



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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2019-2020 Issue 1

www.d105/gurrie.net

School Closing Hotline: 708-482-2722

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CALENDAR

September

- 20 PTO Fortnightly 6:30-8:00 pm
- 25 Retake Pictures 8:30 am
- 27 Board of Ed Mtg., 7:30 pm
- 27 Gurrie PTO TGIF Fun Night 6:30 pm

October

- 4 Midterm, Trimester 1
- 14 Columbus Day- No School
- 15 District Professional Day- No School
- 17 7th and 8th Gr. Robert Crown
Presentation at Gurrie
- 18 PTO Fortnightly 6:30-8:00 pm
- 21-25 Red Ribbon Week
- 22 7th Gr. SOS Program
- 24 8th Gr. SOS Program
- 25 Halloween Dance at 7:00 pm
- 29 8th Grade String Workshop at LT



From the Principal's Desk



Greetings from Gurrie Middle School. It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 2019-2020 school year.



(Our first team building activity results in a great picture!!)

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

On the second 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 the first full day of school, the staff and myself 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 some of the stations, we even have 8th grade students provide examples and skits to demonstrate what is expected. 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 fact, last year saw the lowest number of behavioral referrals recorded since we began tracking this data thirteen years ago.

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 every 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 several new staff members to Gurrie. Mr. Grant Tabor is our new band director. He came to us from the Lake Forest Country Day School where he was the director of bands. Mrs. Gabriella Senese is a new English/Language Arts and Social Studies teacher. Mrs. Senese worked at St. Mary's school last year as an ELA teacher. Mrs. Alexandra Casey joins our staff in the role of a resource / special services teacher. She has previously been on staff at George Washington Middle School in Lyons. Jessica Amedeo is our new part-time social worker and comes to us from Center Cass School District in Downers Grove. Helping support students and staff in many ways in and out of the classroom are our new paraprofessionals: Mrs. Shelonda Hopson, Celia Rosales, Dave Bilanski, and Maria Rodriguez. I am confident that all of 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 Homework Lab. Homework Lab 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 Homework Lab that evening. Homework Lab runs from 3:15-4:00. A late bus is available for bus riders at 4:00. In an attempt to make calling and notifying parents more efficient and practical we use an automated phone call for Homework Lab. Student families will be notified via phone that their child needs to stay for Homework Lab 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 homework lab 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 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. This is also open each day from 3:15-4:00.

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.

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.

All our weekly envelope materials will be sent home via email. Weekly envelope materials will also be placed on our website each week. You can request a hard copy of weekly materials by calling the office and having them sent home with your child. 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.

If you are an eighth grade parent, below are some very important dates to get into your calendar related to Lyons Township High School. More information will be coming home as we progress throughout the year regarding the transition. LT will be reviewing MAP assessments and other historical assessment data to place students for freshman year. 8th grade students will take their MAP assessments in December and that will be their most up to date data for the placement process.

<u>Future Freshman Night</u>	Tuesday, December 3	7:00 pm LTHS South Campus
<u>Student Orientation Meeting</u>	Thursday, January 9	11:00 am Gurrie
<u>Parent Orientation Meeting</u>	Thursday, January 9	7:00 pm Gurrie
<u>Elective Course Selection</u>	Thursday, February 6	8:30 am Gurrie

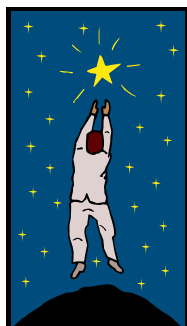
Finally, over the past few years we have been looking at our master schedule and how it provides instructional opportunities for students. Last year a committee here at Gurrie extensively studied other master schedule options that would enhance instructional contact time to provide greater opportunities for in-depth learning, reflection, goal setting, cooperative and hands-on activities. This led the committee to propose a block schedule which would increase the opportunities for learning that better match the needs of the middle school learner. We will be communicating more about block scheduling in the coming months as well as offer a presentation to parents regarding this schedule and how it would work.

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

7th Grade Assembly on September 18th



On September 17th Gurrie sponsored motivational speaker Lloyd Bachrach and his program “Yes, You Can!” to our seventh grade students. Lloyd Bachrach, although physically challenged, has never let anything keep him from achieving his dreams. His candid and compelling story inspires the hearts and minds of his audiences, as he proves that anything in life is possible.

Captivating his audiences with live gymnastics and volleyball demonstrations, Lloyd presented his five keys to success.

1. Build high self esteem. Believe in yourself, have confidence, like and feel good about yourself; take pride in what you do.
2. Focus with a positive attitude. Always expect the best possible outcome for what you do. Your thoughts are like magnets; you attract what you think.
3. Set powerful goals. “Give your brain a place to aim.” Set goals so that you can reach them. When you do, reach a little higher.
4. Persevere. Never quit. Never give up. Keep going and keep trying.
5. Maintain a healthy body, mind and spirit. Take care of yourself through a healthy diet, exercise, and “say no to drugs.”

These five keys to success tie in with the goals of Gurrie’s PBIS program: Be Respectful, Be Ready, Be Safe.

The “Yes, You Can!” program has been delivered to a wide variety of audiences ranging from corporate executives to school aged children.



Nursing Station

Vision and Hearing Screening

The district nurses will be performing vision and hearing screenings during the months of September through November.

The district’s vision screenings are intended to help identify children with eye or vision problems that threaten sight or impair their ability to develop and learn normally. However, vision screenings are a limited process and cannot be used to diagnose an eye or vision problem, but rather to indicate a potential need for further evaluation.

Comprehensive vision examinations can only be conducted by an eye care professional with the specialized training needed to make a definitive diagnosis and prescribe treatment. Often, specialized equipment and procedures, which are not available as a part of a visual screening program, are needed to adequately evaluate a child’s eye and vision status.

If you receive a referral from the district health office, please contact your eye doctor to get a full vision evaluation.

Please return your child’s vision report to the school office.

Thank you,
District Nurses



Music Notes

Welcome Back From the District 105 Fine Arts Staff!

It was indeed a busy summer! As you probably know, 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!

REHEARSALS ARE REVVING UP!

Rehearsals begin this week for the following Performing Arts groups:

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

Please contact any of the directors if you have questions about rehearsal dates or transportation.

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

ILMEA AUDITIONS

Good luck to our students auditioning for the Illinois Music Educator's Association's honor groups. Auditions are on Saturday, September 28th at Summit Hill Jr. High School in Frankfort. Feel free to reach out to your directors if you have any questions!

WEEKLY MUSIC MATTERS

We are still distributing our weekly Music Matters newsletter. Please let me know if you have not been receiving them!



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.*

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.

Early Act Club News



The Early Act Club at Gurrie Middle School is a service organization sponsored by the Rotary Club of LaGrange. It is an international organization that helps people both within our community and throughout the world. The Club has planned many projects for the school year.

Our first project this year will be a canned food drive to benefit the St. Cletus food pantry. We are collecting non-perishable items from September 9th-19th. St. Cletus is accepting all non-perishable items but is requesting chicken noodle soup, cereal, instant oatmeal, canned corn, size 4 or 5 diapers, pasta and pasta sauce. The advisory that donates the most items will win a pizza party. Students can volunteer to pack and collect for the pantry on September 19th and 20th after school. Contact Mrs. Rupert to sign up. Students will receive service hour for helping.

Early Act had a Car Wash at Seventh Avenue School on Sunday, September 15th. The proceeds will benefit the District 105 Foundation. Students can also receive service hours for helping with this event.

Our project for November is our annual Change War to Eradicate Polio. Polio is still endemic in 3 countries. Early Act is partnering with Rotary for the End Polio Now campaign. There will be a contest between 7th and 8th grade November 4th-15th. Change can be donated during lunch.

If you need more information, contact Mrs. Rupert at krupert@d105.net or Ms. Zalewska at szalewska@d105.net.



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 2020

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

December 3	Future Freshman Night South Campus, 7:00 p.m.
January 9	LT orientation for students at Gurrie during the school day
January 9	LT orientation for parents at Gurrie, Gurrie gym, 7:00 p.m.
February 6	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.



SPORTS CALENDAR



September

- 16 Boy's Softball at McClure
- 16 Girl's Basketball vs. McClure White (Both)
- 19 Boy's Softball vs Westchester
- 19 Cross Country Meet at Spring Rock
- 19 Girl's Basketball vs Highlands (Both)
- 23 Girl's Basketball at Willow Springs (Both)
- 24 Girl's Basketball at McClure Red (Both)
- 24 Boy's Softball at Park
- 26 Girl's Basketball at Westchester (Both)
- 26 Boy's Softball at Highlands

October

- 1 Boy's Softball vs. Washington
- 1 Girl's Basketball at Park (Both)
- 3 Girl's Basketball vs Washington (Both)
- 3 Boy's Softball at Pleasantdale
- 8 Girl's Basketball vs. Pleasantdale (Both)
- 10 Girls Basketball vs. Willow Springs (Both)
- 17 Girls's Basketball at Highlands (Both)

Gurrie Fall Sports Season Underway

As the weather begins its slow cool down and the days grow shorter, Gurrie Middle School has begun the fall sports season. Girls' basketball, coached by Mr. Yena and Mrs. Kulaga, played their first game of their season on Friday, September 13th vs. Pleasantdale.

Boys' softball, coached by Mrs. Noga and Mrs. Gjoni, began their first game of their season against Pleasantdale on September 9th. Cross Country, coached by Mr. Driscoll, Mr. LaBud, Ms. Kylie and Ms. Kramer, ran their first meet on Thursday, September 12th at Spring Rock Park.



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 2019-2020 school year the sports physical must be dated between May 15, 2019 and May, 2020.

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.

