



June 5, 2017

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Link Letter

Principally Speaking

We are switching up the Link Letter format this week to be able to, at long last, include the 17-18 Academic Calendar. Please see this article, continued on page 2 with a visual of the calendar and my comments about the changes to the calendar this year.

(Principally Speaking continued on page 2)

End of Year Celebration

Our End of Year Celebration is Wednesday, June 7 from 5-7pm at the school. It is our time to celebrate our year long projects and learning. As we all know, a celebration is not complete without treats! We are seeking donations of cookies, cups and napkins. The cookies can be store bought or homemade. If they are homemade, please include an ingredient card to help with allergies. Thank you for helping us out and making the celebration a success. You can bring the donations anytime and place them in the resource room. If you have any questions, please contact Rosalie Kaser at kaserr@grcdc.org.

Help Wanted: Here are some upcoming opportunities in which you can volunteer your time or talents to the school:

- Cookies** for the EOY Celebration on Wed. June 7 (see above)
- Lunch servers** are always appreciated. We could use help every day from 10:40—12:30.
- Are you a runner?** Volunteer to coach Let Me Run in the fall! More info in the column to the right.
- Do you have **cake skills**? We are looking for someone to cut a tiered cake for the 5th grade graduation. We would need you from 1:00—4:00 on Monday, June 12th. Contact Mrs. Rachel for more info: harthrac@grcdc.org or 459-0330

Calendar

The calendar also available at grcdc.org

COMING UP THIS WEEK:	
6/5—6/9	Spirit Week—see below
6/7	Free Book Distribution (during the school day) Early Release Day, Dismissal at 1:10 PM Last Art Club of the Year, 1:30—3:30 @ the GRAM End of Year Celebration, 5:00—7:00 PM
6/9	Fifth Grade Camp Out (overnight at Camp Rockford)
6/10	Build/Visit Day for new playground structure, 8:30—4:00
EVENTS COMING UP NEXT WEEK AND BEYOND:	
6/12	Fifth Grade Graduation, 2:00 PM GRCDC Board Meeting, 6:00—8:00 PM
6/13	Family Team Meeting, 8:00—9:30 AM Yearbook Distribution & Popsicle Party @ lunch recess
6/14	Last Day of School, Early Release, Dismissal 1:10 PM
6/21	Last day for teachers to mail report cards
6/24	GRCDC Park Party @ Wilcox Park, 2:00—4:00 PM
7/12	GRCDC Park Party @ Cherry Park, 12:00—2:00 PM
8/15	GRCDC Park Party @ GRCDC playground, 6:00—8:00 PM
8/23	Orientation for all students, 2:00—7:00 PM
8/28	First Day of School, 8:30 AM—3:20 PM
9/1-9/4	NO SCHOOL, Labor Day Break

Spirit Week—June 5th—9th, Tuesday—Super Hero Day (no weapons), Wednesday—80's Day, Thursday—Twin Day, Friday—PJ Day OR add your own way of showing school spirit!

Family Team Corner

The last Family Team Meeting of the school year is Tuesday, June 13th at 8am in the Gym. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend Family Team Meetings. Young children are welcome too. There will be coffee & we'll go over the year's fundraising accomplishments and summer plans.

The 13th is also the Yearbook & Popsicle Party. We'll be passing out Yearbooks and Popsicles at lunch recess for all classes. Every student will get a popsicle and free yearbook!

Keep those Box Tops coming in! We'll be submitting our total at the end of the month. Box Tops = \$ for our students. Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for your contributions to First Friday Food for our Teachers & Staff! This year was wonderful & appreciated! The teachers loved the lunches!

Central Office Updates

- We got the official approval to **start school before Labor Day** on August 28, 2017. Look on page 2!
- It's time to **add some more adventure to GRCDC!** The whole GRCDC family is invited to join the Junior League in installing the new playground structure on Saturday, Jun 10th from 8:30 AM—4:00 PM. GRCDC students, parents, and siblings are welcome to come lend a hand or just stop by to cheer us on!
- Check out the new **"Help Wanted"** section (column on the left). We recognize that we could not do this work without our family volunteers. We also recognize that we ask often and at the end of year, there are many opportunities. Thank you for all the ways you support our community.
- For those participating in **art club**, the last art club of the year will be at the Grand Rapids Art Museum from 1:30—3:00, look for an email from Becky Degraaf with more information.

Community Corner



The GRCDC **Let Me Run** program is looking for coaches for the upcoming fall season. Let Me Run is a running program for 4th and 5th grade boys that is similar to the Girls on the Run program. The boys train for 7 weeks, twice a week after school. Training starts at the end of September and then run a 5K race in early November. If you are interested in more details, please contact Mrs. Rachel, harthrac@grcdc.org

CREATE is a week long art camp put on by The Branch Church. The camp will be here at GRCDC the week of June 19-23, 6:30-8:30pm. There are a variety of classes offered including baking, show choir, recycled art, photography, video and more! Any child entering Kindergarten through 8th grade is welcome! Register at thebranchonline.org/create. The cost is \$30 per student and scholarships are available. For more information, please contact Bethany DeBlaay: b.ackleydeblaay@gmail.com or Becky Degraaf: bekdegraaf@gmail.com



Please arrange for your child to **arrive at school between 7:45—8:00 am**. Please sign your child in at the office if arrival is after 8:05 am.

Dismissal is 3:15 pm M, T, Th, F and 1:10 pm on Wednesdays

Grand Rapids Nutrition Center The full menu is available on our website: <http://grcdc.org/be-connected/link-letters/>

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Breakfast (\$1.50): | Lunch (\$2.75): | Milk only: \$0.50 |
| T—Scrambled eggs, muffin | Hamburger | |
| W—Cinnamon toast | Minh’s orange chicken | |
| Th—Egg & cheese slider | Chicken drumstick | |
| F—Turkey sausage bites | Italian dunkers | |
| M 6/12—Triple berry French toast | Tortilla scoops, cheese cups | |

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Breakfast time: | 7:30AM—7:50 AM |
| Discovery A & B | Lunch 11:55 AM—12:15 PM
Recess 12:15—12:40 PM |
| Discovery C & D | Lunch 10:55 AM—11:15 AM
Recess 11:15—11:40 AM |
| Discovery E & F | Lunch 11:25 AM—11:45 AM
Recess 11:45 AM—12:10 PM |



2017-2018 Academic Calendar

School Hours: 8:30 AM - 3:20 PM, Monday - Friday

Half Day Schedule on October 6th & February 2nd: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM



— NOTES —

August	
8/23:	Orientation
8/28:	First Day of School
September	
9/1-9/4:	School Closed, Labor Day
October	
10/4:	State Aid Count Day
10/6:	Half Day, 12:00 dismissal
November	
11/10:	Teacher Records Day, no school
11/22-11/24:	School Closed, Thanksgiving
December & January	
12/25-1/5:	School Closed, Winter Break
1/15:	School Closed, MLK Day
February	
2/2:	Half Day, 12:00 dismissal
2/14:	State Aid Count Day
March & April	
3/19:	Teacher Records Day, no students
3/29:	Portfolio Day, Alternative Schedule
3/30 - 4/6:	School Closed, Spring Break
4/9:	State Testing Window Opens
May	
5/25:	State Testing Window Closes
5/28:	School Closed, Memorial Day Break
June	
TBD:	5th Grade Graduation
6/8:	Last Day of School

Principally Speaking, continued

Our calendar for next school year is shown above. Three main needs were considered while creating the calendar, maximizing student learning, honoring staff feedback and incorporating the findings from the Family School Improvement Survey. As a result, there are some notable changes compared to past GRDC school calendars. A summary of these changes are listed below:

- **Pre-Labor Day Start**—The state approved our waiver for a pre-Labor Day start. This will allow us to be better aligned with the GRPS calendar, help minimize hardships to families with the beginning and end of the year and provide us with more flexibility. Please plan on starting on August 28 and attending school that entire week. That will be our expectation as you might otherwise lose your spot on the class roster. We have a deep waiting list and want to be fair to the students attending, as well as the many families we have had to turn away. You will notice that there is no school Friday, September 1 or Monday, September 4 so that families can still vacation on Labor Day weekend.
- **Full Day Wednesday**—The next biggest change is that Wednesday’s will be a regular day of school. This will be the first time in our school’s history that we will not have an early release day. We will be exploring new ways to accommodate teacher planning while ensuring consistent schedules that are focused on instruction.
- **Later Start, 8:30 AM**—The later start time will allow students to get more rest, more families get to school on time and more consistent attendance. Starting later will also provide with time in the morning for staff to meet and plan together.
- **Two Week Winter Break**—Our calendar has us going back to a two week winter break this year. This is based on our county wide calendar which we follow per state mandate.
- **Two Days off for Records and Two Half Days**—Please note the two days off for records, November 10 and March 19 and the two half days, October 6 and February 2. These days line up with our instructional cycles, family conferences, and portfolio day work. These days will also allow teachers to have time to provide more frequent progress reporting. It was indicated in the Family School Improvement Survey that families desired more frequent feedback about academic progress.
- **Portfolio Day**—Please note that Portfolio Day is Thursday, March 29. This is the day before Spring Break. Attendance is still expected, even though it will be an alternative schedule (not a full day of school). For those of you making Spring Break plans away, please make sure you plan to join us for your Portfolio Day time before you leave for vacation. Teachers work very hard to make this a special day for you and your student. Thank you in advance for ensuring your attendance!

Thank you to the families who participated in the survey that helped to shape this calendar. We look forward to the gains our students will make as a result of these changes! That’s all for this week. As always, thanks for reading, Be Kind, Keep Discovering, and have a great week!

Coach i

John Robinson, Principal/Executive Director/Superintendent robinsonj@grcdc.org

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