



## **“Ram Report” January 25, 2019**

### **Week in Review**

- On Wednesday, January 23rd in collaboration with GEA and MTA Granby offered an information session for teachers regarding responsibilities in relation to their professional educators' license.
- Mr. Dorman's Legal Studies court attended their second session of their “mock trial” at U.S. District Court on Wednesday, January 23rd.
- The GJSHS school council met on Wednesday, January 23rd. The school council is an advisory board to Principal Sullivan and always looking to add new members. If you'd like to join, or have suggestions about how to get more parents, student and/or staff, involved please contact the main office.
- Grades for the first semester (third quarter) closed on Thursday, January 24th.
- We had significant roof leaks that did cause a disruption on Thursday, January 24th, but due to the support and understanding of many people we got through the day as best as we could.
- GJSHS started our second semester on Friday, January 25th.

### **Shoutouts**

- Staff, students and parents/families for their support in dealing with our roof leak issues on Thursday, January 24th. Our staff, once again, demonstrated flexibility and professionalism to make sure students had access to high quality instruction despite the significant disruption. Students volunteered to help in any way they could. They were willing to move tables for lunch, get buckets to catch water and many just asked if there was anything they could do to help. Parents and families offered to come in and help clean up, or do whatever they could to minimize the impact on students and staff. It is unfortunate that it often takes difficult situations like today to notice all these positive things because the reality is these types of things happen daily in Granby and that is something we should all celebrate. Thank you to all the staff, students and parents/families who were willing to take positive, supportive and productive actions throughout this challenging day!
- Special thanks to our custodial and maintenance staff for their hard work and support on Thursday, January 24th.

### **Things to know...**

- Students who have debts in the cafeteria will no longer be able to purchase or charge a la carte items.

- In the fall of 2018 The Massachusetts Department of Education of Elementary and Secondary Education issued a new accountability system for all school districts in Massachusetts. The new system moved districts away from the past practice of being recognized and/or supported solely on the results of standardized tests. The new system now includes additional indicators that will be used to recognize schools that are demonstrating success in addition to identifying schools in need of support (for more information on the new accountability system you can click [here](#)). The “chronic absenteeism” indicator is likely the one that has had the most immediate impact on schools and families. Chronic absenteeism is defined as the percentage of students missing 10 percent or more of their days in membership. In a typical 180-day school year, this is the percentage of students who miss 18 or more days. The chronic absenteeism rate includes both excused and unexcused absences. Granby, like many other districts, has worked to understand this new indicator and identify ways we can address it proactively. Additionally, we are working to identify supports and resources that can be used to support families. At GJSHS, we have had many discussions about this and have started to pilot new approaches. One step that has been taken is letters have been created and are being sent home once a student reaches 3 absences, 6 absences, and 9 absences (excused and unexcused). These are form letters that are intended to be a part of a larger conversation and to ensure parents/families and the school are on the same page. To date, we have received feedback on these letters that have resulted in changes and we are open to any additional feedback people may have. With that said, there are certain components of these letters that will likely need to remain in place, but we are always open to discuss things like this with you to help you better understand our rationale. If you have received one of these letters, or receive one in the future, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Jordan-Gagner ([ajordan-gagner@granbyschoolsma.net](mailto:ajordan-gagner@granbyschoolsma.net)) with any questions and/or comments.
- The Strategic Planning Initiative for Families and Youth (SPIFFY), a Hampshire County coalition focused on youth and family well-being, will be conducting the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey (PNAS) at Granby Jr/Sr High School on **Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018** throughout the school day. Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth graders are surveyed every 2 years in school districts across Hampshire County. The PNAS measures alcohol, tobacco, and drug use, a variety of factors that place students at risk for problem behaviors and factors that protect students from problem behaviors. The purpose of the survey is to gather the information needed to plan important prevention and intervention programs to combat such problems as alcohol, drug use, and violence in our schools and communities. It will also help us judge the effectiveness of our current prevention and

intervention efforts. Students may opt-out of the survey at any time. If you do not want your child(ren) to participate in the survey, please send in a written note to Mrs. Jenks, School Nurse Leader at Granby Jr/Sr High School or email her at [njenks@granbyschoolsma.net](mailto:njenks@granbyschoolsma.net). Thank you.

- The Granby Wellness Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, February 13th at 6pm in the Jr/Sr High Library, community members are welcome to attend.

### **Look Ahead**

- Report cards will be sent home the week of January 28th. We expect them to be sent home on Wednesday, January 30th. We will communicate to you any changes.
- The Granby band is excited to be holding a concert on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at 7PM at East Meadow School for all of the Granby Instrumental Music groups (February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – snow date). The concert is free and we would love to see you there!
- Pioneer Valley Driving School will be offering drivers' ed classes at GJSHS from February 19-22 from 8:45AM-3:45PM and February 25-27 from 2:30-4:30PM. A mandatory Parents' Night will be held on February 19th from 6:00-8:00PM. For more details please contact Pioneer Valley Driving School at 413-253-7432.
- Our next advisory will be held on February 8th
- Distractology is coming to GHS! Click [here](#) to read more about the program.
- Training Active Bystander (TAB) meeting next Wednesday, January 30th during B block in room 100
- Welcome Ms. Danielle Van Over, our new Drama Director!!! More info and announcements to follow.

### **Student Support Suite**

- Scholarship opportunities are beginning to come in. Seniors should check the listings outside of the Student Support Suite and the cafeteria hallway, as well as the Guidance [webpage](#).
- Seniors: the Community Foundation Scholarship is now open. Any senior who has filed a FAFSA is eligible to apply. Granby students have done very well with this scholarship in the past. Please see Mrs. Tease in the Student Support Suite with questions.

### **Resources, Supports and other things of interest...**

- This is an [article](#) on the impact that positive experiences and relationships can

have on the development of our students.

- [The Hard Part of Computer Science](#)....is getting into a class. At GJSHS, we have space.

### **Athletics**

- The booster club is looking for volunteers....If you are interested, please email Tammy Sosa at [Tammysosa1175@gmail.com](mailto:Tammysosa1175@gmail.com)
- **Admission prices:**
  - Basketball games \$5 adult \$3 senior citizens/students
- Remember there is no food or drink allowed in the gym during games.
- The Division 3 Western MA Sectional Wrestling Tournament will be held at Franklin County Technical School this year on Saturday, February 9th
- Alumni game will be played on February 28th vs. Ware. Schedule will be released next week.
- [Nora Young adds another milestone](#)
- [Player of the week](#)

***\*\*Tweet Tweet\*\****

***Be sure to follow Granby Athletics on Twitter.....Granby HS Athletics @rams\_ghs***

***Spring Schedules are now posted, please visit MIAA.net for more details.***

***REMEMBER ALL ATHLETES NEED PHYSICALS, PLEASE BE SURE TO SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS AND UPLOAD TO FAMILY ID.***