



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.net

School Closing Hotline: 708-482-2722

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CALENDAR

December

- 8 Honor Roll Breakfast 7:45 a.m.
- 12 Winter Choir Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Gurrie Hearing & Vision Screen.
- 15 Project Linus
- 22 Winter Break Begins

January

- 8 Classes resume
- 11 LT Student Orientation Meeting
Gurrie, 11:00 a.m.
- 11 LT Parent Orientation Meeting
Gurrie, 7:00 p.m., Gym
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
No School
- 19 *Tiger Tracks*
- 19 Midterm, Trimester 2
- 19 PTO: TGIF 3:25p.m.



SPORTS CALENDAR

December

- 9 Wrestling @ Eisenhower Jr. Novice
- 11 Boys' Basketball @ Willow Springs
- 12 Boys' Basketball @ McClure White
- 18 Boys' Basketball vs. Highlands
- 19 Boys' Basketball vs. Park Red

January

- 6 Wrestling at Lukanic/Sandwich
- 13 Wrestling at Indian Trail
- 16 Boys' Basketball at Pleasantdale
- 18 Wrestling at Eisenhower/Lisle
- 18 Boys' Basketball at Highlands
- 26 Wrestling @ Northbrook Maple



Attention!!

8th Grade Parents

LT Parent Orientation Meeting



On Thursday, January 11th, 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.

Social Worker FYI

Jeannette Pedersen, 708-482-2720 ext. 1221
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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 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!

From the Principal's Desk



Happy Holidays from Gurrie.

As I wrote in a recent weekly note, we are excited to announce that we have adopted an online reading log found at www.studentreading.net. Students, staff and parents can easily track the amount of words they read in a school year. As readers complete books, they are encouraged to enter the titles using the ISBN numbers and the page count. Once submitted and approved, the program tracks which books are the highest rated, most popular, and which classes have read the most. It also creates individual bookshelves to help keep track of what is being read. Every participant's goal is 1,000,000 words. Parents are encouraged to join in. If you would like to participate, email our librarian, Jennifer Sutsser at jsutsser@d105.net with your first and last name along with an active email address. Mrs. Sutsser will load you into the program and then reply that you are all set and how to access directions, etc. Please join in and let's all get reading!

Our Gurrie family sat down together for the 20th annual Thanksgiving Feast on November 21st. This year we had 400 plus 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 chiefs, local business, school, 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. Thanks to our Green Team who for the third year helped to facilitate a focus on a zero-waste event. The Green Team planned how to collect the waste, visited advisories and explained the process, and then on the day of the Feast, worked to ensure that as much as possible was recycled or sent to the be composted. In the end, our Green Team ended up with one half bag of trash that would go to the landfill, all other was either recycled or composted.

This first trimester our students and staff have done some amazing things to support others throughout our own communities and beyond. As a school we have logged over 1,400 hours of service. 8th grade is well on their way towards meeting and exceeding their goal of 2,018 hours of service – currently having performed 997 hours since the beginning of the year. At our graduation ceremony we recognize those who have gone above and beyond, serving others. We do recognize service completed outside of school and you can have your child complete our outside of school service recognition form found on our website, under the *About Us* Tab. Click the *We Make a Difference* link for more information. Students should then bring those completed forms back to school and give to their advisor.

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 11th, 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.

For placement recommendations, 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. On Thursday, February 8th, LT counselors will come to Gurrie to meet with students and discuss elective course selections. Course placements will be mailed to parents in late January / early 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

Happy
Holidays!

First Trimester All A's Honor Roll

7th Grade

Nikki Avizius
Emilija Bozovic
Devell Britton Jr.
Daniel Callaghan
Connor Deneen
Peri Deroche
Sophia Dike
Emmett Driscoll
Denisse Elizondo
Hannah Eskra
Malia Fink
Jonathan Flores
Alyse Follenweider
Cynthia Garcia
Kaleb Garcia
Sara Gjorgjevska
Eric Gonzalez
Olivia Guerra
Tristan Hall
Alexa Hoffenberg
Karman Kapsa

Samuel Kogen
Evan Konkey
Grant Kostrzewa
Adam Kwak
Charlotte Lange
Caroline LaVoie
Roberto Llanes-Aguilera
Gabriella Luburic
Jeanne Mardegan
Sophia Morrissey
Monica Nunez
Piper Oldenburg
Margaret Pacholski
Gianna Pigatto
Niklas Polonowski
Margot Pooler
Lillian Prendergast
Lillian Renick
Lindsey Rickman
Isabella Ries-Salinas
Lauren Robinson
Ethan Rosenkranz

Peter Sanchez
Connor Schmitt
Mia Sekulovski
Samantha Shanahan
Grace Sneed
Nikolas Soofi
Connor Spellman
Ian Stortz
Christiauna Thorpe
Kevyn Vital
Jake Warkentien
Patrick Wenstrup
Alyssa Wong
Sophie Zielinski

8th Grade

Samareeh Abu Arab
Maylin Aldama
Ana Babnigg
William Bach
Erika Betancourt
Margaret Brejcha

Beaudan Brown
Jack Butters
Ella Bylsma
Sofia Cabrera
Armando Cazares
Zoe Chabria
Aidan Collins
Connor Crowe
Marko Dubak
Charles Fox
Emily Galvez
Posey Graber
Alex Henningfield
Kathryn Hess
Margaret Kernagis
David Kostrzewa
Cole Lagowski
Meah LaRocco
Alexander Leon
Marko Ljuboja
Mia Maglicic
Emmerson McLean

Lilly Metz
Lee OBryan
Ava Paganis
Brenden Perry
Lindsey Petersen
Sophie Peto
Miguel Rodriguez
Emma Rogers
Ella Rovai
Michael Springer
Patrick Sullivan
Gianna Trombello
Kayla Turner
Anna Westrick
Luke Whelton
Rhys Winchester
Susan Yeager
Lana Zivko

First Trimester High Honor Roll

7th Grade

Julia Alvarado
Santos Anda
Scott Beery
Jacob Campbell
Liam Carolan
Aidan Collins
Roland Connelly
Patrick Engels
Andrew Follenweider
Julio Fulgencio
Madeline Gonzalez
Lindsay Hammond
Mirza Kermo
Jackson Kirk
Adam Koppel
Emma Kwak
Daniel Lee

Rosa Lopez
Matthew Meehan
Aidan Nill
Krupali Patel
Jacklyn Pedroza
Matthew Pierpaoli
Charles Reagan
Calum Rogers
Olivia Sawickis
Thania Silverio
Thomas Tobolaski
Marco Toledo
Michelle Torres



8th Grade

Radule Bozovic
Anna Brown
Hailey Brudd
Peter Carolan
Margaret Cavanaugh
Owen Cherry
Shane Curtin
Matthew Dahl
Dryden Hall
Lily Henning
Audrey Hultman
Grace Kernagis
Luis Lopez
Isabel May
Leslie Mendoza
Ava Mungo
Brooklyn Roach

Elias Salaises
Aidan Wirtz



First Trimester Honor Roll

7th Grade

Isabella Adkins
Luis Belasquez-Dominguez
Dylan Colbert
Jackson Garelli
Victor Herrejon
Emma Kallal
Kyla Kirby
Paige Klun
Brandon Linhart
Christian Marcial
Fatima Martinez-Gallegos
Karen Martinez
Jimena Martinez-Juarez
David McKay
Shannon Miller
Emilio Nevarez
Erik Ramirez
Carlos Rangel-Gonzalez
Yazmin Rangel

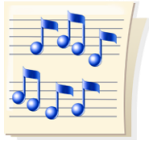
Michael Rocha
Osvaldo Rojo
Raiel Ruiz
Luis Salinas
Johan Santos-Sacramento
Armando Soto
Kyle Timmermann
Alexis Toledo-Miguel
Daniel Walsh
Emily Walsh

8th Grade

Jade Babb
Xenya Bizarro
Jack Bradbury
Rogelio Cansino
Cesar Castillejo
Deliah Cortez
Alejandro Delarosa
George Dixon
Juliet Duarte
Lauren Elliott
Miguel Garcia
Megan Gardner
Gino Graziano
Kyle Hannigan
Karla Hernandez-Maya
Erin Herndon
Andjela Jovanovic
Christian Koos
Sophia Lameter

Elias Lopez
Diego Lopez-Serna
Mariella Marcial
Yaira Martinez
Colin Meehan
Oscar Nevarez
Jonathan Nutting
Manuel Ocana
Elvis Ogresevic
Isaac Palacios
Araceli Pasillas
Robert Paulus
Jesus Ramos
Lillian Rivera
Cano Rogers
Antonio Ruiz
Gabriella Sanchez
Alexander Smith
Stefan Soldat
Luke Stoffer

Nicholas Svoboda
Kayla Tlaseca
Luka Tomich
Anthony Traverso
Joseph Ungaro
Matthew Weyrick
Madisen Wiegel
Shea Winchester
Katie Young



Music Notes



Once again, thank you to all students and families for making the first semester of the 2017-2018 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 10th, 2018. All 5th-8th grade band and orchestra students are highly encouraged to participate in this wonderful event! Students will be receiving music before break. The registration forms are due on January 19th, 2018. 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 28th 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 12/18-12/22. We will be back to our regular schedule after break!

Gurrie Choir students who want to experience what it is like to sing in choir in high school will be spending a day and evening with the Lyons Township High School choirs on Thursday January 11th. This is a wonderful opportunity to find out what choir is like in high school, to meet all the LT choir directors, and to have fun singing in a very large combined choir. Make sure you get your permission slips in on December 15th! There is a workshop during the day and a concert at 7 pm. Friends and family are invited to attend!

The 7th grade orchestra students will be going to Lyons Township High School on Tuesday, January 23th 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

Scott Beery
Devell Brittmon Jr.
Daniel Callaghan
Carmelo Camacho
Lucas Cuchran
Sophia Dike
Emmett Driscoll
Patrick Engels
Jonathan Flores
Cynthia Garcia
Maritza Garcia
Olivia Guerra
Lindsay Hammond
Victor Herrejon
Alexa Hoffenberg
Jackson Kirk
Evan Konkey
Adam Kwak
Charlotte Lange
Roberto Llanes Aguilera
Jeanne Mardegan
Shannon Miller
Michael Morehead
Sophia Morrissey
Aidan Nill
Margaret Pacholski
Krupali Patel
Fernando Peralta-Alvarado
Matthew Pierpaoli
Gianna Pigatto
Margot Pooler
Lillian Renick
Isabella Ries-Salinas
Calum Rogers
Osvaldo Rojo
Johan Santos-Sacramento
Mia Sekulovski
Samantha Shanahan
Benicio Silva
Thania Silverio
Christiauna Thorpe
Thomas Toboloski
Alexis Toledo-Miguel
Kevyn Vital
Patrick Wenstrup
Allyssa Wong
Sophie Zielinski

8th Grade

Erika Betancourt
Beaudan Brown
Hailey Brudd
Jack Butters
Ella Bylsma
Sofia Cabrera
Rogelio Cansino
Peter Carolan
Margaret Cavanaugh
Owen Cherry
Aidan Collins
Madison Coughlin
Shane Curtin
Alejandro Delarosa
Eric Escobedo
Charles Fox
Miguel Garcia
Megan Gardner
Dryden Hall
Erin Herndon
Yaira Martinez
Katherine Morris
Jhenrye Nabo
Manuel Ocana
Jesus Ramos
Victor Ramos
Brooklyn Roach
Miguel Rodriguez
Stefan Smiljanic
Stefan Soldat
Rogelio Vargas-Almaraz
Matthew Weyrick
Susan Yeager
Lana Zivko



Attention Parents of 8th Grade Students:

Graduation photos will be taken on Friday, January 26th, 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 26th. 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.

