

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY

ATTENDANCE LINE: 254.6019

Free or Reduced Breakfast/Lunch

Please remember that your family needs to fill out a new application each fall and return it by October Ist to the Central Elementary office. If you need another copy of the application, please let us know and we would be happy to send a copy home. You can also print a copy from the district website. Just click the district menu and go to the food service tab and click on Free & Reduced **Meal Application**

UPCOMING DATES

9/8

PTC Mtg. (6:30

	pm/Lounge)	
	PTC Fundraiser	
	Kickoff	
9/8 to 9/12		
	District DIBELS	
	testing	
9/9	Student Photo	
	Day	
9/17	Constitution Day	
9/19	Parent Café	
	(7:45am/ <i>G</i> ym)	
9/26	PTC Popcorn Day!	
9/30	Art Prize Field	
	Trip (grs 1-6)	
9/29	PTC Fundraiser	

10/1 Student Count
Day (for funding)

ends

September 2014

Note from the Principal...

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back! I hope your children have had a great first week back at school. It was so much fun to see their excitement and enthusiasm as they walked through the doors on Tuesday! I hope you also had a chance to check-out the exciting security upgrades to the entryway and offices. It is beautiful!

In case you missed seeing my back-to-school letter, I wanted to share some very exciting news again! As you all are aware, Central had been designated by the MDE as a FOCUS school the past two years due to the achievement gap between our top and bottom 30% of students. I am pleased to share that we are no longer a FOCUS school for 2014-15. What is even more exciting is that we have been designated as a REWARD school for 2014-15! There are three ways to receive this award and Central's was based on the designation of a "Beating the Odds" school (a school that is outperforming schools with similar risk factors and demographic makeup). Another component to MDE's score card system is the 'Top to Bottom' ranking. Central continues to increase each year. We have gone from the 20th percentile in 2010-11, to 39th percentile in 2011-12, to 53rd percentile in 2012-13, to 74th percentile in 2013-14! That is amazing growth! So congratulations to ALL of you for being a part of the culture that enabled our students to "Beat the Odds!"

Next week students will be busy with assessments to assist us in preparing for the year ahead! Students in Y5-3rd grade as well as some students in 4th-6th grade will take the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Literacy Skills (DIBELS) assessment and all 2nd-6th grade students will take the reading and math computerized MAP test. This information is an important part of our Multi-Tiered-Service-System (MTSS). It will be used to determine what areas students need additional supports and what students may need enrichment opportunities.

We are also implementing a new program called, Unlocking the Reading Code in Y5-6th grades. Teachers will receive ongoing professional development and coaching throughout the year. Stay tuned for additional details as the year continues. You will also see some changes with the math curriculum this year as we continue to implement the state adopted Common Core Standards. Watch for details on that also in district, building, and classroom communications.

Finally, PTC will be kicking off their 'Bulldog' card fundraiser next Monday, September 8. Last year we raised over \$4000 to support field trips, classroom parties, assemblies, etc. The cards will once again be \$10 and include merchants like Tippy Cow Ice Cream, Orange Leaf, Noodles, Firehouse Subs and more. Make sure to check your children's backpacks next Monday for details.

Again, welcome back! I am looking forward to another exciting and successful year at Central Elementary!

Sincerely,

Michelle Carter Principal

Student Messages

The beginning and end of our school day can be the busiest times. We will make every attempt to deliver messages to students, however we cannot guarantee messages received after 3:10 pm will be delivered. Please make sure your child is aware of changes before they leave home in the morning. We appreciate your help!

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

Bright Beginnings is a parent education and family support program designed to empower ALL parents to give their children the best possible start in life. Bright Beginnings provides developmental information for children ages birth to five and suggests learning opportunities to encourage language, intellectual, physical and social/emotional growth.

Contact Laura Fasel at (616) 291-6501 with any questions.

TREEHOUSE CHILD CARE

Grandville offers before and after school child care at Central. If you would like more information,, please call

Amy Dukesherer Central's Supervisor @ 254-6015.

Board Partner

Central is honored to have Board of Education member Mrs. Barb Palmer as our building partner for the 2014-2015 school year. We look forward to having Mrs. Palmer at many of our events this year.



Peanut Sensitivity

Some students are allergic to tree nuts or peanuts and can suffer serious effects from exposure to them. For this reason, our hot lunch program will not be serving any food items containing nuts.

BAKED GOODS

No food prepared at home may be consumed by students at school parties, picnics, birthdays, etc., during school hours. Wrapped candies and baked goods purchased from a commercial establishment are permitted unless students in your child's classroom has allergies. Once again, please check with the classroom

School Day Schedule

Entry Bell	8:25 AM
Instruction bell rings	8:30 AM
GSRP AM session	8:00 AM to 11:00 AM
ECSE AM session	8:15 AM to 11:30 AM
Young Five students dismisses	11:36 AM
A Lunch (grs. 3/4/5/6)	11:25 to 12:25 PM
B Lunch (grs. Kdg/1/2)	11:40 to 12:40 PM
GSRP PM session	12:00 PM to 3:00 PM
ECSE PM session	12:15 PM to 3:15 PM
Students dismiss	3:38 PM

^{**}ALL students arriving after 8:30 AM are considered tardy (grades Y5-6th)

EXCITING SECURITY UPGRADES!

Thanks to you and the successful bond issue election, Central's entryway and offices were renovated this past summer. Please read our Superintendent's letter describing new procedures. The biggest changes include:

- ALL adults/visitors to the school must first go through the office and be "buzzed" into the building.
- Students dropped off by car will use the "drive-thru drop off zone" in front of the building. Students will enter the front doors or walk around the building to the playground.
- Parents dropping students off in the morning or picking them up at the end of the day will say "Good-bye" (in AM) or wait for them (in PM) outside or just inside the front entry doors in the vestibule.

These changes will provide our students even more safety and security. Again, "Thank you" all for helping keep Central students safe and for following our new procedures.

Hot Lunch (Note hot lunch price increase/info. to the right)



Hot lunch was served beginning the first day of school. Food Service applications and menus will be sent home with students on Tuesday, September 6th. Please complete applications and return as soon as possible so they may be processed. If you have questions or need information about the application, please contact Food Service at 254-6404.

Lunch deposit money can be sent in ahead of time by the week, month, etc. Checks should be made out to Grand-ville Public Schools. Please Label envelope as "LUNCH MONEY" with your child's name and teacher's name in order for the deposits to get into the correct account. You may also check balances and pay for your child's hot lunch or breakfast with a credit or debit card by setting up an on-line account at:

www.sendmoneytoschool.com Call the office for your child's student number which is needed to set up the account. Please be sure to fill out the application form sent home on the first day of school. The number of students who qualify for free or reduced breakfast or lunch determines the amount of money Grandville receives from the state and federal government to help fund aides in our classrooms. The information is confidential and is not shared with anyone, including teachers and other school staff members. PLEASE NOTE: It may take a few weeks to process these forms. You will be notified by mail if your child qualifies. Applications must be completed each school year.

FOOD SERVICE PRICES

Breakfast: \$ 1.10 (reduced cost is

30¢)

Hot lunch: \$1.95

(reduced cost is

40¢)

ALL drinks, white milk, chocolate milk & juice

are **40¢**

SCHOOL CLOSINGS/DELAYS

In the event that our school is closed due to inclement weather, there will be **no school for the entire day** and all evening activities will be canceled.

If we have a **Two Hour Delay** there will be NO AM developmental kindergarten, AM preschool, 6th grade choir, band, or orchestra classes.

Busses will run their normal routes, just two hours later. Please listen to your local radio and television stations for this information. If your child attends the Treehouse Daycare Program at Central please note that their times are not affected by closings or delays. They will meet at their normal times.

CONSTITUTION DAY



This year, schools across the United States will be celebrating the Constitution. Central students celebrated Constitution Day on Wednesday, September 17th. All students will participated in grade level appropriate activities to celebrate the Constitution of the United States of America.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

Please remember to send a note to the teacher of your child if your student will have a change in transportation on a particular day. If we do not have a note, your child's normal schedule for transportation will be followed.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please call the school office and leave a message if your child will be absent from school: To reach our attendance line, please call 254-6019 to leave your message. This enables us to make sure all of our students are safe and accounted for. If we do not receive a call, the secretary will be calling to verify the absence. If your child will be tardy, you may leave his/her lunch choice on the message as well. If lunches are not ordered by 9:00 AM, we cannot guarantee your child a hot lunch that day. Thank you.

Fire, Severe Weather, and

Lockdown Drills We are required by law to conduct five fire drills, two severe weather drills, and three lockdown drills per school year. When Central Elementary is in the process of one of the above drills, you will not be able to enter the building. We appreciate your assistance in these important drills so we can ensure the safest environment for your children!

YEARBOOK PICTURES

The yearbook committee chair, Tracy Cherry would love to have parents and teachers donate pictures for the yearbook. She is collecting digital photos of school events. Please email your photos to Tracy at tracycherry@hotmail.com. Please include the teacher's name and grade as it will be helpful in identifying the picture. Thank you!

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY

4052 Prairie St., SW Grandviille, MI

Phone: 616-254-6010 Attendance: 616-254-6019 Mrs. Smith: 254.6011 Fax: 616-254-6013 Mrs. Michelle Carter, Principal www.grandville.k12.mi.us

Learn more at www.grandville.k12.mi.us

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

(as published in the Communicator)

According to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, Grandville Public Schools may disclose directory information relating to a student. The following is defined as directory

information:
Name of student, student address, telephone number, date and place of birth, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, achievement awards or honors, class designation, name of school previously attended and student email address.



Notes from the Nurse

A medication form must be on file in the office for ANY medication needed by an elementary student during the school day. This includes inhalers. Forms are available from our school office or on the district website (click on "Resources", then on "Parent.") A parent preview of the materials used in reproductive health education will be held in October. Several viewing items will be available during that day. The schedule and more details will follow.

A few reminders as we start off the 2014/15 school year:

- I. Please remember that students are not to bring medications to school themselves! Any medication needed by a student during the day should be brought in by the parent and be in the ORIGINAL container.
- 2. Do not send your child to school if they have been vomiting or have had a fever in the previous 24 hours.
- 3. Make sure you talk directly to your child's teacher if your child has a life-threatening condition or allergy, so appropriate safety measures are set up promptly.

MDE link for vaccine preventable diseases for parents of grades 6, 9 and 12: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/HPV_MCV_SchoolLaw08.v.3_238866_7.pdf

CENTRAL PTC BOARD 2014-2015

Co-Presidents:

Sarah VanEck zachandsarahvan@att.net

Jill Crame jillcrame@sbcglobal.net

Secretary:

Melissa Gelderbloom mgeld@sbcglobal.net

Co-Treasurers:

Charity Marshall charitylm2@uyahoo.com

Kara Kroll akkroll@att.net

The next Central PTC meeting will be on Monday, September 8th at 6:30 PM. The meeting will held in the Lounge and child care will be provided.

6TH GRADE PARENTS MUSIC ATTENDANCE REMINDER

If your child is attending Band, Choir and/or Orchestra this year (2014-2015) and he/she is ill or unable to attend class, please be sure you call attendance in to **BOTH** Central **AND** the school they go to for their music class. Thank you.

Central's attendance: 254-6019

Middle School Band: 254-6645 & 254-6659

Middle School Choir: 254-6351

Middle School Orchestra: 254-6787 & 254-6788 High School Band: 254-6477 & 254-6461



For your child's protection, we have a sign-in/sign out procedure. It is our policy that no child be released to any person other than the parent without written consent. If your child needs to be picked up early, please **send a note to the classroom teacher** and check in at the office upon your arrival. You will then be asked to sign your child out and record the time that he/she has left. Staff will call your child to the office to meet you. We also ask that adults sign in students if they are tardy or returning from an appointment. This is important so that the office knows where students are at all times. Our number one priority is your child's safety and we appreciate your support on this matter.



Student Photo Day

September 9, 2014 is student photo day

*Note: Photo retakes are on October 15, 2014 and complete original photo packets need to be returned for retakes.



Just a reminder... Please park ONLY in designated parking spaces before and after school when dropping off and picking up your children. Specifically, please do not park in the "NO PARKING" zones on the opposite side of the circle drive. Also, please do not allow your children to run across our front circle drive without you. Cars cannot see children who run out in their path suddenly, so please make every attempt to physically guide your child across the lanes to avoid accidents. We thank all of for helping to keep all Central students safe.

Reminders...

Pets:

Due to allergies in the building, limitations of pet visits need prior approval by the Principal, Mrs. Carter. Please notify your child's classroom teacher if you wish to have your pet visit, especially exotic or furry pets. Thank you for your cooperation.

Student Code of Conduct

Please be aware that our student "Code of Conduct" has been displayed through a link on our school's website. If you are not familiar with the document, it is important that you and your children become familiar with it. While much of the document refers to due process rights and incidents that rarely (if ever) occur at the elementary level, it is still important to understand the procedures and policies that we have in place in the event that this code is violated.

Volunteer Background Checks

Grandville Public Schools performs background checks on volunteers to help insure our students' safety. Volunteer checks are good for three years. If you will be volunteering in a classroom, please ask your student's teacher for a Background Check Form.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

It is the expressed policy of the Grandville Public Schools that no person shall be unlawfully excluded from participation, be denied the benefits, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in employment or educational policies and programs because of race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, marital status or handicap. The Grandville Public Schools provides access to services and programs without regard to an individual's handicaps or disabilities. Reasonable accommodations can be provided without charge, including auxiliary aids and services as necessary. If you have any questions, please contact Dr, Scott Merkel, Assistant Superintendent, at 254-6557 or fax 254-6770.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Any person believing that the Grandville School District or any part of the school organization has inadequately applied the principles and/or regulations of (1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (2) Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, (3) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (4) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and (5) Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, who may bring forward a complaint, which shall be referred to as a grievance, to the local Civil Rights Coordinator at the following address:

Dr. Scott Merkel Assistant Superintendent Grandville Public Schools 3839 Prairie Street, SW

PARENT PORTAL ACCOUNTS

If you currently have a parent portal account please be sure to check and confirm your email address. Parents/Guardians are responsible for keeping this information current. If you do not have a portal account and would like to set one up, please contact the office or your child's teacher. This is a great way to "GO GREEN" and help keep costs down by receiving notes/ newsletters/information by email. Thank you.

IInformation About Central

Do you want more information about Central? Central's Annual Education Report (AER) is available on our website www.grandville.k12.mi.us then to the schools tab, Central Elementary. Central's School Improvement Plan, Positive Behavior Support Plan, Parent Handbook as well as Code of Conduct can also be located on the website. You can also access our AER along with other data (such as MEAP results and our Accountability Scorecard) at a new site, www.mischooldata.org. This link allows parents, educators and researchers to access education data on all school in Michigan.

2014—2015 District School Calendar

(Calendar can also be obtained by visiting the district website)

September 2, 2014 Classes begin for students

November 26 to 28 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
December 20 to Jan 4 NO SCHOOL Holiday Break

January 19 NO SCHOOL Holiday Break
NO SCHOOL Teacher/Staff In-Service

February 14 to 17 NO SCHOOL Mid-Winter Break

April 3 to April 12 NO SCHOOL Spring Break

May 22 to 25 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day Holiday

June 5, 2015 Last Day of School/ Half Day

First Trimester September 2 to November 25, 2014
Second Trimester November 26 to March 6, 2015

Third Trimester March 7 to June 5, 2015



CENTRAL PHONE NUMBERS

Please find information below regarding phone

number contacts:

Central Elem. 254-6010 (Automated message)

Attendance 254-6019
Fax 254-6013
Mrs. Smith 254-6011

Mrs. Carter 254-6012

PUNT, PASS & KICK (PPK) Information

Mrs. VanderVelde will be one of the PE teachers at our school this year. If your child has her, please check out her Webpage: Mrs. VanderVelde's Web PE pages, the URL is: http://www/gpsblogs.org/vandervelde/. To contact her, please email her at kvandervelde@gpsbulldogs.org or phone at 616.254.6151.



To: Parents and Students,

Grandville elementary students have been invited to participate in the NFL Pepsi Punt, Pass, & Kick program for 2014. In accepting this offer the elementary physical educators will be preparing students for this event in their Physical Education classes during the first few weeks of school. The NFL PEPSI PUNT, PASS, & KICK competition will be held at <u>Grandville Middle School on Monday</u>, September 20 from 4:00pm to 5:30pm with a rain date scheduled for September 25 (if needed) same time same place.

Boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 15 are eligible to participate. Student age is determined by: the age of the student on December 31, 2012. The 6 – 7 year old students will be using a PEE WEE size football, the 8 – 11 year old students a JUNIOR size football, and the 12-15 year olds will be using an INTERMEDIATE size football. Girls and boys will compete separately. The winners of the boys and girls age groups will compete in early October at their assigned Sectional Competition.

Registration forms and waivers will be sent home the first week of school. They are also available on Mrs.VanderVelde's website: http://www.gpsblogs.org/vandervelde/ Thank you.

COMMUNITY TAILGATER 9/12/14 AT GHS FOOTBALL GAME

Central families are invited to attend the Community Tailgater at Grandville High School on September 12th. Tickets are \$5.00 each with a family maximum of \$20.00, and will include a "hotdawg dinner" (hotdog, chips, cookie and drink) plus entry into the football game. This is a great way to get families involved in the football frenzie that is Grandville Football!!

TITLE I TIDBITS

Don't let your child miss out on learning!

As the school year begins, help your child get into the habit of going to school every day. Research shows that missing school regularly can hurt both the students who miss class and their classmates.

When students miss school, they miss out on learning. When they return, they have to work harder to catch up.

And since most subject matter builds on previous lessons, it doesn't take long for these students to fall behind. As a result, kids who miss school have lower levels of achievement throughout their school careers. Research shows that, by sixth grade, students who miss an average of just one day a week are more likely to drop out of high school.

The students who do come to class also miss out. When teachers have to repeat material or pay extra attention to kids who have been absent, everyone suffers.

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CENTRAL ELEMENTARY 2014-2015 STAFF

Principal: Mrs. Michelle Carter Title One Aides: Christy Bridle

Young Fives: Jennifer Merkel Laurie Lowry
Kindergarten: Sandy Brunett Jessica Easley
First Grade: Ed Vaandering

Second Grade: Heather Weisenburger Kdg. Noon Monitor: Chantell Peterson

Third Grade: Lisa Wells

Fourth Grade: Kelly Venhuizen Food Service: Estelle Dykstra
Fifth Grade: Christy Forner Becky DeVries

Sixth Grade: Lorie La Huis Brenda Murphy

Resource Rm: Anne Hoover Playground: Jessica Easley

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Airile Hoovel

Airile Hoovel

Airile Hoovel

Janis Reamsma

ECSE:

Heather Wolterink

Crossing Guard: Geneva Jeluso

Aide: Barb Reminga Psychologist: Jason Glerum

GSRP: Melissa Boughton, Karen Gawronski Social Work: Barb LaBelle, Collin Devos

Aides: Kimberly McKellar, TBD OT: Carol Harrington Speech: Joanne Hurley Library: Kim McGuire Treehouse: Amy Dukesherer

Library: Kim McGuire Treehouse: Amy Dukesherer, Supervisor Science: Judy Priest Sonya Dame/Tammy Travis

PE: Kerry VanderVelde, Tim Kosiara Aimee McCurdy/Nicole Graham Music: Janell Mergan Kelsi Jenkins/Kayla Reminga Art: Colleen O'Donnell Stacy O'Dell/Brittany Meppelink ELD: Barcy Shealy Kathy Paiz

Interventions: Katie Huizenga

Secretary: Pam Smith
Office Aide: Laura Diekevers

District Nurse: Sally Weener (office located at GHS)

Email to staff communication how-to: Use first initial, last name @gpsbulldogs.org (example: mcarter@gpsbulldogs.org)

HELLO CENTRAL FAMILIES

My name is Mrs. Kim McGuire. I would like to introduce myself as the new Central Elementary Library Supervisor. We are currently putting together the library for the 2014-2015 school year. I am in need of some parent volunteers to help me shelf books. If you are interested in helping me out, please email/call me

at kmcguire@gpsbulldogs.org or 254-6014. Thank you and I look forward to meeting all Central students and families.

Green Halloween is back for 2014!!!

Last year Central Elementary celebrated its first ever *GREEN* Halloween. It was loved by parents and students with approximately 27% of Central's students wearing a *GREEN* Halloween costume last year! In 2014, we want even more students wearing one.

What is it? They don't need to be the color green. The idea came from the awareness of the waste created from the packaging of store bought costumes for a single day/use event as well as the burning of fossil fuels to transport those costumes to stores. This creates a negative environmental impact. The Central Conservation Club (CCC) is making an effort to become more *green* (earth friendly), by encouraging all students to wear a recycled costume, or one made by re-using items from home, thereby making it a *Green* Halloween costume.

Please consider **donating your family's unwanted costumes** the **week of October 6 – October 10.** There will be a large GREEN box in the Entry Hall for your student to donate the costumes. Costume Accessories are also welcome.

<u>GREEN HALLOWEEN COSTUME SALE</u> - Tuesday, October 13. The costumes will be sold in the evening during the parent teacher conferences at garage sale prices by the CCC's.

Students wear their Green Halloween costume for their classroom Halloween celebration. All students wearing a Green Halloween costume (recycled or made by re-using materials from home) are invited for a special celebration in the gym!

NEW! Watch for details about Costume donation in November for next year's 2015 Green Halloween.

The CCC's hope the percentage of student participation will be up this year, and all students have a happy *green* Halloween!

OK2SAY Program

This fall, Michigan will launch OK2SAY, a new program that enables students to confidentially report potential harm or criminal activities involving students or school employees. OK2SAY's focus is on early intervention and prevention, acting as an early warning system to thwart school tragedies before they occur.

Students (and others) will be able to submit tips 24/7 by telephone, text, email, mobile application, and via a web-based form on the OK2SAY website at www.mi.gov/ok2say (website will be operational September 2, 2014). Tips can be filed on a wide range of issues, including: planned school attacks, weapons at school, assault, bullying/cyberbullying, threats, gang activity, and more. Upon receipt of a tip, specially trained OK2SAY operators will address the immediate need and, as necessary, forward the information to the appropriate responding agency or organization. Most tips are expected to go to schools and local law enforcement agencies, but in some instances, tips may go to local Community Mental Health agencies and/or the Michigan Department of Human Services. Operators will be trained to recognize, and appropriately address mental illness and emotional disturbance. Tips suggesting a psychiatric emergency will be forwarded to the local community mental health psychiatric crisis line.

CENTRAL GOES GREEN!

<u>GO GREEN!</u> Wondering how you could be a little GREENER? Central has many opportunities for doing just that. We now offer these GREEN options:

- I. The Paper Gator: there is a large dumpster located behind our school, simply "dump" all of your unwanted papers, **phone books**, and magazines from your home into the gator anytime!
- 2. Get the monthly school newsletter by email: let the office know you would like to receive the newsletter through email and an electronic version will be sent to your email once a month. You may read it at your convenience! You can also receive most office notes electronically.
- 3. Printer Cartridges and Cellular Phone: drop off your empty printer cartridges and old cellular telephones and Central will send them to a recycling company.
- 4. Batteries: drop off your old batteries and Central will send them to a recycling company.
- 5. Plastic Bags: drop off Meijer, Walmart, D&W, Dollar Tree, etc., any WHITE plastic bags to Central and we will send them to a recycling company. GO GREEN-REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

Please look in the front lobby near the Lost and Found for the designated labeled containers:

- ~Container I: Cartridges/Cellphones
- ~Container 2: Batteries ~Container 3: Plastic Bags