruiz  
Peter Sanchez  
Johan Santos-Sacramento  
Connor Schmitt  
Mia Sekulovski  
Benicio Silva  
Grace Sneed  
Ian Stortz  
Christiauna Thorpe  
Thomas Tobolaski  
David Valenzuela  
Daniel Walsh  
Emily Walsh  
Jake Warkentien



## Attention Parents of 8th Grade Students:

Graduation photos will be taken on Friday, January 25th, in the morning. Photos will be taken in graduation gown (no caps) and in dress street clothes. Girls should not wear high necked sweaters or dresses. Boys should wear collared shirts and ties.

Gown measurement will be done on Friday morning, January 25th. This year students will rent their graduation gown (no caps) and purchase a medallion. The combined cost for the rental and purchase will be \$25.00.



# Gurrie 8th Grade Awards—Something Worth the Effort!

For those new to Gurrie, the following are special awards presented at either the year end awards programs or at the graduation ceremony.

## **Doreen Duncan Award**

This award is presented to a female graduate who most closely demonstrates the student performance and qualities of Doreen Duncan, a 1982 graduate who died in a skiing accident during the winter of 1984. The award seeks to identify an outstanding graduate in scholarship, citizenship, extracurricular activities, school service, leadership, and personal character.

## **Duane Caylor Award**

This award is presented to a male graduate who most closely demonstrates the qualities promoted and exemplified by Duane Caylor, a beloved teacher here at Gurrie, who lost a courageous battle with cancer in 1999. The award seeks to identify an outstanding graduate in scholarship, citizenship, extracurricular activities, school service, leadership and personal character. With the Doreen Duncan Award, this is considered Gurrie's highest honor.

## **Faculty Award for Academic Excellence**

This award is presented to graduates who achieve a cumulative 3.95 average for their entire 7th and 8th grade years at Gurrie.

## **American Legion Award**

This award is presented annually to a boy and girl in the graduating class. The American Legion Award is based on these qualities: honor, scholarship, character, courage, companionship, and leadership.

## **Daughters of the American Revolution**

This award is presented annually to a boy and girl in the graduating class. The D.A.R. Award is given for outstanding accomplishment in the studies of American History and Civic Education, and for outstanding citizenship.

## **Presidential Award for Educational Excellence**

This award is present to graduates who achieve a 3.5 grade point average for two years of study at Gurrie and a standing in the 85th percentile or higher on a standardized achievement test.

## **Honor Roll**

This award is presented to any student who achieves a 3.0 (B) average or better during a trimester.

## **3 B Gold Award**

The 3B Gold Award is presented to students who, in their two years at Gurrie, have never received any disciplinary referrals. Students who earn this award have worked very hard and consistently met and modeled our three building wide expectations of Be Ready, Be Respectful, and Be Safe.

