



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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From the Principal's Desk



Greetings from Gurrie Middle School. It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 2020-2021 school year.

Thank you to all of our students, staff, and parents who have made the start to the school year as positive as it could be under our current circumstances. During the first three weeks, students' adapted to new routines and expectations of remote learning and now those who are attending in-person have done a great job being here at school along with our remote students who continue to learn at home.

During these unprecedented times, we will continue to communicate with you in a variety of ways. Our website is the most comprehensive source of building and activity information. We hope you will be a regular visitor. A link to your child's grades is included on this site. That link will take you to our student database system, PowerSchool, where grades, assignments and test information are available. On PowerSchool grades are *live*. This means that the grades when entered are there for you to see immediately. Information on how to access PowerSchool and your child's grades was provided to you at Curriculum night and also in your registration packets. If you still have not received this information, please call the office and they can assist you. In addition, teachers and students are utilizing Google Classroom.

Google Classroom is used by our educators as a way to communicate and distribute assignments, grade and send feedback, and get everything related to their classes in one place.

Each class is private to the people the teacher has personally invited, including the students enrolled in that class and other teachers. Now that they have learned how to use this platform, they can use all the features the teacher has enabled for that class, including class schedules, assignments, announcements, and even teacher availability. You can join these classrooms as well. Many of you already have. You should have received an invite to join. If you have not, please contact their teacher to connect. Your student can also share their access with you.

We will also regularly post on our GMS Twitter account @GurrieTigers. Please follow us.

All our weekly envelope materials will be sent home via email. Weekly envelope materials will also be placed on our website each week. If you have not been receiving a weekly email from Gurrie please call the office to make sure we have a working email for you.

Thank you again for such a strong and positive start to the school year. I look forward to working with you and your student throughout the school year and I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of your child's life.

If you are an eighth grade parent, below are some very important dates to get into your calendar related to Lyons Township High School. These dates are tentative and more information will be coming home as we progress throughout the year regarding the transition.

<u>Future Freshman Night</u>	Tuesday, December 1	7:00 pm	LTHS South Campus
<u>Student Orientation Meeting</u>	Thursday, January 7	11:00 am	Gurrie
<u>Parent Orientation Meeting</u>	Thursday, January 7	7:00 pm	Gurrie
<u>Elective Course Selection</u>	Thursday, February 4	8:30 am	Gurrie

Respectfully,

Ed Hood
Principal



Music Notes

Welcome Back From the District 105 Fine Arts Staff!

The Fine Arts are flourishing here in District 105. Our music departments have all put in a lot of work over these last two months to get everything ready for a great school year! All Band and Orchestra activities will be remote until further notice.

REHEARSALS ARE REVVING UP!

Rehearsals schedules will look slightly different this year so please reach out to your directors if you have any questions!

Philharmonic Orchestra (Wed AM)
Chamber Orchestra (Mon/Tue AM)
Symphony Orchestra (Thur/Fri AM)

Symphonic Band (Tues/Thur AM)
Concert Band (Mon/Wed/Fri AM)
3:00 Jazz Band (Thur PM)
GMS Jazz Ensemble (Thur evening)

tgabor@d105.net,
wschwenker@d105.net, dvaldez@d105.net,
mguilfoyle@d105.net

ILMEA AUDITIONS

Auditions for the Illinois Music Education Association's Honor Band and Honor Orchestra Festivals are fully virtual this year. Please reach out to your director if you have questions. Good luck to all students auditioning!

Google Classroom

Most important information will be distributed through Google Classroom this year. Please keep an eye on announcements there to stay up to date!



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 jpetersen@d105.net or
Mr. Alvarez at calvarez@d105.net

Social Worker FYI

*Jeannette Pedersen, 708-482-2720 ext. 1221
jpedersen@d105.net*



Transitioning to Middle School, an Exciting Time for Parents and Children

Your middle school child is growing and changing at a very fast rate physically, mentally, and emotionally. Some of these changes you can observe outwardly while others may be happening internally, and are not yet visible. Each child grows and develops at his own rate. Something that is very common at the middle school age is for children to shift their focus from family to their friends. As this is happening it is very important that you stay involved in your children's lives. Keeping open lines of communication with your children and their school is very important for their success. You need to make sure that your children are doing well in school, and that they are making good choices and decisions. Now, more than ever is the time that your children need your guidance, encouragement, love, and understanding.

On the next page are some tips to help your child succeed in Middle School. Please contact myself or any of your child's teachers at Gurrie Middle School at anytime with questions or concerns.

Acostumbrando a Middle School, un tiempo emocionante para los padres y sus niños...

Tu estudiante de middle school está creciendo y cambiando físicamente, mentalmente y emocionalmente a un ritmo muy rápido. Algunos de estos cambios, se pueden observarlos aparentemente mientras algunos están ocurriendo internamente, y todavía no son visibles. Cada niño crece y desarrolla a su propio ritmo. Niños de la edad middle school cambian comúnmente su enfoque de la familia a sus amigos. Durante de este tiempo, es muy importante para involucrarse en las vidas de sus niños. Mantener las líneas abiertas de comunicación con su niño y su escuela es muy importante para el éxito de los estudiantes. Usted necesita asegurarse que su niño salga bien en las clases y los niños están haciendo elecciones y decisiones efectivas. Ahora, más que antes en sus vidas, sus niños necesitan sus consejos, aliento, amor y comprensión.

Aquí hay algunos consejos para ayudar a su niño para tener éxito en Middle School. Por favor, pongase en contacto conmigo o con algunos de los profesores de su niño, con algunas preguntas o preocupaciones.

Help Your Child Succeed

- *Provide school supplies and a place to study*
- *Help set academic goals.*
- *Insist on daily attendance.*
- *Attend all parent programs.*
- *See all midterm reports and report cards*
- *Use rewards and consequences to encourage change.*
- *Encourage a healthy lifestyle.*
- *Help improve organizational skills.*
- *Help with time management.*
- *Make homework your child's responsibility*
- *Encourage involvement in school activities.*
- *Encourage independent problem solving.*
- *Provide academic support.*

Ayden a su Hijo/Hija a Tener Exito

- *Faciliten los materiales de escuela y un sitio para estudiar.*
- *Ayuden a establecer metas academicas.*
- *Insistan en la asistencia diaria.*
- *Asistan a todos las actividades para padres.*
- *Miren todos los informes de mitad de curso y carne de notas.*
- *Usen premios y consecuencias para facilitar los cambios.*
- *Fomenten una vida sana.*
- *Ayuden a mejorar sus habilidades de organizacion.*
- *Ayuden con la administracion del tiempo.*
- *Hagan que los deberes sean responsabilidad de su hijo/hija.*
- *Animen a que participen en las actividades escolares.*
- *Animen a que resuelvan los problemas de forma independiente.*
- *Faciliten apoyo academico.*



Important Dates for 8th Grade Students Entering L.T. in 2021

Eighth graders and parents of eighth graders: it is not too early to put these dates on your calendar.

December 1	Future Freshman Night South Campus, 7:00 p.m.
January 7	LT orientation for students at Gurrie during the school day
January 7	LT orientation for parents at Gurrie, Gurrie gym, 7:00 p.m.
February 4	LT Counselor Registration at Gurrie 8:30 a.m., Gurrie LLC

Please note that the enrollment process at Lyons Township High School is done completely on line.

Any questions you have about LT enrollment and registration should be directed to LT. The South Campus phone number is 708-579-6500, and it is located at 4900 Willow Springs Road in Western Springs.



The Gurrie PTO Needs You

Have you joined the Gurrie Middle School PTO??

Join now!

Your membership means that our PTO can provide valuable events for our kids throughout the school year! Just complete the Gurrie PTO membership form found in this issue of *Tiger Tracks* at the end of Mr. Hood's letter and return it to the school office with your \$5 membership fee. If you join, we send you a **FREE** copy of the Gurrie Student Directory! Don't worry if you cannot attend the PTO meetings—just support us with your membership fee!

Remember, keep collecting those box tops.

