

# Grand Island Central School District

## Grand Island High School

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[www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org)

August 18, 2022

Greetings to our new and returning GIHS Students and Families!

We hope that you have all had a wonderful summer! Our teachers, school counselors, school psychologist, school social workers, and school-related professionals will be preparing over the next few weeks to get ready for our students to return for the 2022-2023 school year. We are looking forward to welcoming all of our students back to GIHS in a few short weeks!

As you prepare to begin the school year, we wanted to share some important reminders and information with you. Please review the information below and please contact the main office if you have any questions prior to the first day of school.

**The first day of school is Tuesday, September 6, 2022. The instructional day will begin at 7:34am and students should be present in their first period classroom by no later than the start of the instructional day.** Students will be able to enter the building at 7:20am, but cannot access academic areas until 7:25am.

**It is completely normal to feel nervous about the start of a school year.** Please know that all of your teachers understand that you are working to find your classes, learn/relearn the building, and that it can take a few days to get back into the rhythm of the bell schedule. We have four school counselors, two school social workers, and one school psychologist at GIHS who will all be happy to help any students who may be feeling stress in the opening days, or who may be experiencing mental health needs over the course of the school year. We also have a Family Support Center that students and families can be linked with for counseling services. We encourage you to contact our [Student Support Services team](#) at any time during the school year if you need assistance.

**Students should bring their charged school-issued Chromebooks with them on the first day of school. During the school year, Chromebooks should be charged at home every night because we do not have additional chargers available in classrooms.** Please also check to make sure that your device is in working condition and reach out to the district IT department if there are any issues or concerns with the Chromebook prior to the first day of school.

We encourage our students to use our district provided transportation in order to ensure on-time arrival to school. **If you chose to drive your student, or have your student drive themselves to school, please be sure to make appropriate accommodations to arrive on time because Ransom Road often becomes congested with traffic during the morning arrival time.**

**Families who choose to drop students off or pick students up from school are required to use the driver drop off loop.** *(Please see the drop off/pick up diagram at the bottom of this letter.)* This is designed to keep everyone safe in our parking lot and to ensure student safety when exiting vehicles to enter the high school.

**Senior students will be able to apply for parking privileges by requesting an application from the main office.** Students who do not have parking permits will not be able to park on campus after the second week of school. Students who receive parking privileges must abide by the attendance and grade requirements outlined in the student handbook in order to maintain a parking permit.

**Student schedules will be available to access through the Infinite Campus Parent and Student Portal on the morning of August 26.** You will receive additional information next week regarding schedule access.

**The USDA has not extended the free meal benefits for the 2022-2023 school year. Breakfast will be \$1.50 and lunch will be \$3.00.** We encourage all parents to complete the free/reduced lunch application. Completing this application may allow your student to be eligible to receive an EBT card, as well as free/reduced Advanced Placement, ACT, SAT, and college application fees. Completing this application also assists the district in maintaining Title 1 status and funding. Additional information and application materials can be found on the district website under the [GICSD Food Services Department](#) page.

**If a student will be absent from school, a parent/guardian should contact the high school attendance office on the morning of the absence.** A voice message may be left, or the attendance clerk will be available to take your call after 6:45AM. **A written excuse must be submitted to the main office upon the student's return to school.** A student who requires an early dismissal for a dental, doctor, or other necessary appointment must submit a note signed by the parent to our school attendance clerk located at the main security desk prior to first period.

**Any medical notes and/or excuses written by a physician should be given directly to the school nurse.**

Questions related to medical issues and/or physician recommendations/restrictions that will impact school, should be directed to our school nurse, Lori Armenia, at 716-773-8827.

**Visitors to our school are required to provide a valid driver's license.** Our security desk attendants will assist visitors with proper procedures for receiving a visitor pass and entering the building. All visitors are required to enter the school building through our secure point of entrance at door #1.

**Student backpacks must be able to fit in student lockers. Students may choose to carry a smaller drawstring bag to classes.** As in prior years, backpacks are not allowed in the classrooms for safety reasons and will need to be stored in student lockers during the school day. Drawstring bags must be able to fit under a student's desk.

**Students are not allowed to use cell phones during class periods, unless permission is given by a teacher for instructional purposes.** Students are expected to have phones off and away in order to allow our students to be present and engaged in their learning.

**Our GIHS Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-8:00PM. We hope that all of our GIHS families will be able to attend!**

**High School Picture Days will be occurring on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, September, 15<sup>th</sup>.** Please mark your calendars! More info will be shared at the start of the school year.

Lastly, our **GIHS Spirit Week will be occurring during the week of September 19<sup>th</sup>.** The Powder Puff Game will be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, our Homecoming football game will be held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, and we will close out the week with the Homecoming Dance held at GIHS on September 24<sup>th</sup>. We are already excited to feel the Viking Spirit that this week brings each year!!!

We are so incredibly excited to begin the 2022-2023 school year with each and every one of our students! We wish you a safe and relaxing end to your summer break.

We can't wait to see all of you here at GIHS on **September 6<sup>th</sup>**!

Mrs. Hillary Kretz-Harvey, Assistant Principal

Mr. Jonathan Lattanzio, Assistant Principal

