

Grand Haven Area Public Schools Beacon

Fall 2019

IN THIS ISSUE:

BOE Recognizes
Community Support

Homegrown Program
Grows Partnership

Kids Read Now
Funded by GHSP

Lessons Learned
Shape Year Two of PRIME

NEW High Tech Helmets Improve Player Safety!



Cabinet



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Spotlight is a publication of the Grand Haven Area Public Schools. For questions or comments please contact Cheri Dew at 616.850.5015 or e-mail dewc@ghaps.org.

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Board Meeting Schedule

Monday, November 18, 2019 @
White Pines Intermediate

Monday, December 9, 2019 @
Mary A. White Elementary

Monday, January 13, 2020 @
Rosy Mound Elementary

All board meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Asbestos Plan Available for Review

GHAPS has conducted an extensive asbestos survey of all its buildings. Based on the findings of this inspection, a comprehensive management plan has been drafted. This plan details the response actions that the district will be taking regarding asbestos-containing materials found in its buildings. This plan is available for inspection at the Education Service Center (1415 S. Beechtree) during normal business hours. If you desire to have a personal copy, please notify Jason MacKay, Operations Director, and a copy will be supplied to you within five working days at a cost of \$1 per page.

We have endeavored to make our schools a safe place in which students can learn. Our procedures for dealing with this problem reflect that concern. If you have any questions, please contact 850.5120.



Our Community Goes the Extra Mile for Education

by Andy Ingall

Supporting education is truly the best investment in a successful future — and there is no community that is more invested in its future than Grand Haven. This community wholly supports its schools, from the smallest fundraiser to the largest bond issues and everything in between. Seeing the way the community continuously steps up to help is one of the joys of my career here in Grand Haven. And it's not just parents volunteering in the classroom, or board members volunteering to set policy for the district, or businesses purchasing ads in the yearbook to

Those extra opportunities manifest themselves in a variety of ways, some of which you'll read about on these pages. Maybe you heard that our football team got new helmets? (I hope you've seen them in person, too!) But did you know those helmets are top-of-the-line when it comes to safety, backed by research? We were able to purchase those helmets because an incredibly generous community member was approached with a need and wanted to help. He went the extra mile, and that means our students are extra safe this season, and for the seasons to come.



Andy Ingall – Superintendent

helping our students see how the lessons they learn every day are directly applicable to their future careers.

PRIME, our partnership with Shape Corp., is also entering its second year, and allows high school students to work directly with the company to understand its processes and learn directly relevant skills. Shape brought this international program to GHHS, demonstrating their commitment to investing in the future workforce for not just their business, but all area businesses.

Don't just take my word for it, though — take a look at what our board of education has to say about the tie between community and classroom. The theme you'll notice — the theme that carries through every interaction I have in this community — is that everyone is committed to giving our students the extra opportunities they need to succeed. I could not be more proud of or grateful to each and every one who makes Grand Haven an extra special place for our students. •



"I could not be more proud of or grateful to each and every one who makes Grand Haven an extra special place for our students."

support our students. All of those things happen, and they are all absolutely essential to our success. But when it comes to supporting education in Grand Haven, we are, as the kids say, a little "extra." In our case, the over-the-top enthusiasm we have for education means extra opportunities, extra support and extra success.

You've probably read about our Homegrown program, where local businesses partner with classrooms to solve a design challenge. This innovative program is entering its second year thanks to the extra effort from both our teachers and our business community. Not only that, but it's sparked even more business and school partnership opportunities,

Generous Donation Improves Safety for Grand Haven Football Players

Grand Haven High School football players are headed onto the field with the best technology in football helmets this season, thanks to a generous donation from Karl Chapel, owner of Grand Haven Custom Molding. Players will be outfitted in VICIS ZERO1 helmets, which are the top-ranked helmets for safety, backed by independent research from Virginia Tech University.

“Brain safety for our athletes is a critical priority,” says Scott Robertson, GHAPS Athletic Director. “I was a football player my whole life, and I’ve taken part in the studies that Boston University is doing. Our #1 priority is doing everything we can to protect our kids.”

The helmet was created after a three-year, \$20 million research project using technology developed by athletes,

engineers and neurosurgeons, and is proven to decrease concussions. The district did some research of its own and was impressed by the quality and safety features of the ZERO1.

But the helmets cost more than twice what other high quality helmets cost, and to buy a helmet for every high school player, grades 9-12, would cost the district more than \$72,000. Thanks to a generous \$50,000 donation by Karl Chapel, the district was able to purchase the new helmets.

“Ultimately, how can we put our kids in anything but the best?” says Robertson. “But the cost was far beyond what our budget — in fact, what most high school budgets — would allow. So we started problem solving — and that led us to Mr. Chapel and Grand Haven Custom Molding. We could not have done this without him.”

The impact of the new helmets is already being felt by players, who love the lightweight fit and custom padding in the helmets. Most programs expect to replace about 10% of their helmets every season, based on testing and age, but the standard for the ZERO1 helmet is 4%, which allows the district to keep providing players with ZERO1 helmets for years to come.

“We are very excited that we are able to put our kids in the most researched and developed helmet on the market to date,” says Joe Nelson, GHHS head football coach. “Our kids are extremely grateful that we have a helmet that fits properly and will allow them to see more field of play. Without the generous donation from Grand Haven Custom Molding, we would not be able to put these helmets on our kids.” •



“We are very excited that we are able to put our kids in the most researched and developed helmet on the market to date.”

Board of Education Builds its Foundation on Community Support and Involvement

Strong schools build strong communities — and strong community support is the foundation of strong schools. No one understands that more than the GHAPS Board of Education. •



“The whole community has a role to play in the growth and development of our students. While parents and family members have a vital role in a child’s education, the community also has a responsibility to assure high-quality education for all students.”

— Board President John Siemion



“The community’s support for bond issues and renewals is evidence it values quality education. That support allows us to maintain quality buildings, buses, technology, supplies, arts and athletics facilities. All of these are building blocks for the programs we need to prepare our youth for employment, here and around the globe.”

— Vice President Carl Treutler



“Without the support of the people in the district, GHAPS could not function. So many parents and community members donate time to help us, which is absolutely essential to our success. In turn, many of our teachers, administration and support

staff are involved in various community events and organizations.”

— Treasurer Seth Holt



“I love the entire community public education provides, both for the students themselves and the community at large. Our community steps up at every turn for our schools, from bond issues all the way down to the day-to-day. You can’t go into any one of our schools without finding volunteers making sure every need is met.”

— Secretary Nichol Stack



“Quality public schools and a thriving community are inextricably linked, and it takes collaboration and ongoing investment to keep the momentum. We are fortunate to have many structural advantages as a community that help foster our success, including philanthropic individuals and institutions and long time businesses and residents.”

— Board Trustee Christine Baker



“The schools and the community have a mutually beneficial relationship. Strong schools keep and bring good employers, increase property value and bring great people to our community. Seeing all the amazing Grand Haven students constantly amazes me and builds my confidence in our future.”

— Board Trustee James O’Neal



“This community is willing to give of their time, talent and treasure to ensure our future generations have all the possibilities for life-long learning and success. You see it when businesses connect with classrooms to provide children the opportunity to apply their design thinking, when members of our community provide funds to the Schools Foundation, and when moms, dads, grandmas and grandpas visit schools to read or tutor.”

— Board Trustee Chris Streng

GHAPS’ board members are also involved in community organizations like:

American Legion	Grand Haven Township Planning Commission
Coast Guard Festival Board	League of Women Voters
Eagles	Michigan Association of School Boards
Elks	Michigan Association of School Boards Board of Directors
Folds of Honor Michigan	North Ottawa Recreation Association
Grand Haven Community Center	Ottawa Area ISD Board of Education
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation	United Way
Grand Haven Rotary	VFW
Grand Haven Schools Foundation	YMCA
Grand Haven Township Parks & Recreation	

Homegrown Program Grows Community Partnership

When the Homegrown program kicked off last year, it was an experiment — what would happen when you paired excited students and teachers with committed local companies and charged them with solving a design challenge? The program yielded results, not just for the companies and classrooms, but also for community/school partnerships.

This year, GHAPS and The Chamber of Commerce Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Ferrysburg are partnering up again to tackle design thinking in our community - but they're going a step further. Nancy Manglos, Director of Talent & Leadership Development for the Chamber and Andrew Ratke, GHAPS STEM teacher, are each filling part-time roles that focus exclusively on strengthening the partnership between the school district and the business community.



The two operate much like a matchmaking service. Manglos is the connection to local businesses, meeting with them to determine what kinds of challenges they have, how students might be able to help and what would be at the right time to partner for a project. Meanwhile, Ratke seeks out teachers who may need that connection to a local company to help teach a particular lesson or a subject.

"We want to make sure we're able to effectively match our educational standards with business partners to engage students in a variety of ways," Ratke says. "Bringing in authentic audiences in the form of business professionals really excites the students and makes a huge difference on the quality of their work."

For her part, Manglos meets with local businesses to see what partnerships

might be a good fit. She identifies business challenges, helps develop a timeline and works with Ratke and other educators to design a program that is mutually beneficial for both the business and the class.

"Area businesses understand this is a long-term investment in our future," says Manglos. "There are many paths to success, and these partnerships help kids see what that success looks like in a wide variety of careers."

"I was blown away by the growth that happened in my Homegrown students last year," says Beth Bolhuis, second grade teacher at Peach Plains Elementary. "Everything from their presentation skills to problem solving - it was so rewarding to see the confidence they had when they were able to explain their solutions." •

"We want to make sure we're able to effectively match our educational standards with business partners to engage students in a variety of ways."

Grand Haven Schools Foundation Funds 'Kids Read Now' Program for GHAPS Students

Imagine you start to go to the gym consistently, and then stop for three months. When you go back, you'll likely have to retrain your muscles — which is exactly what happens to students' reading habits during the 'summer slide.' For their reading skills to continue improving, students need to practice over the summer months — but kids need new and engaging material to make that happen. The 'Kids Read Now' program is designed to do just that, allowing kids to select nine brand new books to read throughout the summer.

"We've tried a number of things to encourage summer reading for our students, but it's hard to do when you don't see them," says Mary Jane Evink, GHAPS Executive Director of Instructional Services. "The Department of Education endorses this program because it is backed by research — which shows when students have access to high-quality books of their choosing, they are more likely to read."

However, even with a subsidy from the Michigan Department of Education, the district could not afford to purchase the program for every student in kindergarten through third grade. Luckily for GHAPS students, this is exactly the kind of project the Grand Haven Schools Foundation was created to support.

"When we were founded in 1994, we focused on providing preschool scholarships," says Hannah Olechnowicz, GHSF Executive Director. "As we build our endowment, providing preschool

scholarships for students in need was and still is our focus. But with our expanded mission, we also support literacy and social/emotional health programs."

Literacy is a major indicator of student success. Studies show that children who can read at grade level by third grade are far more likely to have desirable outcomes later in life. GHSF meets frequently with the district to identify needs, and the 'Kids Read Now' program was a natural fit for additional support. The foundation launched a fundraising campaign to involve the community and was able to fully fund the program in just two months.

"Our community has a wonderful pattern of wrapping its arms around causes that invest in our children. They understand that if we're not investing in our children, we're not investing in our future," says Olechnowicz. "This program was enticing to us because it allows the parents to be strategically involved, and through testing, donors can see measurable results."

The program kicked off May 21, with each school hosting its own event to help introduce parents and students to the program. Each student was able to select their first three books, and parents were shown how the program would continue throughout the summer. The program delivered almost 10,300 books to more than 1,500 students.

This fall, students will be recognized at assemblies, and those who completed reading eight or nine books will be presented with a certificate and a stuffed animal. Additionally, those who read six or more books were honored at the September 21 football game. The district will use student data to assess the impact of the program.

"GHAPS is incredibly grateful to our community for this support and we are thrilled that literacy is so important to our community," says Evink. "We are lucky to be a part of a community that cares deeply about learning." •



Lessons Learned in PRIME Program Help Shape Year Two

The skilled trades gap in Michigan has attracted statewide attention — and in Grand Haven, part of the solution is an innovative partnership between the schools and a local manufacturer. Last year, Shape Corp. introduced Grand Haven High School to the SME PRIME program, which works collaboratively with schools and businesses to build custom programs that meet the educational needs of students and address the industry's talent needs.

"The conversation around college and career shouldn't be 'Where are you going?' but 'What do you want to do?'" says Jeremy Case, GHHS teacher. "We should be asking students 'what problem do you want to solve?' and work backwards into career and education. The business partnership is key to PRIME, because students can shadow and understand their career path. They're not just chasing a degree, but truly pursuing a career."

The PRIME program includes an industry-vetted curriculum but is customized to address Shape's specific workforce needs and business areas. Last year, 70 students completed both levels of the class, which started with computer-aided design and solid modeling, continuing on through assembly, engineering design, quality



control, processes and measurement. The second level class even reverse engineered a quadcopter as part of their study.

"This year, we're tweaking and supplementing classes based on our experience in year one," says Case. "Our focus is on pre-engineering, design for manufacturing, additive manufacturing, and metrology and quality. Making sure our students can design for manufacturing and assembly is important, and with this program, students are able to learn about it directly from someone who is implementing that strategy every day."

In addition to the coursework, Shape Corp. hosted a panel discussion

during Manufacturing Day, where students were able to ask specific questions about their work. Eighth grade students also took part in a PRIME summer camp, where Shape volunteers helped students solve a design challenge related to underwater robotics.

"Shape Corp is proud to partner with Grand Haven High School and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers to inspire interest in manufacturing, while supporting young people in their STEM education and career pathways," says Danielle Smith of Shape. "We aim to extend economic, social and environmental prosperity beyond the doors of our facilities and into the communities we serve." •