



Gibraltar School District

19370 Vreeland Road, Woodhaven, MI 48183 www.gibdist.net

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year! Although this year will have a different look and feel regardless of your child's setting, it still is the start to a new school year and we are excited to welcome all of our students back to a year of learning and memories. I want to recognize all the staff, administrators, and parents who have worked so hard to get us to the point where we can start school! As we head into this unique school year, we know that it will be full of changes for everyone and we also know that our students have an amazing amount of support from our entire school community to help navigate these changes.

Parents.... We need you! As we move into face-to-face school on Tuesday, we need all our parents to be our partners in helping our students understand that proper social distancing and masking up when they are out of their house will be instrumental in us having consistent face-to-face school. We can't be successful without your support! As I have mentioned in previous years, it takes a village to raise a child and our GSD village is strong and ready for this challenge. Together, we can make this year a successful one!

Another way to support us continuing our face-to-face school plan is to carefully screen your child every morning before the start of the school day using the Wayne County Health Department COVID-19 Screening Tool for Families. This tool is designed to help identify the most common symptoms of COVID-19 and allow families to make informed decisions about when to keep their children home from school. Please watch [this video](#) on how to complete this daily screener at home.

Preparing your child for this new school experience is important for a successful start. Our GSD staff and students have created back to school videos to help you and your child understand how school and riding the bus will look with our new COVID-19 protocols. Follow this link to see these awesome videos (<https://www.gibdist.net/about/back-to-school-videos>).

As a reminder, if there is a case of COVID-19 in your child's school, we are required by the Wayne County Health Department (WCHD) to notify **all** parents and staff in the building of that positive case. For example, if a student tested positive in a 5th grade classroom, all parents and staff in that building will be notified of a positive case through an email/letter. Additionally, if the positive case was in your child's classroom, on the bus, or at a school-sponsored extracurricular activity, you may receive a call from the WCHD or district personnel that your child was a close contact. A close contact is defined by the WCHD as someone that was less than 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes. If you are contacted by the WCHD or district personnel, you will be asked a series of questions about the possibility of your child being a close contact and the WCHD may require your child to quarantine for up to 14 days. We recognize that this will cause a disruption to your child, but please know we are prepared for this reality. Our staff has been working hard to build classrooms and learning experiences for our students in our new remote learning management system, [Schoology](#). We will be using Schoology to help your child stay connected and up-to-date with school work and lessons while they are mandated to quarantine. Additionally, the district is never allowed to share who the student or staff member is that tested positive for COVID -19 nor what

classroom they were in. I understand that receiving a letter might be confusing as to where the positive case was located, but GSD and WCHD will not be able to share that information due to privacy laws. To review the WCHD rules and regulations for Wayne County School districts, please visit this link (<https://www.waynecounty.com/covid19/back-to-school.aspx>). Also located within this document are sample letters that parents will receive if there is a positive case in their child's school and a sample letter if your child has to quarantine because they are considered a close contact to a positive case.

Although we are in a very challenging time, GSD is going to continue to provide our students with a quality education whether it's face-to-face instruction, remote learning, or learning through our online school, Lakeshore Virtual. Our dedicated GSD teachers strive to provide students with opportunities to prepare them for a future while helping our students become forward thinkers, problem solvers, and innovators which we can all agree they will need in our very fast paced and ever-changing global society.

We are excited to spend another year learning and creating with your child and thank you for your continued support in making GSD the best place to learn and grow!

Your Partner in Education,
Amy Conway
Superintendent

Spark's Corner



Research shows that being happy and positive primes the brain to be more successful and productive. Promoting positivity will enhance our student's academic ability and develop them into happy and positive thinkers and leaders. Each month we will highlight a building or staff member that is spreading "The Orange" (Happiness) through Gibraltar!

Mrs. Kozicki had approximately 94 Chapman Chargers who participated in the Run Club before school closed last March! The final event would have been the Martian Marathon but that event was canceled. Mrs. Kozicki wanted our students to have a chance to run their last lap so she invited families to join her on the Chapman Track on a beautiful sunny Sunday! A few families were able to join her with social distancing and mask wearing in place. Way to go, Chapman Chargers!



Parsons Elementary



The staff and students at Parsons are so excited to welcome Kendra Cook to their team for the 2020-2021 school year. Kendra grew up in Woodhaven where she attended Woodhaven High School. After leaving high school, Kendra attended Albion College where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics with a focus in Elementary Education. While at Albion College, she ran varsity cross country. Kendra was also a member of the Delta Gamma Sorority, and the honor societies Mortar Board and Omicron Delta Kappa. In her spare time, she loves to run, travel, and be outdoors. She is so excited to be a member of the Gibraltar School District. During the 2020-2021 school year, Kendra is most looking forward to building relationships with her new students and also being a part of the team at Parsons!

Lakeshore Virtual School

Lakeshore Virtual would like to welcome the 24 GSD teachers from around the district who have joined our staff! These awesome educators have been added to the LVS staff to help support the many students who have chosen the GSD Virtual Option for the 2020-2021 school year. We have a wide variety of experience and talents coming to support all of our virtual students. We are excited that they are joining our team this year and are looking forward to a successful school year!

Future Change Makers at Shumate Middle School

This spring, 130 of Ms. Bielowski's social studies students learned that even the small things they do can help others in a big way. Through a microfinance project with her 6th grade students, the students and their teacher made it possible for farmers and small business owners in developing countries to receive loans to improve upon their current situations. Meaningful experiences such as this exemplifies that learning how things work is most effective when linked to why the learning is important...and who it can help. We look forward to seeing how Ms. Bielowski's students take this lesson they've learned and apply it throughout their lives.



Gibraltar Food Service welcomes everyone back



Food Service Goal: Feeding all students with COVID-19 safety in place.

Your student's health is important to us. We are taking every precaution to ensure our food is served safely, including serving prepacked meals in individual bags. We are happy to be back and preparing food for the children and staff. Menus will be limited and upgraded as we progress forward in the school year. Breakfast and lunch will be available every day at each school building, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Take home meals for Wednesday's remote learning days will be sent home Tuesday afternoon. Meals will be available for Lakeshore Virtual School students for remote pick-up. Information will be sent out soon.

Carlson High School



The Carlson Administrative team and Teaching staff have been hard at work getting ready for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Many changes are taking shape at the high school. Our bond work is still going strong. Some changes students will see when they arrive will be the renovated library media center, band room, art room, science labs, offices, and main entrance. Along with our construction, staff and students will be working in a new LMS platform called Schoology. This new platform will give students the ability to create, manage, and share academic content in a user friendly way.

Hunter Welcomes New Staff



Hunter Elementary welcomes a new second grader teacher to their team, MaKena Jones. Mrs. Jones grew up in the Gibraltar School District and is so excited to be back in the district to teach. She graduated with a Bachelor's in Elementary Education and Language Arts from Eastern Michigan University, and has gained valuable experience through long-term substitute positions. Mrs. Jones loves being outdoors with her dogs and husband, spending time with family, and crafting in her free time.

Hunter Elementary also welcomes a new fourth grade teacher. Ms. Ashlyn Czarnota who graduated from Eastern Michigan University and earned her degree in Elementary Education with a major in mathematics. Ms. Czarnota has been with the Gibraltar School District since she was a Kindergarten student at Hunter. Her desire to become a teacher began when she aspired to be like her 2nd-grade teacher, Mrs. Poslaiko! We are so excited that we get to add her to the Hunter Family!



Athletics

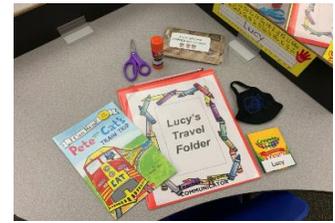


Golf tennis and cross country are underway for fall sports. The students are excited to be back to athletics and happy to compete. We are excited to hear that our other fall sports will be allowed to start soon!

Downriver STEM @ Weiss



Everyone at Weiss is so excited to welcome back our students in just a few days! I can say confidently that our whole staff has really missed seeing our wildcats since we shifted to remote learning back in March. Entering this year, we know that some aspects of school may be different. However, upon school starting, students will notice many similarities to their typical Weiss experience from the past. Our building will always be one full of love and kindness. A building where students will have engaging and fun experiences every day. This year is no different. Walking around the building today, it was so great to see some of the amazing displays that our staff has ready for students to help them feel welcomed and loved from day one. We look forward to a great first week and can't wait to see our Wildcats!



Chapman Elementary



Ms. Masland worked hard over the summer to clean out the garden courtyard and planting new bulbs and ground cover is next on our to-do list! In addition, Carlson Senior, Allison Schaefer will be completing her Eagle Scout Project by creating an amazing Butterfly Garden for all to enjoy for years to come.



Maintenance Department



It doesn't seem like it has been 5 ½ months since we had staff and students in our buildings. Many things have happened during this time. All of our buildings have received new controls for our heating and cooling systems. Parsons Elementary received an air conditioning system for their gym and a new roof and windows on the north east wing of the building.

Shumate Middle School has received a new transformer, minor site work, an accessible ramp access on the cafeteria stage, and new lockers. Carlson High School has received a new student parking lot and a new driveway from the stop light to the Memorial Building. The new band room is nearing completion while construction is ongoing for the newly renovated science section, media center, and the main office areas. Last but not least, the student restrooms in the main building received complete makeovers and CHS has new lockers!

Finance Department- Shawn Stirling, Finance Manger



The Finance Department has spent the summer closing the 2019-20 Fiscal year and preparing for the start of the 20-21 school year. The auditors began the audit fieldwork of the 19-20 financials during the week of August 24th. We continue to ensure that we have policies and procedures in place that will keep us moving forward with our positive fund balance. We look forward to a great 2020-21 school year!

Transportation



The Transportation Department has put the routes together and families can view their assigned stops in the parent portal. Each student will wear a mask, use the hand sanitizer and will have an assigned seat. Please check your parent portal just before school starts to make sure there have been no changes. This summer we returned six old lease buses and received six new lease buses to replace them. One of the six buses is a lift bus for special education.