



Gibraltar School District

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

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 School Year! We are excited to welcome everyone back to yet another fabulous year of learning at GSD. I want to recognize all the staff, administrators, and parents who have worked so hard to get us to the start of school! As we head into yet another unique school year, I want to remind everyone that we've got this! We know how handle changes that happen without much notice and we always are here to support each other and our children. Keep up the great work to support our district and we will have yet another amazing year!

Parents.... We need you! We need all of our parents to be our partners in helping our students be successful in not spreading COVID-19, especially when they are not in the school building. 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!

Although we continue to be 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, or learning through our online school, Lakeshore Virtual. Our dedicated GSD teachers, administrators, and staff 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 so grateful to spend this 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!



Almost two years has gone by since we were able to have our thrilling Orange Frog training for our newly hired staff. Having this training in August was a huge success and made us aware more than ever that we are not only in charge of our own happiness, but that being positive to others creates a ripple effect and that spreads happiness to others. Be that positive force in someone's life today!

COVID Dashboard Notifications

If there is a case of COVID-19 in your child's school, we are required by law to notify **all** parents and staff in the building of that positive case through each building's dashboard. These dashboards have a link on our main page of our website and a case will be placed on the dashboard within 24 hours of the building being notified of an in-school 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 by looking at the school's online dashboard. 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. 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. We recognize that this will cause a disruption to your child, but please know we are prepared for this as we enter our second year of quarantining students. We will continue to use Schoology to help your child stay connected and up-to-date with school work and lessons while they are required 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 seeing a positive case on your child's school's dashboard 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.

Maintenance Department



GSD would like to congratulate Director of Operations, Kelly Greenhalgh on her retirement and thank her for her dedication to GSD! We would like to welcome our new Director of Operations, Greg Timmons! We are excited to have him join our team!

ParentSquare



Gibraltar School District is excited to partner with ParentSquare for our mass communication system. ParentSquare will be used to communicate to families on a district, school, classroom and even individual level. ParentSquare will allow staff to create calendar events, sign-ups, and requests that parents can easily see using the ParentSquare app or through email and text messages. The ParentSquare app is easy to use and allows you to customize how and when you want to receive communications from the district. You can locate the ParentSquare app in the app stores for Apple or Android.

Summer Happenings at Parsons



It has been a busy summer for the students and staff at Parsons. The summer began with the kickoff of their annual hashtag challenge. This annual challenge continues to be a great way for the families to stay connected during the summer months. Families and staff are encouraged to share pictures of happy moments, positive attitudes, wearing orange and spreading kindness. The submitted photos are then posted on the school's Facebook page with the school's summer hashtag-#ParsonsSpark.

The summer excitement continued as they hired two additional teachers. Katie Trupiano and Alisha Coppo were hired to teach third grade at Parsons. The newly hired teachers have been busy planning, setting up their classrooms, and learning about ways that they can spread orange and kindness with their third-grade students. The staff at Parsons is ecstatic to have them join their team!



The scholars at Parsons have also been working hard this summer to avoid the "summer slide or brain drain" as they participate in their building's summer challenge. The challenge is to complete one page a day in their Summer Bridge book. The district provided all interested families with the free bridge books. The award-winning Bridge Books contain grade level Math and Literacy activities to complete. It also provides hands-on Science projects for the students to complete. The scholars at Parsons are learning while still having fun!

Elementary Summer Academic Program

This summer Gibraltar School District offered a Summer Academic Program for entering first through sixth graders. The program has an emphasis on strengthening literacy skills. The students also completed multiple STEM based, hands-on projects. Projects including building and testing roller coasters, building and testing the strength of shelters and growing plants. Teachers from all four elementary buildings were represented.



Shumate Middle School Seahawk Prep Day



Shumate held our first ever SMS Prep Day on August 30th. At this event, students had an opportunity to receive their schedule, have their school pictures taken, pick-up their Chromebook, order SMS Spirit wear, and receive a guided tour of the building with one of our First Mates. There were



food trucks in the bus loop, and other fun activities around the school. Many Shumate teachers volunteered to help our students make the most of the day. Student attendance at the event was outstanding, and most Shumate students took advantage of the “one stop” approach to preparation for the first days of school.

Carlson High School



August 25, 2021 marked Carlson High School's annual Prep Day. This is the day that CHS students come in to get information about Clubs, their yearbook/ID photos, schedules, textbooks, and parking passes. Prep Day is one of the most exciting and busiest days of the school year, but what makes it a truly successful day is that so many staff and students come together to make it run smoothly. As always, our Marauder



Captains were on hand to greet all incoming students and show those new to Carlson what being a Marauder is all about.

Hunter Welcomes New Staff

The Hunter Staff is excited to welcome Ms. Stephanie Camilleri to the Kindergarten teaching team. Ms. Camilleri is a Gibraltar Native, a former Hunter student and a graduate of Carlson High School. She received her Bachelor's of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Eastern Michigan University. Ms. Camilleri comes to us with experience teaching both Kindergarten and First Grade.



Hunter also welcomes Mrs. Tanya Owen to the Third Grade teaching team. Mrs. Owen received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Windsor in Spanish and French. She went on to receive her teaching certificate from Madonna University. Mrs. Owens has previously worked in Van Buren School and for Wayne County RESA.

Athletics



Carlson athletics are up and running for the 2021 fall season. We are thrilled to welcome spectators back for our home contests! Up to the minute schedules for each team are located on the Gibraltar school district website. The homecoming football game will be played on 10/1/2021. We look forward to seeing you at a Marauder event!

Downriver STEM @ Weiss

Weiss is so excited to welcome Mrs. Lindsey Robert and Ms. Jessica Ecie to our Wildcat Team.

Mrs. Robert will be taking over in our CI classroom. She has been teaching for ten years and has experience in both general and special education. Much of Mrs. Robert's career has been working with Kindergarten through third-grade students. In Mrs. Robert's classroom, children will be enjoying a calm and playful atmosphere. Students in her classroom will be involved in the school community through a peer to peer program and they will spend time with their same age peers in the general education setting. We know she will be a great addition to our Wildcat Team!



Ms. Ecie will be taking over as our school social worker this year. Ms. Ecie graduated with her Master's degree from Wayne State University and completed her 1st internship in GSD! Ms. Ecie is excited to join our Wildcat team. She has been working with youth and their families for over six years. She is excited to have the opportunity to be a positive support to our Wildcat students! Welcome to our team, Ms. Ecie!

Lakeshore Virtual School



LVS would like to welcome Counselor Mr. Darin Duperon to the Lakeshore Virtual staff. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience from the University of Michigan and his Master's degree in School Counseling from Wayne State University. Darin is excited to be a part of the Gibraltar School District and to support students at LVS academically, socially, and emotionally. Welcome to the LVS Team Mr. Duperon!

Chapman Elementary

Chapman Elementary would like to thank Rockwood Police and Fire Departments for, Hosting A Day in the Park! On Saturday, August 14, the Rockwood Police and Fire Departments hosted a fun filled day at Mercure Park. Many of our Chapman families were on hand to have a great time enjoying the bounce houses, kickball games, volleyball games, face painting, balloon art, popcorn, the Kona Truck, hot dogs, free goodie bags and lots more! Chapman truly appreciates the partnership with our local First Responders!



Finance Department- Shawn Stirling, Finance Manger



The Finance Department has spent the summer closing the 2021-22 Fiscal year and preparing for the start of the 21-22 school year. The auditors began the audit fieldwork of the 20-21 financials during the week of August 23rd. 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 2021-22 school year!

Transportation



The Transportation Department has put together the routes and the families can view their assigned stops in your parent portal. Please check your parent portal just before we start the 2021-2022 school year to make sure there have been no changes to your student's stop. We are hiring bus drivers and aides, please call or come to the Transportation Department located at 28291 Fort Street in Trenton (734) 379-3670.

Food Service



We would like to say Thank You to the staff that has worked so hard this summer. Staff having a well-deserved luncheon with Custodian Tim on one of his last days before retirement. We are pleased to inform you that

Gibraltar School District will be participating in the Seamless Summer Option as part of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs for the School Year 2021-2022.

The GREAT NEWS is that ALL students enrolled at our school can receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at **NO CHARGE** to your household each day. If you feel like you meet income guidelines please fill out a free and reduced application. Reminder- breakfast is available daily at all schools. Bring on Breakfast, Bring on the day!