Green Bay Area Public School District

September 23, 2021

GBAPS Connects
a community e-newsletter

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage

Photo caption: From September 15 to October 15, the District is sharing staff features to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month on the District Facebook page and the District Spanish Facebook page. Please follow along!

GBAPS Support Center

The GBAPS Support Center has opened for this school year! Students can call, text or email the Support Center for after school homework assistance. A team of GBAPS teachers trained in math, English Language Arts, secondary science and technical assistance are available to help each weekday. Students
can call the Support Center for help with a technology issue, a homework question, clarification on a lesson, and more.

The Support Center is open Monday - Thursday from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., and Fridays from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Phone Number: 920-272-7433

Email: CallCenter1@gbaps.org

Text: 920-309-5985

Graduation Requirement Changes for 2021-22 and 2022-23

This past summer the Board of Education suspended Board Policy 345.6 (which requires 22 earned high school credits to graduate) for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. In an effort to eliminate barriers to graduation, and in recognition of the impact of COVID-19 and virtual learning, the Board voted to approve the following:

- **2021-22 school year**: 17.5 credits required to graduate, which include the minimum credits set forth by the state of Wisconsin and 2 elective credits and a .5 credit for Personal Financial Literacy.
- **2022-2023 school year**: 20 credits required for graduation, which include the minimum credits set forth by the state of Wisconsin and 4.5 elective credits and a .5 credit for Personal Financial Literacy.

Students are still encouraged to earn 22 high school credits, as the number of credits can impact acceptance by a higher education institution and/or awards of scholarships.

Week in Pictures

Each week the District shares a "This Week in Pictures" video through Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Here is the most recent video featuring: Beaumont, Danz, Doty, Minoka-Hill, East, Eisenhower, Elmore, Franklin, Head Start, Howe, John Dewey Academy of Learning, Keller, Langlade, Lincoln, McAuliffe, Nicolet, N.E.W. School of Innovation, Tank, and West.
Superintendent's Corner

With the first few weeks of school behind us, we have learned a lot about in-person learning in our “new normal.” First, when I have had the privilege of visiting classrooms, it is obvious that our students and staff love being together again. Students are engaged in learning and developing relationships with each other and the adults in their buildings. Our schools are being creative in finding ways to honor traditions, while still being safe. A great example is East High School holding its Homecoming dance outdoors, which allowed students to participate and eliminate the need for face coverings.

Second, our administrators continue to monitor and respond to the changing circumstances regarding COVID-19. When we began to see an uptick in quarantines, we immediately reviewed our protocols to identify where we could make changes that would allow for greater physical distancing. One specific change was the removal of carpets from elementary classrooms allowing us to reframe how we do “circle time.” With the recent news regarding the vaccine being made available for children ages 5 and up, potentially as soon as late October, we will hopefully see new COVID-19 guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Public Health and the Department of Public Instruction in the near future.

Finally, the continued labor shortage has been creating some challenges for the District. Substitute teacher/staff shortages have been an ongoing issue for school districts across the nation. This has been exacerbated by breakthrough cases of COVID-19. In addition, any parent of a student playing fall sports is aware of the impact of the bus driver and referee shortages. If you know of anyone who has time to assist, whether as a substitute teacher, paraprofessional or someone looking for more permanent work, we
encourage them to visit our employment opportunities webpage. For individuals interested in driving a bus, we ask that they reach out to Lamers or First Student.

By working together and remaining flexible, we can ensure that our students have a great school year!

Stephen Murley
Superintendent of Schools & Learning

Photo Caption: Mr. Murley visits students at Red Smith School.

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**Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences will be Virtual**

Due to the high level of COVID-19 spread in the community and the high level of parent engagement in virtual conferences last year, the decision has been made to hold fall parent/teacher conferences virtually. Watch for more information from your child's school. Thank you for understanding.

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**Substitute Teacher Certification Training September 29**

Anyone interested in substitute teaching, with an associate's degree or higher in any field, is invited to participate. To register for the substitute teacher certification training on **Wednesday, September 29 from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., please click here.** There is no cost to attend this training. The registration deadline is Monday, September 27. Upon successful completion, participants will be eligible to apply for a three-year short-term substitute license from the Department of Public Instruction.
At-Home Kindergarten Readiness Program

The District is partnering with Waterford Upstart to offer a free, in-home school readiness program that provides children a jump start in reading, math and science. The program is for children enrolled in 4K or Head Start, and offers instruction to help prepare children for kindergarten in just 15-20 minutes per day, five days per week.

Program information:

- Waterford Upstart offers the program at no cost to children in the year before they enter kindergarten.
- Children will receive a computer from Waterford and internet services if needed.
- The program uses Waterford Early Learning software that provides hundreds of hours of instruction with an individualized learning path that builds on your child's strengths, knowledge and skills.
- Each family is paired with a Licensed Early Education Professional and a Family Educational Liaison, a personal coach who provides updates, guidance and encouragement.
- Adaptive programming gives each child an individual experience and focuses their learning at just the right level.
- You can monitor your child's progress with Waterford Mentor, an easy-to-use website and mobile phone app.

Register at 1-888-982-9898, or waterfordupstart.org/register.

College Goal Wisconsin FAFSA Completion Events: Join Us in October!

High school seniors planning to pursue post-secondary education should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). FAFSA is the form that must be submitted to be considered for federal and state financial aid, including grants and loans. College Goal Wisconsin and the Green Bay Area Public School District are hosting FREE events in October 2021 to help students and their families complete the FAFSA. Students pursuing a post-secondary education in the 2022-23 school year can access the FAFSA beginning October 1, 2021.

The following events will be held in-person. Attendees must wear a face mask, and adhere to District safety protocols. Students and families may attend any of the following events, regardless of where the student currently attends school.

- **Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** - Preble High School Library Media Center
Child Care Tax Credit

The American Rescue Plan Act legislation signed into law by President Biden expands the child tax credit for tax year 2021. The maximum credit amount has increased to $3,000 per qualifying child between ages 6 and 17 and $3,600 per qualifying child under age 6.

Eligible individuals could receive part of the credit in 2021 through advance payments of up to:

- $250 per month for each qualifying child age 6 to 17 at the end of 2021.
- $300 per month for each qualifying child under age 6 at the end of 2021.

The expansion of the credit also means it:

- is fully refundable, meaning eligible individuals can claim the credit even if they don't have earned income or don't owe any income taxes.
- now includes children who turn 17 in 2021.
- allows eligible individuals to receive half of the 2021 estimated credit, in advance.

For families who don't normally need to file a return, the online Non-filer Sign-Up Tool is the easiest way to register for the advance payments. This tool, an update of last year's IRS Economic Impact Payment Non-filers tool, is also designed to help eligible individuals who don't normally file tax returns register for the $1,400 third round of Economic Impact Payments (also known as stimulus checks). In addition, it can help them claim the Recovery Rebate Credit for any amount of the first two rounds of Economic Impact Payments they may have missed. The tool enables families to provide the IRS with basic information, such as their name, address, and social security numbers, as well as information about their qualifying children age 17 and under and their other dependents. It also enables them to provide their bank account information, so the IRS can quickly and easily deposit the payments directly into their checking or savings account. The Non-filer Sign-Up tool should not be used by anyone who has already filed a 2019 or 2020 federal income tax return, or plans to do so.
Celebrating Our Values: Engagement, Equity, Excellence

Excellence: West High School hosted their annual bleacher climb in honor of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.
Engagement: East High School hosted their homecoming dance outside at historic City Stadium on September 18, 2021.
**Equity:** Every Wednesday morning at Howe Elementary Community School, students participate in a Husky Huddle with their classroom family. Thanks to the Green Bay Optimist Club for providing students with this year’s team t-shirts.
**Upcoming Events & Opportunities**

**Free Routine Vaccinations for Children**

*Today! September 23, 2021*

Brown County Health & Human Services is hosting a free clinic for routine vaccinations on September 23 from 3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free to children 0-18 who do not have insurance, are underinsured, have Medicaid/BadgerCare, or are American Indian/Alaska native. A $25 gift card to Walmart will be given out when a child/children receive their routine immunizations. One gift card per family. Appointments are required, please call 448-6400.

**Accessibility/Disability Services: Transitioning to College Webinar**

*October 7, 2021*

On Thursday, October 7 at 5:00 p.m., the UW HELP team, along with campus representatives from UW-Eau Claire and UW-Whitewater, will discuss accessibility and disability services for students who are transitioning from high school to college. During this webinar, panelists will discuss available services at the UW schools, the similarities and differences between high school and college, policies, procedures, and other helpful information. Register now.

**GBAPS Marching Band Showcase**

*October 9, 2021*

Join us for the 8th annual GBAPS Marching Band Showcase! This energetic event features the Homecoming field shows of the marching bands from East, Preble, Southwest and West High Schools. The event is at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 9 at East High School. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Free admission. Suggested donation of non-perishable food item for Feeding America. Concessions will be available for purchase. In the event of rain, the bands will be moved to the gym and the performances will be livestreamed.

**Wisconsin Community of Practice on Autism (Virtual)**

*October 13, 2021*

Please join CESA #1, the Milwaukee Urban Autism Summit, the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Community of Practice on Autism Spectrum Disorder and other Developmental Disabilities for their fall gathering. This gathering will offer opportunities for educators, self-advocates, family members, and community partners to collaborate, build new skills, network, and, most of all, share best practices that improve experiences for students on the autism spectrum or with other developmental disabilities. The virtual event is on October 13, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. - noon. Free admission. Learn more and register here.

**School Spirit Educational Endowment**

*Applications Due October 27, 2021*

In 2000, the District formed an educational endowment to support excellence in teaching and learning. Mini-grants are awarded to District staff to explore creative ways of delivering educational experiences. The most successful efforts can become the basis for district-wide programs, and serve as models for school districts across the country.
The deadline for submitting grant applications is **October 27, 2021**. Applications can be accepted from any employee, student, or parent association of GBAPS. Learn more and apply here.

**College & Career Readiness 1**

*Fall Session Runs Until December 15, 2021*

College & Career Readiness 1 is a course designed to help learners fully develop the academic and digital literacy skills they need to transition to GED Prep-2 and Prep-3 coursework. Classes meet at Literacy Green Bay on Mondays from 9 a.m. to noon or Wednesdays from 5:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Trained tutors and onsite childcare are available. Learn more here.

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*It is the policy of the Green Bay Area Public School District to be a nondiscriminatory on the basis of sex; race; religion; national origin; ancestry; creed; pregnancy; marital or parental status; sexual orientation; or physical, mental emotional or learning disability in their education programs and activities and also employment practices. Direct inquiries to Equity Office, Green Bay Area Public Schools, PO Box 23387, Green Bay, WI 54304, 920-272-7611.*

200 S. Broadway, Green Bay, WI 54303

920-448-2000

gbaps.org