From the Superintendent's Desk:

As we move into the second phase of the bond project, I find myself more grateful than ever for the tremendous support Greenville Public Schools has received from our families, our community and our business partners. I don’t know if collaboration has ever been stronger in the schools and we are humbled and excited by the impact it is making for our students. The generous gift of this bond has already made a difference in the success of our learners at the Satterlee Alternative Education program through the improvement of technology, natural lighting, efficient mechanical systems and improved learning environments. The new elementary playgrounds have given our students with mobility needs a place to play alongside their peers, have provided many different spaces for all types of learners, and have added a group-learning area that has brought a new outdoor dimension to learning. Our GMS and GHS students are using their Chromebooks daily and experiencing new learning opportunities as a result. We are thrilled with the project outcomes so far and believe we are meeting our mission of providing a 21st century learning environment for our students with each project.

Phase two of the bond project will focus on renovations at each of the four elementary buildings including: new drop-off and pick-up areas for parents and buses; new collaborative learning areas; renovated media centers; new collaborative furniture for all classrooms; and some limited roofing. Allowing our students to work in an environment that promotes creativity, quality problem solving, innovation, collaboration and critical thinking skills is going to better prepare them for the world of work in the future. We are excited to see the transformational results for each elementary building by September 2019. Please keep an eye out for information regarding a ‘Community Open House’ this fall to see the results first-hand.

The third phase of the bond project will include renovations at GHS and to the cafeterias at GMS. Construction on these projects will begin during the spring of 2020. The final phase of the bond will include renovations for the middle school and continued projects for the high school starting the spring of 2021.

Once again, we would like to thank the community for the opportunity to update our facilities to assure GPS students receive a 21st century education that will prepare them for any career or college path they desire after high school.
Cedar Crest students participate in a snow day challenge.

TEXT ALERTS
Parents of current GPS students should be receiving text alerts from our new text alert system. If you are not receiving texts from 67587, please contact your student’s building. Once your information is updated, you will receive an opt-in text. Please reply “Y” to enable text alerts.

If you do not have a student enrolled at GPS, but would like informational district texts, please visit www.gpsjackets.org and click on the link to enter your information. Please reply “Y” when you receive an opt-in text.

PRACTICE BUS RIDES
for preschool & kindergarten students will be offered on Wednesday, August 7th at the Block Party from 4:30-7pm.

Early Childhood Special Education is offered at GPS.
If you have any Special Education concerns or questions, please contact Deb Hansen at hansenda@gpsmi.us or 616.754.1996.

CHILDREN’S CORNER
JUNIOR JACKETS (PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS) AVAILABLE AT:
Baldwin Heights & Walnut Hills
OPEN DAILY 8:30am - 3:30pm
BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT:
Baldwin Heights, Cedar Crest, Lincoln Heights & Walnut Hills
OPEN DAILY 6:00am - 8:30am & 3:30pm - 6:00pm
For additional information, including rates and multiple child discounts, please visit our website at www.gpsjackets.org or contact Venus Cox, Program Director at coxv@gpsmi.us 616.225.1000 ext. 8700.

A licensed before and after school child care and preschool program that provides a safe, enriching environment for children ages 3-13.
JUNIOR JACKETS (PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS) AVAILABLE AT:
Baldwin Heights & Walnut Hills
OPEN DAILY 8:30am - 3:30pm
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DEVELOPMENTAL KINDERGARTEN/KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION
TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD, JUST FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

STEP 1: REGISTER ONLINE
Visit www.gpsjackets.org

STEP 2: DOWNLOAD & COMPLETE THE PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE
Found in the online enrollment, please bring to the DK/K District Parent Information Night

STEP 3: ATTEND THE DK/K DISTRICT PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT ON MARCH 14 @ 6 P.M.
Baldwin Heights Elementary – 821 W. Oak St., Greenville

IF YOUR CHILD TURNS FIVE ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30:
Placement in kindergarten is highly recommended, your child does not need to participate in the screening.

IF YOUR CHILD TURNS FIVE BETWEEN MAY 1 AND SEPT. 1:
Bring your child for the screening during the DK/K District Parent Information Night on March 14.

If you missed the DK/K District Parent Information Night on March 14, please contact your attendance area Elementary School Office if a DK/K screening is needed according to the information above.

Baldwin Heights........616.754.3643
Cedar Crest.............616.754.3641
Lincoln Heights........616.754.9167
Walnut Hills............616.754.3688

IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR KINDERGARTEN?
If your child will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2019, they are eligible to enroll in kindergarten. Below is a checklist parents can use to gauge if Developmental Kindergarten or Kindergarten is the best placement for their child. A student does not need mastery of all the listed skills to be ready for kindergarten, this should rather be a reflection of what would make your child’s first year a success and build his/her confidence and abilities for a successful academic career.

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist:
• Can your child write his/her own name?
• Can your child identify the basic colors?
• Can your child name all of the uppercase and lowercase letters?
• Does your child know all of the letter sounds?
• Can your child listen to a story and retell what it was about?
• Can your child draw a picture and tell a story that matches?
• Can your child rhyme?
• Can your child identify the beginning sound of a word?
• Can your child segment words?
• Can your child identify shapes?
• Can your child complete a pattern?
• Can your child write numbers 1-10?
• Can your child count up to 20 objects and tell how many there are?
• Can your child follow a multi-step direction?
• Can your child separate easily from a parent?
• Can your child share with others and take turns?
• Can your child sit and work on a task for a duration of 15 minutes or more?

FREE PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS
available for eligible students and tuition-based preschool available for all students through GPS.

DISTRICT PRESCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT
MONDAY, MARCH 18 @ 6 P.M.
Cedar Crest Elementary – 622 S. Cedar St., Greenville
Parents are invited to attend to learn more about GPS preschool offerings and to start the enrollment process.

Questions - Contact Keisha Peters at petersk@gpsmi.us or 616.754.3641
Families who cannot attend should contact Keisha Peters for an enrollment packet.
There is a greater need than ever before for highly-qualified students to meet the demands of the ever-changing world’s workforce. Likewise, each student’s signature strengths should be matched to gifts, abilities, and interests pursued through career choices. Not every student will go to college, nor is that the only prerequisite for success in life beyond high school. Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings continue to expand and increase at Greenville High School. Currently, the following programs are available for students to earn certification: Welding, Machine Tool, Marketing, and Construction Trades. In the coming years, we are planning to offer Emergency Medical Training (EMT) and HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning). Next year we hope to offer Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) training. If successful, Greenville High School would be the first secondary Cisco Network Academy institution in Montcalm County, and the first to offer advanced computer science training, one of the most in-demand career fields in the world.

Through bond work, we are designing and remodeling space at GHS to house these programs closely connected to improve workflow. Our goal is to mirror on-the-job training to best prepare students for the workplace. For example, students in construction trades will use an outdoor concrete pad to frame and finish a “house” structure, building both skills in trade and stamina for varied weather conditions. Structures will then be de-constructed for the learning process to begin anew.

According to Hot Jobs Michigan’s High-Demand, High-Wage Careers, there will be 540 annual job openings for construction managers, earning an hourly wage of $33–$56. There will be 830 Computer and Information Systems Manager openings with hourly wages ranging from $46–$73. This is an increase of 12.3% in job growth within Michigan alone. We are eager to prepare our students for careers of the future and to continue building community partnerships.

After 44 years of elected board service to Greenville Public Schools, Janet Ralph-Warnshuis resigned effective the end of December 2018. She started her service in 1974 when she was elected with Jerry Nelson to serve on the Greenville Public Schools Board of Education. She credits their partnership as a key to the success that she experienced on the board. Her four children were all attending GPS at the time of her election.

During her tenure, Mrs. Ralph-Warnshuis served 30 years as Board President, navigating the board and district through turbulent times and good times. Her leadership always put students first along with what was best for all students. She led sharing her interest in providing a quality education using the core values of integrity, compassion, responsibility, and collaboration.

In 1993, Mrs. Ralph-Warnshuis was instrumental in the community by participating in the collaborating on the first strategic planning process. One of the outcomes from this process was to establish the current mission statement which is a bold, visionary expression of the purpose of the organization. That mission statement is still in use today.

Superintendent Linda Van Houten stated during Mrs. Ralph-Warnshuis’ retirement announcement, “Your wisdom and knowledge have truly shaped us into who we are today as a school system…We will be forever grateful for your leadership and your passion for our schools...We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your investment in thousands of students and your investment in our community.”

We wish Mrs. Ralph-Warnshuis all the best in the future and will miss her at the board table. Thank you for your service!

Greenville Public Schools would like to thank Byron and Dee Cook for their generous donation to the GPS Endowment Campaign – Performing Arts Fund. The Cook family has been vigilant supporters of public education and the arts for decades. Their passion and willingness to support GPS Performing Arts programs will touch the lives of thousands.

Odyssey of the Mind is the world’s oldest international creative problem-solving competition among students kindergarten through college. The purpose of Odyssey of the Mind is to promote creativity and problem-solving in a variety of areas from building mechanical devices and balsa wood structures to presenting dramatic and technical performances. Odyssey of the Mind develops team-building, organization and presentation skills as well as divergent thinking.

The program provides a caring, supportive environment for team members to develop positive values, self-esteem and social competencies. Teams (consisting of 5-7 students) start by choosing a long-term problem. Then, teams start practicing their performance for competition in February. There are five primary problems to choose from such as making a vehicle move, theatrical performances, building structures from balsa wood and increasing at Greenville High School. Currently, the following programs are available for students to earn certification: Welding, Machine Tool, Marketing, and Construction Trades. In the coming years, we are planning to offer Emergency Medical Training (EMT) and HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning). Next year we hope to offer Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) training. If successful, Greenville High School would be the first secondary Cisco Network Academy institution in Montcalm County, and the first to offer advanced computer science training, one of the most in-demand career fields in the world.

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March 20 & 21 30th Annual GHS Music Department Collage Concert 7:30pm
March 25-29 No School – Spring Break
April 4 Village Green 14th Annual Variety Show 7:30pm
April 9 Genesee Concert (w/GPS Elementary Students) 6:00pm
April 10 Early Release for all students / Prof. Development
April 14 Yellow Jacket Fun Run 2:00pm
April 18 No School
April 26 & 27 MS Spring Play “Phantom Tollbooth” 7:00pm
April 30 Walnut Hills Elementary Spring Concert 6:00pm
May 1 Lincoln Heights Elementary Spring Concert 6:00pm
May 2 Baldwin Heights Elementary Spring Concert 6:00pm
May 7 Cedar Crest Elementary Spring Concert 6:00pm
May 8 Early Release for all students / Prof. Development
May 10 MS-HS Jazz Band Concert 7:00pm
May 14 HS Choir Spring Concert 7:00pm
May 16 HS Band & Orchestra Spring Concert 7:00pm
May 20 MS Band Spring Concert 6:00pm
May 21 MS Orchestra Spring Concert 7:00pm
May 22 & 23 Honor’s Week Assemblies at GHS 8:45am
May 22 MS Choir Spring Concert 7:00pm
May 24 Half Day for all students
May 24 Swingout@GHS 9:15am
May 27 No School – Memorial Day
May 28 Pass the Torch – Underclassman Awards at GHS 8:45am
May 30 Commencement at Legacy Field 7:30pm
May 30 & 31 Secondary Half Day – Exams
May 31 Elementary Half Day
May 31 Last Day for all students

* Greenville Performing Arts Center

Individual school activities and calendar updates are available on our website at www.gpsjackets.org

FOOD & NUTRITION DEPARTMENT

Greenville Public Schools serves breakfast and hot lunch at all of our buildings every school day. Universal Breakfast is provided district wide and free of charge for every student who wishes to participate. Prices for lunch are $2.50 for the elementary schools and $2.75 for the middle and high school.

www.waterbrake@gpsmi.us is the provider for our student meal deposits. You will need your child’s name and ID number.

Our online meal application, or pick up an application in school offices to apply.

www.lunchapp.com is our online meal application, or pick up an application in school offices to apply for free/reduced meals.

If a doctor has determined your child has dietary restrictions that prevent him/her from eating a regular school meal, substitutions will be available at no extra charge. The doctor’s statement, including diet and required substitutions, must be submitted to the Food & Nutrition Department at the school the child attends. You can print a copy of the Medical Statement form by going to the district website at www.gpsjackets.org. Click on Departments, Food & Nutrition, Forms.

Charge Policy: It is the policy of GPS that students that have no money in their account may go into debt on their accounts up to $10. Students may not purchase a la carte items if their account is not current. After the student has reached the $10 debt there is absolutely NO charging to accounts.

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The Board of Education generally meets in the community room at the central services facility, the second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. The public is welcome for a complete schedule, please visit www.gpsjackets.org.

We’re an OK2SAY School!

P: 855-565-2729 Text: 652729 www.mi.gov/ok2say

OK2SAY is a student safety initiative available to Michigan students in grades K-12 that enables students to confidentially report potential harm or criminal activities aimed at students, teachers, staff or other school employees.

The program is operated through a partnership between the Department of the Attorney General, Michigan State Police, state agencies, schools, parents, law enforcement, and community leaders.

Anyone can confidentially submit tips 24/7 using the OK2SAY app, online at www.ok2say.com, texting 652729 (OK2SAY), or by calling 855.565.2729.

We all live by these core values:

INTEGRITY · COLLABORATION · COMPASSION · RESPONSIBILITY

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION GENERALLY MEETS IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM AT THE CENTRAL SERVICES FACILITY, THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:30PM. THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME FOR A COMPLETE SCHEDULE, PLEASE VISIT www.GPSJACKETS.ORG.

GREENVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Linda Van Houten .................................... Superintendent .................................. 616-754-3686
Michał Balczynski .................................. Assistant Superintendent ......................... 616-754-3686
Lisa Deets ........................................... Director of Human Resources .................. 616-754-3686
Maureen Peet ......................................... Director of Finance ................................. 616-754-3686
Dr. Michael Lester .................................... High School Principal ............................. 616-754-3891
Mary Beth Taylor .................................... Middle School Principal ......................... 616-754-3643
Michael Walsh ....................................... Baldwin Heights Elem. Principal ............... 616-754-3643
Kesha Peters .......................................... Cedar Crest Elem. Principal .................. 616-754-3841
Kayla Bade ........................................... Lincoln Heights Elem. Principal ............ 616-754-9167
Suzan Ayres .......................................... Walnut Hills Elem. Principal ................ 616-754-3688
Amy Wiensbolz ...................................... Director of Student Services ................... 616-754-1046
Brian Zdanowski .................................... Athletic Director ................................ 616-754-4261
Rod Harrison ........................................... Director of Facilities ........................... 616-754-4436
Laura Peaume ........................................ Director of Instructional Technology .......... 616-754-3696
Kenneth Poor ......................................... Director of Food & Nutrition .................. 616-754-2607
Becky Jo Wheeler .................................... Director of Transportation ...................... 616-754-3590

No person shall be on the basis of race, creed, sex, religion, national origin or handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program activity or employment by the Greenville Public Schools.