



Tiger Tracks

Be Respectful, Be Ready, Be Safe



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

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www.d105/gurrie.net

School Closing Hotline: 708-482-2722

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CALENDAR

December

20 Winter Break Begins

January

4 Classes resume
10 PTO Meeting
14 Midterm, Trimester 2
17 No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
19 Future Freshman night for 8G @ LT, 7pm
21 PTO: TGIF 3:25p.m.
24 Board of Education Meeting 7:30 p.m.
26 8G LT WebEx Virtual Presentation, 7 p.m.
TBD 8th Grade Graduation Picture & Gown Measurement



SPORTS CALENDAR

January

6 Boys' Basketball vs. Highlands
10 Boys' Basketball vs. Pleasantdale
11 Boys' Basketball @ Park Red
13 Boys' Basketball vs. Willow Springs
16-19 Hodgkins Tournament



Attention!! 8th Grade Parents LT Welcome via WebEx



The [Class of 2026 Transition to LT](#) will provide our current 8th graders and families with an overview of the orientation process, an opportunity to learn more about academic programs, and information regarding the course selection process for the 2022-23 school year. In addition, students and families will learn about the amazing extra-curricular and athletic opportunities that students can take advantage of as future Lions.

From the Principal's Desk



Happy Holidays!

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

Over the past few months, our students and staff have been making a difference in our own communities and beyond. Our EMM (Every Monday Matters) Club worked at Bemis Woods and assisted staff in removing invasive plant species from the area. EMM also recently traveled to Manhattan, Illinois to help provide support to our troops stationed overseas through Operation Care Package. Operation Care Package is an all-volunteer, not for profit organization dedicated to making sure that no deployed Hero goes without mail. Students packed toiletries, socks, food, letters and drawings from students, along with many other items. EMM also provided over 600 pairs of shoes to Share Your Soles. Share Your Soles is an organization that collects gently worn and used shoes and distributes them to those in the greatest of need around the world. In November, students worked together to collect donations for fabric, prepare materials, and teach all of us how to make blankets as part of Project Linus. Project Linus activities provide homemade blankets to children in need. Blankets are donated to the Ronald McDonald House at Advocate Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn. Staff and students made 80 blankets. Finally, before Thanksgiving, eighth grade students went into the community and left flyers at area homes for our annual food drive. On the day before Thanksgiving, students went back into the community and collected nearly 300 bags of food that were then donated to the St. Francis-Xavier Food Pantry. We will continue to make a difference throughout the year and want each student to help make a difference in the community. In the first trimester, our students and staff provided 1,060 hours of service. Over the past ten years, Gurrie has provided over 37,000 hours of service.

Our eighth graders continue the move towards high school. Starting in January, the transition process for our eighth graders begins to move more rapidly. On January 19 at 7pm, LT will hold its Future Freshman Night. Incoming students and families will have the opportunity to attend presentations on academic programs as well as learn about elective course offerings. Students and families will also be able to tour South Campus and learn about athletics and other activities. On Wednesday January 26 at 7pm, LT will host a WebEx virtual presentation where members of the LT Leadership Team will discuss the course registration process and share information about the academic program guide, elective course selection, and course registration.

Also in January, Gurrie and LT staff will meet together to discuss freshman year academic placements. We will be using our student history of MAP scores and their December results (along with other longitudinal data and teacher recommendations) to determine initial placement. Parents will receive initial level recommendations in an email from LT on January 27. On Friday, February 11, LT counselors will come to Gurrie to meet with students and discuss elective course selection. 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. The window for requests for level changes will close on February 18. Parents will have the opportunity to discuss those placement decisions with LT in February.

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

Sincerely,

Ed Hood



Social Worker FYI

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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 is 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.

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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 Yous 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.



*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

Julian Arredondo
Lola Babinski
Hanna Bato
Jakob Bertovic
Carter Blentlinger
Mireya Brkic
Paula Calderon-Padilla
Caroline Cannizarro
John Casas Reyes
Alexis Chavez Gonzalez
Zoe Connelly
Juan Contreras
Jizelle Diaz
Helena Enriquez
Samantha Escobedo
Jack Eskra
Nolan Fey
Nora Flood
Santiago Garcia
Nora Grill
Viviana Guerrero
Nolan Hamilton
Eleanor Harmount

Roan Judkins
Louise Kallemeyn
Sarah Kapsa
Daniel Koziol
Brynn Krantz
Avery Lee
Fernando Llanes
Wesley McDilda
Collin McNeil
Beckett Michel
Caroline Mshar
Eve Muscato
Iqui-Balam Nogueta
Nunez
Mia Olszowka
Ethan Peto
Violet Quinn
Jayde Sanchez
Mary Sandman
Zoe Stone
Kim Tran
Emilee Tydus

Avery Tyrrell
Nathan Woods

8th Grade

Rachel Beery
Miles Bryck
Maya Bylsma
Mariana Castillejo
Patrick Collins
John Curran
Clara Deroche
Lucy Ferron
Isabela Gonzalez
Dylan Jorgensen
Adrian Karlovic
Karenna Knop
Sophia Kutlich
Jenna Lally
Max Maloney
Blake McCracken
Isabella McCracken
Elizabeth Michaelson
Jack Michaelson
Khushi Nayi

Nadija Neskovic
Kaitlin Obrien
Katelyn OToole
Matthew Papa
Natalia Pepper
Katherine Potter
Veda Rodriguez
Lucy Schoenecker
Abigail Schulz
Katherine Seiple
Enesa Selimi
Andy Sherman
Roman Sosnovy
Isabella Velez



First Trimester High Honor Roll

7th Grade

Ethan Alberico
Isiah Aldana
Luka Bojovic
Conor Carolan
Reese Cassidy
Joseph Filkins
Gianna Flores
Tino Flores
Violet Fotino
Hannah Fuller
Zachary Haizlip
Molly Hall
Luke Hammond
Harrison Kittridge
Caiden Kovel
Jack Lee
Ainsley Litster
Amia Manzo

Brendan McCabe
Kerry Monohan
Jose Morales
George Panos
Caroline Riopell
Josiah Santana
Elizabeth Schmist
Ava Schroeder
Madeline Schroeder
Katherine Sheehan
Jocelyn Silverio
Grace Twitty
Alejandro Villavicencio
Luke Vongluekiat
Vivi Vu
Elizabeth Zavala

8th Grade

Abril Aguilar
Jazmin Aguilar
Sophia Anaya
David Anderson
Teodora Babic
Oscar Balbuena
Ximena Calderon
Paola Campos
Anda
Maren Cavanaugh
Kayla Chrenen
Brayden Connor
Jacob Cortez
Stephanie Diaz
Molly Eskra
Vito Falco
Jayna Fleenor
Valeria Flores

Nora Foley
Bridget Gilmartin
Anthony Gonzalez
Jazlene Gonzalez
Porter Gourley
Freddie Hernandez
Salgado
Edgar Jauregui
Genevieve Koppel
Louis Long
Steven Luna
Janiya Mallory
Daniela Martinez
Gallegos
Evan Meraz
Amaya Morales
Evelyn Murillo
Julian Nevarez
Avery Nuzum

Luca Paganis
Roy Piagnarelli
Camila Ramirez
Sophia Rodriguez
Camille Szymanski
Emilio Tapia
Asina Trent
Yuritzi Valdes
Ethan Walsh
Mykola Washchuk
Zoe Weiss
Jake Yi



First Trimester Honor Roll

7th Grade

Loretta Avalos
Adam Barrette
Brian Cahue
Jake Calderon
Brighan Campos-Casas
Alexis Ceron-Najera
Charlotte Deneen
Isabella Dullick
Dylan Galvez
Ashley Garcia Sanchez
Carter Garcia
Evan Gardner
Brandon Harris
Julian Harris
Melissa Hernandez
Christopher Jimenez
Lawan Jolly
Owen Lopez
Arianna Magana
Liam Malay

America Maldonado
Alex Maloney
Jose Martinez Garcia
Mark Mendoza
Enrique Nevarez
Benjamin Nietes
Audrey Olson
Yazmin Ries-Salinas
Jeremiah Rivera
Ignacio Rodriguez
Lily Salazar
Desirae Sanchez
Benjamin Shanley
Tabitha Skvarla
Niraj Tallarovic
Cris Tovar

8th Grade

Isabella Barnwell
Amilyn Brasse
Cody Butler
Fletcher Buzek
Adriana Capasso
Alexander Cuckovic
Eduardo DePierre Rodriguez
Gavin Driscoll
Elizabeth Echeverria
Cornell Fennessee
John Frankhauser
Marcos Garcia Villegas
Geno Gianopulos
Danika Gordon
Xavier Henderson
Fernando Hernandez-Velazquez
Antoine Johnson
James Klun
Ella Konkey
Angelina Lopez

Benita Lopez
Brandon Maranon
Emanuel Martinez
Nathan McMullen
Connor McNeer
Valeria Monterrosas
Diego Ojeda
Daniel Pastrana
Elijah Paus
Yumalae Pelayo
Jenna Pigatto
Tariq Radi
Maggie Renick
Genevieve Rivera
Jimena Ruiz
Alejandro Silva
Liliana Tomich
Mario Valenzuela



Trimester 1 Perfect Attendance



7th Grade

*Hanna Bato
Jack Eskra
Nora Flood
Ailani Morin
Benjamin Nietes
Anthony Johnson
Enrique Nevarez
Kim Tran
Alejandro Villavicencio
Luka Bokovic
Juan Contreras
Molly Hall
Fernando Llanes
Ainsley Litser
Beckett Michel
Evan Nunez-Garcia
Ethan Peto
Violet Quinn
Emilee Tydus
Lola Babinski
Reese Cassidy
Daniel Koziol
Audrey Olson
George Panos
Nathan Woods
Alonso Garcia-Mancha
Yazmin Ries-Salinas*

8th Grade

*Ximena Calderon
Patrick Collins
Ella Konkey
Andrew Sherman
Danika Gordon
Antoine Johnson
Jenna Lally
Angel Lopez
Elizabeth Michaelson
Jack Michaelson
Avery Nuzum
Zoe Weiss
Rachel Beery
Cesar Belazquez-
Dominguez
Bridget Gilmartin
Roy Piagnarelli
Elizabeth Ramirez
Miles Bryck
Maya Bylsma
Mariana Castillejo
Anthony Gonzalez
Angelina Lopez
Roman Sosnovyy
Yuritzi Valdes
Jazmin Aguilar
Conor McNeer
Katherine Potter
Elizabeth Echeverria*



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.

