



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

October

21-25 Red Ribbon Week
22 7th Gr. SOS Program
24 8th Gr. SOS Program
25 Halloween Dance, 7-9 p.m.
29 8th Gr. String Workshop @ LT



November

4 Gurrie Book Fair Ends Nov 13th
4 Parent Teacher Conf. 12-7 pm
11 PTO Meeting 6:30 pm
12 LTHS 8th Grade Band Day
13 Parent Teacher Conf. 7-9 pm
15 PTO TGIF Fun Night 3:25-5:00 pm
26 Gurrie Feast 12:00 pm
27 Thanksgiving Break 27-29



Reminder:

Although students are invited and encouraged to wear costumes to the Halloween Dance, students are not allowed to wear costumes to school during the school day on Friday, October 25th. This includes "hair" make up of any kind. Students who come to school in costume will be asked to change, and parents will be called to bring appropriate clothing. Thank you for your cooperation.



From the Principal's Desk



Greetings from Gurrie,

At the end of this month (October 21-25) District 105, as well as schools throughout the state of Illinois will be celebrating *Red Ribbon Week*. This year's theme is *Life is your journey, travel drug free*. This is a week dedicated to raising awareness regarding drug and alcohol abuse and making positive choices in one's life. It is an ideal way for people and communities to take a visible stand against drugs and to show their personal commitment to a drug-free lifestyle through the symbol of the red ribbon. I encourage you to discuss these issues with your children not just during *Red Ribbon Week* but throughout the entire year. Students in middle school are at a critical point in their development and a supportive and involved family is the key to good choices.

This month we will also be educating and offering students depression and suicide prevention training as part of the SOS Signs of Suicide Prevention Program (during the week of October 21). The adolescent years are marked by a roller-coaster ride of emotions and growth-difficult for kids, their parents, and educators. It is easy to misread depression as normal adolescent turmoil; however, depression (among the most common of mental illnesses) appears to be occurring at a much earlier age. Depression-which is treatable-is a leading risk factor for suicide. In addition, self-injury has become a growing problem among youth. The SOS program has been successful at increasing student reporting concerns about themselves or a friend and is the only school-based suicide prevention program listed by SAMHA for its National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices that address suicide risk and depression, while reducing suicide attempts. In a randomized control study, the SOS high school program showed a reduction in self-reported suicide attempts by 40% (BMC Public Health, July 2007).

Our staff has been provided background information on SOS and students will be taking a pre-test on the lesson objectives. At the conclusion of the lesson, students will take a post-test and we will be able to measure their growth and increased understanding. Information has been sent home and is also posted on our website. Please call or email Mr. Hood or Mrs. Pedersen with any questions or concerns.

With Halloween approaching, a quick reminder that we do not dress in costume during the school day (there is additional information in the Tiger Tracks). Students are allowed to dress in costume for the Halloween Dance on Friday, October 25 and more information and the permission slip has come home in the weekly note and is also posted on the website.

In addition to Tiger Tracks, the Gurrie website is another example of the commitment to communication between home and school. Please be sure to visit it regularly. Explore your child's classroom web pages, use the school calendar, and look for announcements and forms that are accessible online. The website is found at www.d105.net. Please bookmark it.

Ed Hood

Social Worker FYI

Jeannette Pedersen, 708-482-2720 ext. 1221
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Red Ribbon Week

Each year, Red Ribbon Week provides us with an opportunity to talk with our children about making healthy choices and staying drug free. This year the schools will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week October 21st through October 25th. Throughout this week there will be many activities both in our schools and in our community that will focus on providing information for students and their families on how to make healthy choices and stay drug free. Research has shown that the parent is one of the greatest influences in helping children make healthy choices and staying drug free.

10 Actions Families Can Take to Raise Drug-Free Kids

- START:** It is never too early to prevent your children from trying drugs. Building protective factors, such as letting your child know you care, plays an important part in protecting even the youngest children from drugs.
- CONNECT:** Take every opportunity to build lines of communication with your children. Do things as a family. Spend time together—eat dinner as a family, read together, play a game, visit a museum, go to the park, attend religious services. Show that fun does not involve drugs.
- LISTEN:** Take a more active interest in what is going on in your children's lives. Listen to their cares and concerns. Know what they are up to—what parties they are going to, with whom, and what will be served or available.
- LEARN:** Children today are sophisticated. To educate your children about the danger of drugs, you need to educate yourself first. In many cases, you and your child can learn side by side. Sit down together and learn about the risks drugs pose.
- EDUCATE:** Spend at least 30 minutes with your kids every month explaining with simple facts how drugs can hurt youngsters and destroys their dreams.
- CARE:** Spend at least a few minutes each day telling and showing your children that you care. Make sure they know you care they are drug-free. Explain to your child that you will always be there for them no matter what happens. Make sure that they know to come to you first for help or information. The extended family plays a major role in influencing a child's life.
- BE AWARE:** Look for the warning signs that your child may be developing a substance-abuse problem and get help before the problem occurs. Your pediatrician can help.
- SET LIMITS:** By setting limits on what is acceptable behavior, you show your children that you care and help guide them to a safer, drug-free future. Declare limits: "This family doesn't do drugs. This family doesn't hang around people who do drugs." Enforce these limits. If you say no drugs or no drinking and driving, the rule applies to parents too. Be consistent.
- GET INVOLVED:** Effective prevention extends beyond the home into the community. Get involved in your community. Ensure that your community's streets, playgrounds, and schools are drug-free. Start or join a community watch group or community anti-drug coalition. Become active in the PTA. Get involved in your church, synagogue, or faith community.
- LEAD:** Young people are as aware of what you do as of what you say. Don't just say the right things; do the right things. Set a good example. If you have substance-abuse problem, get help.



Music News



Band, Orchestra, and Choir Fund Raisers!!

It's that time of year again! Please help continue to support the District 105 Fine Arts Program by contributing to our annual Century Resources Fundraiser! Flyers and order forms will be circulating throughout the community from October 24-November 7. Be on the lookout and thank you for your support!!

The Results are In!! Band and Orchestra Festival Nominees Announced



Nice work to all of the students who auditioned for the District and Orchestra Festival!

Congratulations to the D105 musicians who were selected to audition for the Illinois Music Educators Association District 1 Band and Orchestra Festival! Auditions were at the very end of September, and we are proud to announce the Tommy Culver will be a member of the Band this year, and Jude Short will be a member of the jazz Ensemble! These dedicated performers have the chance to represent Gurrie Middle School on November 9th at Joliet Township High School (Band) and November 16th at Oak Lawn Community High School (Jazz) as they rehearse and perform with only 150 of the best musicians in the state! Congratulations to them all and thanks for representing District 105.

Band Rehearsals

This is just a reminder to please contact the directors in case of any absences or tardiness. Attendance and timeliness to rehearsals is essential to success!



Cade Band rehearsals began earlier this month. Bus schedules were distributed via email. Rehearsals are held from 3:05-4:05 and all transportation is provided by the district.



MPA Help

The Music Parents Association (MPA) is an organization for parents of band, orchestra and choir members. A form has been passed out asking for your help. Please volunteer to help with at least one thing. If everyone helps, there will be very little for each person to do.



Early Act Club News

Gurrie Middle School's Early Act Club has been busy with many projects so far this year. In September, the club had a canned food drive. It was a contest between advisories. Gurrie students were so generous that we were able to deliver 1955 items to the St. Cletus food pantry. The winning advisory with the most items donated was Sullivan-Pontrelli. They won a pizza party for their generosity.



The club also had a car wash at the 7th Avenue School. We raised \$631.29 for the D105 Foundation which grants scholarships for students who graduate from District 105. The club thanks all the students who helped especially Mr. Eric Bryant for organizing the event.

Early Act will have its annual Change War to help eradicate Polio. Did you know that Polio remains endemic in 3 countries? The Change War is a contest between 7th and 8th grade. Silver and bills add to the class total. Pennies subtract. Money can be donated during lunch or during Parent-Teacher Conferences. The proceeds of the Change War go to the Rotary Foundation in order to support their effort in the eradication of Polio. This project will take place November 4th thru the 15th.

Early Act is looking for students who have ideas for club projects. For more information on meetings, see Mrs. Rupert or Ms. Zalewska.



Reminder...

This is a reminder to parents that it is important to keep track of their student's lunch account balances. Students' lunch account balances can be checked through PowerSchool. If you do not have access to a computer you can call the Gurrie office and this information can be checked for you.

If your student has a hot lunch every day, it is a good idea to send cash or a check made out to District 105 when the account balance goes below \$10.00. Parents also have the option of paying online through the Web Store link at the bottom of the Parents/Guardians tab on the left side of the Web page. For cash or check payments students should bring their money in to the Gurrie office and give it to either Mrs. Dlhly or Mrs. Beltran, who will enter it into their account.

Remember too, the hot lunch pre-pay on your student's ID card will only cover one hot lunch per day. If your student wishes to have a second milk or any of the other food available from the cafeteria, they must pay cash. This is the case for all students, including those who participate in the free and reduced lunch program. If a student on the free and reduced lunch program wishes to have only milk, they must purchase the milk. This is a state policy. The program is only funded for a hot lunch which includes milk.

SPORTS CALENDAR



October

- 17 Girls' Basketball at Highlands
- 19 Girls Basketball District Tourn. - TBD

November

- 14 Boys' Basketball vs. Highlands
- 19 Boys' Basketball vs. Pleasantdale
- 21 Boy's Basketball at Park Red

PBIS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The PBIS program, which rewards students for their positive behavior in school with Tiger Stripes, would greatly appreciate your help with donations. Please donate items from the list below throughout the school year. It is very important that we have enough items to reward the students.

Donated items can be dropped off at Gurrie's main office anytime during the school day or can be sent in with your student. Please label "PBIS".

The following list shows some of the items that we can use for our PBIS store. Food items cannot have any peanut products or be produced in a factory that process peanut items. Nonfood items like clothing and toys need to be new or unused.

Food Items

Ring pops
Jolly Ranchers
Laffy Taffy
Now and Laters
Strawberry Twizzlers
Tootsie Pops
Dumb Dumb suckers

Nonfood Items

Water bottles
Hacky sacks
Stuffed Animals
Picture frames
Slinkys
Pens
Mugs
Movies
Music CD
Calendars
Toys
Journals
Backpacks
Table games
Gurrie Gear
T-shirts
-College,
-Chicago teams,
etc.
Sweatshirts:
-College,
-Chicago teams
-Gift Cards

If you have any questions, please contact:
Mrs. Pedersen at jpedersen@d105.net or
Mr. Alvarez at ealvarez@d105.net