



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

23 Winter Break Begins

January

6 Classes resume
9 LT Student Orientation Meeting
Gurrie, 11:00 a.m.
9 LT Parent Orientation Meeting
Gurrie, 7:00 p.m.
13 PTO Meeting
16 Midterm, Trimester 2
20 No School - Martin Luther King
Jr. Day
24 PTO: TGIF 3:25p.m.
27 Board of Education Meeting
7:00 p.m.
31 8th Grade Graduation Picture &
Gown Measurement

SPORTS CALENDAR

December

16 Boys' Basketball vs. Washington Blue
17 Boys' Basketball at Washington Red

January

7 Boys' Basketball vs. McClure White
9 Boys' Basketball at Highlands
13 Boys' Basketball at Pleasantdale
14 Boys' Basketball vs. Park Red
16 Boys' Basketball at Willow Springs
9 Wrestling vs. Brookwood
30 Wrestling at Maple School



Attention!!

8th Grade Parents

LT Parent Orientation Meeting



On Thursday, January 9th, 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.

Over the past few months, our students and staff have been making a difference in our own communities and beyond. Early Act Club held a food drive for the St. Cletus Food Pantry and raised donations to help Rotary International fight polio around the world. Seventh graders traveled to Camp Sagawau in Lemont and assisted staff in removing invasive plant species from the area. 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. Our blankets are donated to the Ronald McDonald House at Advocate Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn. Our staff and students made 77 blankets! Our EMM (Every Monday Matters) club 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 has helped provide over 1,000 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. Finally, before Thanksgiving, eighth grade students went into the community and left flyers at area homes for our 8th annual food drive. On the day of our Feast, students went back into the community and collected items 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 meet his or her service goal of 5 or more hours for the year. In the first trimester, our students and staff provide 1,188 hours of service. Over the past eight years, Gurrie has provided over 34,700 hours of service.

Our Gurrie family sat down together for our 22nd annual Thanksgiving Feast on November 26. This year's Feast had over 400 people attending and the tables stretched from the cafeteria to Spring Avenue. We welcomed many special guests including former district and Gurrie staff, LaGrange Fire Fighters, local police officers, local 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.

Eighth graders continue the move towards high school.

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 9, our eighth grade students will meet with representatives from LT here at Gurrie as part of a student orientation. That evening, parents 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 to attend the evening orientation. It is a great opportunity to hear about the programs that are offered at LT and ask questions you may have.

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 the mail in late January or early February. On Thursday, February 6, 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. 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

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

Amy Abarca
Marleen Alamo
Noemi Arredondo
Katherine Badrov
Ava Bailey
Leo Barrette
Natasha Bertovic
Daniela Bojovic
Simone Brown
Thomas Curran
Emmett Dill
Gavin Dill
Chloe Dwan Minucciani
Eduardo Escobedo
Elise Ferro
Aadden Guerrero
Dylan Hall
Jackson Henning
Nhan Hoang
Jordyn Hoffenberg

Emma Hornickle
Seth Hyland
Naomi Kallemeyn
Agnes Kuchta
Samantha Lameter
Kara LaRocco
Lily Lopez
Anthony Lowe
Luka Luburic
Daniel Macias
Luke Malay
Derek Martinez
Madeline McLane
Christopher Medina
James Minton
Cam Morris
Daniya Morrow
Sarah Mshar
Abigail Murillo
Jaylene Nunez
Emily Nutting
Daisy Oldenburg

Anastasija Pavlovic
Lukas Petersen
Ian Polonowski
Madeline Price
Daniel Popovich
Alexandria Riley
Cristalyn Romero-Rojas
Sophia Rufa
Elizabeth Rus
London Shannon-Muscolino
Charlie Shishman
Filip Soldat
Jack Sullivan
Ilija Tepic
Briza Toledo
Desiree Villagomez
Tiffany Vu
Lily Wenstrup
Devin Wong

8th Grade

Rayna Aaronson
Michael Badrov
John Barrette
Brandon Betancourt
Sam Burcal
Lydia Busker
Tom Butters
Sean Cherry
Claire Collins
Lilian Davis
Aidan Diaz
Caroline Fuller
Gunnar Garelli
Poppy Graber
Ashlyn Grelewicz
Andrew Guerrero
Olivia Hill
Sophia Imielski
Katarina Jecmenic
Jackie Kogen

John McLane
Abisai Medina
Ethan Meraz
Reese Metz
Abigail Michaelson
Dean O'Bryan
Caroline Pooler
Annie Price
Katie Prystalski
Maddie Rowen
Samantha Santana
Charlotte Schulz
Jude Short
Emily Spelson
Caden Strack
Sophia Szymanski
Carson Turner
Isabel Wirtz



First Trimester High Honor Roll

7th Grade

Ken Bach
Kellin Bourjaily
Rebekah Brassfield
Sofia Bravo
Madeline Buzek
Leonard Cannizzaro
Gavin Carolan
Katherine Carolan
Logan Cudaback
Leonardo Escobedo
David Eterno
Samuel Garcia
Genevieve Harmount
Khyla Hopkins
Alyssa Hubbs
Lilian Jandura
Sydney Jones
Tyler Kirk

Everett Kittridge
Drake Levreau
Taina Lomeli
Tona Lopez
Matthew Matteucci
Ethan Meuer
Mila Miletic
Ryan Nowak
Lucas Packard
Dominic Piscioti
Nihal Rabari
Makaela Reimer
Alyssa Robinson
Diana Santana

8th Grade

Melanie Almeida
James Brejcha
Anna Bylsma
Luna Carballo
Nataly Contreras
Sam Costello
Caitlin Crowe
Sarah Crowe
Tommy Culver
David Diaz
Aidan Dill
Ryan Dowling
McKayla Duran
Kaitlyn Filkins
Brianna Flores
Yanira Flores
Yasir Garcia
Tom Goryl

Ryan Huynh
Avery Jasinski
Shawn Jenkins
Minna Johnson
Sarah Kutlich
Shelby Lawrence
Alex Lonsway
Alexis Machay
Ethan Mason
Nathanael Mukite
Landon Nill
Lizet Ojeda-Acuna
Celestine Perusich
Andrew Peto
Aleksia Petrovich
Rozlyn Piagnarelli
Ilija Randjelovic
Gaby Sanchez
Campbell Schumacher

Tommy Shishman
Matija Stojmenovic
Jurnee Warkentein
Maks Washchuk
Nikolette Weiss
Austen Wisniewski
Camille Woods
Kevin Zapata



First Trimester Honor Roll

7th Grade

Emily Barrios
Daniel Brantner
Gerardo Campos
Leeyah Chancy
Donovan Colville
Ben Couture
Biara Diaz
Alina Elguezabal
Kevin Fernandez
Aliyah Geronimo
Wyatt Guerin
Max Itkowitz
Delaney Judkins
Melina Lopez
Miah Lopez
Angelo Lundeen
Ashley Maranon
Jason Miller
Marko Milutinovic
Aaliyah Montalvo

Cristian Montano
Frank Mungo
Sebastian Nevarez
Genesis Nietes
Sian Nogueta Nunez
Michael Ramirez
Vladimir Ramirez
Jesus Rodriguez
Victor Rodriguez
Carol Rubio-Ramos
Anthony Silverio
Erik Toledo
Aidan Torres
Jennifer Torres

8th Grade

Nicholas Aguilar
Angelique Balderrama
Will Brown
Danyela Cahue
Samantha Cervantes
Anthony Chavez Gonzalez
Sebastian Escobedo
Alita Folkening
Michael Frankhauser
Angel Garcia Martinez
Aldair Garcia
Angelina Garcia
Johnathan Garcia
Yoselin Jaramillo
David Jovcevski
Hannah Kallal
Jakob Kawczynski
Madison Koseneksy
Adam Kreczko
Doryan Kubik

Ben Lockley
Emilio Lopez
Oliver Maksimovich
Grant Maloney
Maxwell Marquardt
Will May
Andrew Miranda
Dwayne Morrow
Katarina Neskovic
Arely Orozco
Milana Pacholski
Kendahl Payton
Monserrat Pelayo-Valadez
Isaiah Ramos
Allison Rodriguez
Claudio Rodriguez
Oscar Rojo
Yanelly Solis
Eliezer Soto Gracia
Laine Tegan

Ilija Tomich
Daniel Torres
Juliana Torres
Grace Turner
Samantha Urbina-Medina
Ava Wisniewski





Music Notes



Once again, thank you to all students and families for making the first semester of the 2019-2020 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 7th, 2020. All 5th-8th 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 14th, 2020. Students should consider using an accompanist this year. Please contact Mr. Valdez or Mr. Tabor with any additional questions.

The GMS Jazz Ensemble will be performing at the Lyons Township Jazz Band Festival on February 26th 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 12/16-12/20. We will be back to our regular schedule after break!

The 7th grade orchestra students will be going to Lyons Township High School on Monday, January 27th 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

Marleen Alamo
Katherine Badrov
Ava Bailey
Leo Barrette
Natasha Bertovic
Kellin Bourjaily
Rebekah Brassfield
Gavin Carolan
Katherine Carolan
Biara Diaz
Emmett Dill
Gavin Dill
Alina Elguezabal
Sebastian Garcia
Iriana Garcia-Sanchez
Aadden Guerrero
Dylan Hall
Genevieve Harmount
Jackson Henning
Emma Hornickle
Naomi Kallemeyn
Drake Levreau
Angelo Lundeen
Daniel Macias
James Minton
Aaliyah Montalvo
Sarah Mshar
Frank Mungo
Abigail Murillo
Sebastian Nevarez
Lukas Petersen
Ian Polonowski
Daniel Popovich
Madeline Price
Vladimir Ramirez
Victor Rodriguez
Cristalyn Romero-Rojas
Sophia Rufa
Elizabeth Rus
Anthony Sanchez
Anthony Silverio
Reese Tegan
Ilija Tepic
Aidan Torres
Tiffany Vu
Lily Wenstrup

8th Grade

Mario Aleksandrovski
Melanie Almeida
Henry Alvarez
Michael Badrov
John Barrette
Brandon Betancourt
James Brejcha
Anna Bylsma
Sean Cherry
Sarah Crowe
Thomas Culver
Lillian Davis
Aidan Diaz
David Diaz
Aidan Dill
Ryan Dowling
Sebastian Escobedo
Michael Frankhauser
Caroline Fuller
Andrew Guerrero
Olivia Hill
Avery Jasinski
Brian Kloes
Adam Kreczko
Alex Lonsway
Maxwell Marquardt
Caroline Pooler
Annie Price
Katie Prystalski
Jude Short
Eliezer Soto Gracia
Caden Strack
Laine Tegan
Austen Wisniewski
Nikolette Weiss
Isabel Wirtz
Emma Yawn



Attention Parents of 8th Grade Students:

Graduation photos will be taken on Friday, January 31st, 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 31st. 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.

