



Tiger Tracks

Be Respectful, Be Ready, Be Safe



Gurrie Middle School
1001 S. Spring Avenue
La Grange, IL 60525
708-482-2720

September 15, 2023

2023 Issue 1

www.d105/gurrie.net

School Closing Hotline: 708-482-2722

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September

1 Student / Staff Picture Day
4 Labor Day
11 Gurrie PTO Meeting, 6:30pm
15 Gurrie PTO TGIF, 3:20pm-5:00pm
22 D105 Foundation—Back to School Night
25 Board of Education Meeting, 7:30pm



October

6 No School—District Institute Day
9 No School—Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day
24-27 Red Ribbon Week
31 Halloween



From the Principal's Desk



Greetings from Gurrie Middle School. It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 2023-2024 school year.

We have had a very strong start to the school year. Students' have quickly adapted to new routines and expectations and are doing great.

On the third day of school, we were excited to orient our students to the overall expectations of Be Ready, Be Respectful, and Be Safe. Our school expectations are founded on the work we have done with PBIS (Positive Behavioral Strategies). PBIS is a school-wide strategy for helping all students achieve important social and learning goals. On that first full day of school, Ms. Mendoza, the staff, and I welcomed students and discussed the expectations that we have for each member of the Gurrie community. Students rotated through a series of stations where specific expectations were defined and taught. This approach allowed small groups of students to discuss and understand our three overarching expectations of being Respectful, Ready, and Safe. These expectations were then applied to areas such as riding the bus, classrooms, hallways, the cafeteria, and all other areas of the school building/community. Students discussed and talked about what it looks like to Be Respectful in areas such as the hallway, to Be Ready in the classroom, or to Be Safe on the bus. At the end of the morning, students were able to state what the expectations were at Gurrie and describe examples of what these expectations looked like throughout the building and school day. Over the years, we have been tracking our behavior referral data and have noted significant reductions in the number of referrals being written. Through the tracking of this data, we have been able to address areas of concern and create specific interventions to help support a more positive, supportive, and caring culture at Gurrie. In addition, as last year was different in so many ways, being able to provide this opportunity was so valuable to our positive start.

Our school expectations help provide for a safer school environment and give more time for instruction. We will apply consistent consequences and positive reinforcement for all students. By detailing expected behavior and teaching students in a positive way, we provide a common language for everyone in our building - students, teachers, and staff. We acknowledge and reward students frequently with positive notes and other recognitions for their positive choices. We believe that by helping students practice good behavior, we will build a school community where all students have an environment where they can succeed and grow. Our PBIS behavior expectation matrix can be found on our Gurrie website and in your child's assignment notebook.

I am excited to welcome our new staff members to Gurrie. Ms. Megan Swiecicki joins our English-Language Arts team. Ms. Swiecicki has been a teacher at St. John of the Cross in Western Springs. Ms. Ivona Browne joins us as our STEM teacher and previously worked at Hodgkins School as a resource teacher. Ms. Margaret Konrath will be working as our new psychologist and comes to us from Chicago Public Schools. Mr. Saul Marquez is taking the lead as our new building and grounds staff. Ms. Roxanna Parra, Aurora Flores, Paige Bednash, and Luciana Garcia and Aurora Flores join us in the important role of paraprofessionals, supporting our staff and students throughout the day. Finally, welcome to Ms. Lorena Mendoza who has assumed the role of co-principal here at Gurrie. Ms. Mendoza comes to us from Teft Middle School in Streamwood. She is building strong relationships with all those who are a part of Gurrie, and I am looking forward to working with her this year and seeing her become the next principal here at Gurrie. I am confident that all our new staff members, in collaboration with our veteran staff, will work together to provide exciting, challenging, and rewarding experiences for all of our students.

In this edition of Tiger Tracks there is a letter explaining our Tiger Support Time (TST). TST is an intervention designed to provide students who may need additional assistance with their homework to complete it in a supportive and timely manner. We always call a parent and notify them if their student will be staying in TST that evening. TST runs from 3:15-4:00. A late bus is available for bus riders at 4:00. To make calling and notifying parents more efficient and practical we use an automated phone call for TST. Student families will be notified via phone that their child needs to stay for TST that afternoon. If a parent has additional questions after receiving the call, they can call the school office for clarification at 708-482-2720. Please note that with the Wednesday early dismissal schedule, there will not be TST on Wednesdays.

We continue to provide another after school space for students to get academic support and complete homework. Our library is open each day after school, from 3:15-4:00 and has student tutor volunteers from LT and one of our teachers available each afternoon. Students can come and complete homework, get support with a question, or work on a project with their classmates.

Each year students receive assignment notebooks. This is a great tool to assist with student organization and follow through. It is a great tool for parents as well, as it provides a common instrument for discussion regarding what students are studying, their assignments and projects, and their level of progress in that class. The student / parent handbook is found in the front of the planner. Please take time to review this with your student.

Parent Square and our website (www.d105.net/gurrie) are the most comprehensive source of building and activity information. We hope you will be a regular visitor/user of these platforms. 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 in your registration packets. If you still have not received this information, please call the office and they can assist you.

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

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.

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! Band and Orchestra activities are back in person this year.

REHEARSALS ARE REVVING UP!

We are getting back to in person morning rehearsals. Rehearsals take place at Gurrie from 7:20am to 8:10am. Elementary students will be bussed back to their home school in time for the start of the school day.

Chamber Orchestra (Monday/Tuesday AM)
Symphony Orchestra (Wednesday/Friday AM)
Philharmonic Rehearsal (Thursday AM)

Symphonic Band (Tues/Thur AM)
Concert Band (Mon/Wed/Fri AM)
3:00 Jazz Band (Thur PM) (Starts in Late September)
GMS Jazz Ensemble (Thur 4:30- 6:00 pm) (Starts in Late September)

Gtabor@d105.net,
Adeligiannis@d105.net,
Warnold@d105.net
Sdiller@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 and Parent Square 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. Burger at aburger@d105.net or

Mr. Alvarez at calvarez@d105.net

Social Worker FYI

Ashley Burger, 708-482-2720 ext. 1221
aburger@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 rato muy rápido. Algunos de estos cambios, se puede observarlos aparentemente mientras algunos están ocurriendo internamente, y todavía no son visibles. Cada niño crece y desarrolla a su propio rato. 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.*

Gurrie Middle School Dress Code

This is just a reminder that Gurrie Middle School does have a dress code. It is expected that students will be dressed in an appropriate manner while at school or attending a school or PTO activity. Appropriate school dress includes clothing, accessories, or hair styles which are not disruptive to the students and therefore will not interfere with the educational program. Personal attire must be clean and safe so as not to be a hazard to the health and welfare of the student and other students in the school. Gurrie hopes that parents will take an active part in assisting their children in making intelligent decisions about their appearance in school.

Important items to consider when purchasing school clothing are:

- A. Clothing that is considered too revealing or suggestive in any way is prohibited.
- B. All clothing must cover from shoulder to mid thigh. (No bare midriff allowed.)
- C. Transparent items, spaghetti strapped tops, strapped shirts, strapless tops, single strapped tops, nightwear, or items normally worn as undergarments, but displayed as outerwear, are prohibited.
- D. Wearing of jewelry or clothing which displays obscene, profane, or vulgar language or pictures, tobacco, alcohol, firearms, illegal drugs, gang signs, colors or symbols is strictly prohibited.

Students who come to school in clothing which is not considered appropriate will be required to change. If necessary, parents may be called to bring appropriate attire to school for their student.



The Gurrie PTO Needs You Have you joined the Gurrie Middle School PTO?? Join now!

* Huge thank you to all parents who responded to our call for volunteers! We are passing your info to the correct committee head who will be in touch with specifics shortly!

*Hope you will join us for our first Adult Social of the year! Meet us on the back patio of Kenny's October 6th from 7-10pm

*Save the date for our book fair October 28-November 3

*Looking for an easy way to be involved? PBIS would appreciate \$10 gift cards to any local business.

*Our first PTO meeting is Monday, September 12! See you there.

We'd love to hear from you! Please send any questions or comments to gurrieto@gmail.com



Gurrie PTO is organizing Teacher Conference Soup Luncheon's, on Monday October 23rd and Wednesday October 25th. We hope you'll consider sharing some of your favorite recipes, prepared and portable! Requested items/suggestions for both dates can be found on the sign-up sheet below. Thank you for helping to host this event!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F4CA8AA2DA3F94-44379402-fall>

Questions About Attendance??

What is regular attendance? Why is it so important?

Full day school attendance is vital to student success. Students who arrive late or leave early miss important segments of classroom instruction. Tardiness and early dismissal is also disruptive for other students and the teacher.

It should be of no surprise that one of the predictors of a child's success in school is their attendance. Students who miss fewer days are more likely to excel in their academic studies. National data reflect that the fewer days missed, the greater the achievement level for students.

For our children, the cost of missing school is falling behind in their learning. The more days that are missed also result in a higher anxiety level for students, as they worry about falling behind and not catching up.

Regular attendance should be the goal of every student. Regular attendance means:

- A student attends school everyday, unless the student has a justified reason.
- A student arrives at school on time.

There is no doubt that it is in the best interest of the child that they attend school regularly. It helps students to be successful academically, and helps create a sense of consistency and routine that reduces anxiety.

When does the day begin at Gurrie?

Our school day begins at 8:15. That means that a student has gone to their locker, and is in their first period class by the time the bell rings at 8:15. It is important that you call Gurrie when you know that your child will not be in school. Please call 708-482-2720 and report the absence as soon as you are aware, no later than 8:30 a.m. of the day the student is absent. Our secretaries often have to spend a good deal of time calling home(s) to check up on a student who is reported absent by a staff member. We are legally obligated to be able to account for every child, each day. You can leave a message on our school voice mail in the evening or in the early morning before staff has arrived.

Failure to reach a parent may result in the local police being called and asked to make a wellness check on the family. As stated above, we are legally obligated to account for each student every day.

TARDINESS

Any student arriving late to school must report to the office for a tardy slip before he or she may be admitted to class. Students who report tardy to school unexcused will be expected to attend an after school session that day to discuss and plan for timely arrival at school. Anyone reporting late for a class will be disciplined by the teacher concerned. Repeated tardiness will be reported to the Advisor, Dean of Students, or the Principal. Three or more unexcused tardies will disqualify a student from perfect attendance.



Important Dates for 8th Grade Students Entering L.T. in 2024

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

January 24, 2024 Future Freshman Night, 6:30pm—8pm, South Campus

More information from LT soon to come.

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

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.

SPORTS CALENDAR



September

- 7 Cross Country Race @ Spring Rock
- 12 Girls Basketball VS Willow Springs
- 14 Girls Basketball @ Highlands
- 15 Cross Country Race @ Spring Rock
- 19 Girls Basketball VS McClure
- 14 Cross Country @ Spring Rock
- 21 Girls Basketball VS Westchester
- 21 Cross Country @ Pleasantdale
- 25 Girls Basketball @ McClure
- 28 Girls Basketball @ Washington
- 28 Cross Country Race @ Spring Rock
- 30 Cross Country Bengal Invitational @ Harms Woods

October

- 2 Girls Basketball VS Pleasantdale
- 3 Girls Basketball @ Willow Springs
- 5 Cross Country Race @ Cermak Woods
- 7 Cross Country IESA Sectional Meet, TBD
- 12 Cross Country Race @ Pleasantdale
- 12 Girls Basketball VS Highlands
- 14 IESA State Finals @ Maxwell Park
- 13-17 Girls Basketball Hodgkins Park District Tournament



LTESAC CONFERENCE SCHOOLS

Highlands	579-6890
1850 Plainfield Road, LaGrange, 60525	
McClure	246-7590
4225 Wolf Road, Western Springs, 60558	
Park	482-2500
325 N. Park, La Grange, IL 60526	
Pleasantdale	246-3210
7450 S. Wolf Road, Burr Ridge, 60525	
Washington Middle School	783-4200
8101 Ogden Avenue, Lyons, IL 60534	
Westchester	450-2735
1620 Norfolk, Westchester, 60154	
Willow Springs	839-6828
8345 Archer, Willow Springs, 60480	

Please keep this list in a convenient place for future reference. Call the host schools on away game days for directions to the school or playing field. Playing fields may change from year to year or due to unforeseen circumstances such as construction or weather. Because of this it is always best to call the host school for directions to the playing fields.

Go Tigers!

All student athletes must have a sports physical dated within the school calendar year in which they are participating. For the 2023-2024 school year the sports physical must be dated between May 30, 2023 and May 30 2024.

Athletic permit forms are available from the school office all year. A student who wishes to participate in inter-school sports must have turned in this form before he or she may attend the first practice. This form must be signed and dated by the athlete's doctor in the top portion, and the bottom emergency information portion must be completely filled out and signed by the athlete's parent or guardian. In addition, on the back page the parent or guardian will read and sign to acknowledge agreement and understanding of the student athletic and head injury policies.

After School Activities

We are very excited about the many activities that are beginning at Gurrie. Boy's Softball, Girl's Basketball, and Cross Country have begun. We wish all our sports teams the best of luck this year.

Here are a few frequently asked questions about sporting events:

What time do games begin?

Basketball and volleyball games begin at approximately 4:15. Softball games and Cross Country meets usually begin around the same time.

What time do games end and when should I pick up my child?

Basketball and volleyball games will usually end between 6:00 and 6:15 PM. If your child is only staying for the first basketball or volleyball game, then they will be ready to be picked up at 5:15. Softball games usually end around 5:00 PM. Cross Country meets will vary based on number of schools involved. But a good rule of thumb for a Cross Country meet is one hour and a half.

Can students come and go from basketball or volleyball games?

No. Students may report to the gym at 3:30 on the day of the event. Prior to that, they need to be under the supervision of a teacher. Once the game begins, if a student leaves the building, they will not be allowed to come back to the game. We need to be able to account for the students we are supervising.

Should students arrange for a ride prior to the end of the game?

Yes. If your child is staying for the game, they should have their ride arranged prior to the end of the game. Students may use their advisor's phone to call *earlier* in the day to arrange for a ride. There is a complete schedule of events on our Gurrie web site as well as in the school calendar.

Thank you very much for understanding and supporting these policies. If you have any questions, please contact your child's advisor or the office.



Gurrie Middle School

Ed Hood, Principal 1001 South Spring Avenue
LaGrange, IL 60525-2798 (708) 482-2720
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Gurrie Middle School: Empowering students to make a difference in our world by assisting them to be self-directed, passionate, lifelong learners.

September, 2023

Dear Parent:

Homework completion can be a concern for many students at the middle school level. Homework that is assigned to students contributes to student achievement and is an essential part of the educational process. Homework enhances learning by providing opportunities for practice, enrichment, and extension of classroom learning. Assigning homework helps reinforce skills and is used to assess student achievement. By completing homework, students develop mastery by applying what they've learned; develop organizational skills such as time management; take ownership in their learning; and develop a sense of personal responsibility.

If a student does not complete an assignment and there is not a reasonable excuse for this, we are continuing a program that we are confident has helped students complete their homework and develop a sense of personal responsibility. This program is called Tiger Support Time (TST).

If a student comes to class and does not have the assignment due that day, or it is not done to the teacher's satisfaction, the teacher will assign that student to TST on that day (teachers will use discretion in assigning students who may not have completed assignments due to illness, family emergencies, or other issues). TST begins at 3:20, ends at 4:00 and runs Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. There will be a lab for each grade level and students will be aware of the supervisors and room number. When students are in the homework lab, they will be working on the missing or incomplete assignment.

If your son/daughter is asked to stay for TST, you will be notified by our office staff prior to the end of the day. We will attempt to contact you and if unsuccessful, leave a message at your first contact number. Bus riders will be able to take the bus home at 4:00 PM.

Our goal is to provide the student an opportunity to complete the assignment in a timely fashion and in a time frame when the student can still connect the assignment to the content being covered. Any student consistently not completing homework and is regularly asked to stay for TST will be referred to our grade level problem solving teams.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact myself or your child's advisor.

Respectfully,

Ed Hood
Principal-Gurrie Middle School