



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

Inside this Issue:

From the Principal
Page 2

Social Worker FYI
Page 3, 4

Don't Miss:

Honor Rolls
Page 5

T1 Perfect Attendance
Page 6

Gurrie 8th Grade
Awards
Page 7

CALENDAR

December

23 Winter Break Begins

January

9 Classes resume
23 PTO Meeting
24 Board of Education Meeting
7:30 p.m.
16 No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
20 TGIF PTO fun night 3:20p.m.
27 8th Grade Graduation Picture



SPORTS CALENDAR

January

10 Boys' Basketball vs. Park Red
12 Boys' Basketball @ Willow Springs
14,17-18 Hodgkins Tournament
20 Gurrie Wrestling @ Manhattan Jr High
31 Gurrie Wrestling vs Westmont,



Attention!!
8th Grade Parents
LT Welcome via WebEx



The [Class of 2027 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 2023-24 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.

Gurrie continues to make a difference in our own communities and beyond. As of December 12th, Gurrie students have completed 1,516.7 hours of service. Our total over the past ten and a half years now sits at 38,550.5 hours. Our school goal for this year is 3,000 hours and 8th grade has a goal of 2,023 hours (combined 7th and 8th grade years). Currently, our 7th grade has performed 749.2 hours and the 8th Grade has done 767.5 hours (their combined total for last year and so far, this year, is 1,223 hours).

Every Monday Matters Club (EMM) has had students support Share Your Soles, Adopt a Beach, Lincoln Park Community Center, Project CURE, and invasive species removal at Bemis Woods. The Early Act club held a car wash to raise funds for the D105 Foundation. Our Green Team supported the Zero Waste Feast. Our entire 7th grade helped remove invasive species at Camp Sagawau. The Gurrie Activity Committee (GAC) organized another successful Project Linus event for Ronald McDonald House in Oak Lawn with 100 blankets made. Gurrie students volunteered to support the D105 Foundation by working the food tent at the fall back-to-school event. Students also volunteered to support local families and helped sort and organize donations. 8th grade organized and collected, literally, a ton of food during their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for local families in need. Gurrie also helped to coordinate thirty-four Thanksgiving meals and provided to local families. Way to make a difference, Tigers!

So far this year, we have had approximately 208 students (some have participated in multiple athletic opportunities) participate in athletic programs and we have had approximately 321 (some have participated in multiple activities) students who have joined and participated in other extracurricular opportunities such as Math Team, Fusion Club, Pawsitive Paws, EMM, Green Team, Kickball Intramurals, Early Act, Underwater Robotics, RPG Club, Art Club, Gurrie Activity Council, Speech and Drama, Battle of the Books. We currently have forty-nine students participating in band, orchestra, and choir.

It is great to see so many students active and involved beyond the school day in such a wide variety of activities. Kids who are active and involved beyond the school day perform stronger academically.

Starting in January, the transition process for our eighth graders begins to move more rapidly. On January 18th at p.m., LT will hold a virtual meeting/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. On January 25th at p.m., LT will host Future Freshman Night. Students and families will also be able to tour South Campus and learn more about what LT has to offer. LT has or will be sending information home to you. If you do not receive the information, contact South Campus at (708) 579-6500.

Also in January, Gurrie and LT staff will meet 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 26th. On Friday, February 3, LT counselors will come to Gurrie to meet with students, discuss elective course selection, and answer any other course related questions.

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 Division Chair at LT and discuss those concerns. The window for requests for level changes will close on February 17th.

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

Happy holidays!

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 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 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

Salvador Alvarado
Matthew Badrov
Elena Bailey
Lyric Benguche
Max Boeckmann
Isabella Bravo
Celeste Britton
Jackson Brock
Jax Brown
Nolan Callahan
Ryan Carolan
Ian Collins
Sophie Colville
Maeve Comes
Julio DaSilva
Daniel Eterno
Luc Gamache
Zoey Green
Patricia Hanna
Avery Jorgensen
Kareington Kopp

Peter Kutlich
Adam Lally
Bruce Leach
Ellenor Lockley
James Lysaught
Jason Martinez
Alexander Meller
Payton Meller
Sean Mhley
Sawyer Michel
Ryan Miller
Brennan Monohan
Madeline Mosher
Sophia Mosher
Isabella Papa
William Potter
Mason Price
Orla Rahilly
Augustine Rodriguez
Abraham Rubio
Katherine Rus
Cecilia Sanchez

Ran Sand
Hunter Schumacher
Zachary Schwarz
Abigail Scouffas
Kevin Seiple
Madelyn Shishman
Mia Skelton
Marija Tesic
Christian Torres
Cruz Villareal
8th Grade
Alexander Andrade-
Albright
Julian Arredondo
Lola Babinski
Hanna Bato
Carter Blentlinger
Paula Calderon-Padilla
Caroline Cannizzaro
Reese Cassidy
Alexis Chavez

Zoe Connelly
Juan Contreras
Isabella Dullick
Eddie Enriquez
Nora Flood
Violet Fotino
Hannah Fuller
Santiago Garcia
Nora Grill
Molly Hall
Luke Hammond
Eleanor Harmount
Daniel Koziol
Avery Lee
Fernando Llanes
Amia Manzo
Wesley McDilda
Collin McNeil
Beckett Michel
Kerryn Monohan
Eve Muscato

Mia Olszowka
George Panos
Jayde Sanchez
Mary Sandman
Katherine Sheehan
Zoe Stone
Anastasija Tesic
Kim Tran
Emilee Tydus
Avery Tyrell
Luke Vongluekiat
Vivi Vu
Nathan Woods



First Trimester High Honor Roll

7th Grade

Nathan Aaronson
John Adelpia III
Colin Baise
Olivia Cabrera
Yadihra Carrillo
Brianna Cervantes
Yisel Chairez
Alina Chavez
Vivian Comes
Bryan Corona
Marlene Covarrubias
Kevin Cuellar
DeAngelo Diaz
Declan Driscoll
Luke Enriquez
Janette Erickson
Braulio Flores
Madison Flores

Taylor Hoffenberg
Amy Lopez
Natalie Lopez
Eleanor Meuer
Lucille Miller
Mila Panos
Krystiana Pie-
trusiewicz
Tramario Roberts
Benjamin Sherman
Jhanja Wickert-
Harris

8th Grade

Ethan Alberico
Isiah Aldana
Adam Barrett e
Charlotte Deneen
Jizelle Diaz
Samantha Es-
cobedo
Jack Eskra
Nolan Fey
Ashley Garcia
Sanchez
Evan Gardner
Vivian Guerrero
Zachary Haizlip
Nolan Hamilton
Brandon Harris
Isabella Huling
Roan Judkins

Sarah Kapsa
Harrison Kittridge
Brynn Krantz
Jack Lee
Edwin Martinez
Caroline Mshar
Iqui-Balam Nogueta
Nunez
Ethan Peto
Yazmin Ries-Salinas
Caroline Riopell
Jeremiah Rivera
Elizabeth Schmidt
Madeline Schroeder
Maria Serna
Jocelyn Silverio
Niraj Tallarovic
Grace Twitty
Alejandro Villavivencio

Elizabeth Zavala



First Trimester Honor Roll

7th Grade

Annalise Becerra
Brooklyn Boyce
Annika Bryck
Lukas Coclanes
Sofia Dittmer
Tamarie Dunlap
Henry Flood
Declan Gilmartin
Payton Gourley
Caleb Hurtado
Evan Itkowitz
Kamila Javier
Damian Jimenez
Summer Keorkunian
Mia Kosenesky
Jayden Laurenzana
Nicholas Lee
Tyler Malone
Evan Nevarez
Jesse Nunez-Garica

Josh Oberlie
Nicholas Pawula
Max Piatek
Max Polonowski
Alivia Rivera
Lucas Rowen
Michael Rucinski
Vuk Soldat
Kiriaki Usadel
Ximena Velazquez
Aiden Williamson

8th Grade

Loretta Avalos
Luka Bojovic
Mireya Brkic
Brian Cahue
Jake Calderon
Josh Campos
Conor Carolan
John Casas
Alexis Ceron-Najera
Joseph Filkins
Tino Flores
Dylan Galvez
Alonso Garcia-Mancha
Julian Harris
Melissa Hernandez
Chris Jimenez
Anthony Johnson
Lawan Jolly
Louise Kallemeyn
Owen Lopez
Arianna Magana
Liam Malay

Vlatko Martinov
Brendan McCabe
Mark Mendoza
Jose Morales
Ailani Morin
Karla Neira
Enrique Nevarez
Evan Nunez
Audrey Olson
Harmonie Picman
Mursalin Qureshi
Ignacio Rodriguez
Nevach Roman
Josiah Santana
Ava Schroeder
Nicolas Serna
Ben Shanley
Tabitha Skvarla
Isabella Soto
DaNari Usrey



Trimester 1 Perfect Attendance



7th Grade

*Lyric Benguche
Max Boeckmann
Isabella Bravo
Jax Brown
Annika Bryck
Nolan Callahan
Sophie Colville
Payton Gourley
Evan Itkowitz
Avery Jorgensen
Peter Kutlich
Adam Lally
Jayden Laurenzana
Natalie Lopez
James Lysaught
Payton Meller
Sawyer Michel
Ryan Miller
Josh Oberlie
Isabella Papa
Nicolas Pawula
William Potter
Katherine Rus
Cecilia Sanchez
Zach Schwarz
Abigail Scouffas
Ben Sherman*

8th Grade

*Luka Bojovic
Zoe Connelly
Juan Contreras
Samantha Escobedo
Nolan Fey
Carter Garcia
Santiago Garcia
Alonso Garcia-Mancha
Evan Gardner
Louise Kallemeyn
Sarah Kapsa
Brynn Krantz
Mark Mendoza
Enrique Nevarez
Iqui-Balam
Nogueda Nunez
Evan Nunez-Garcia
Caroline Riopell
Vivi Vu
Nathan Woods*



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.

