



“Ram Report” January 4, 2019

Week in Review

- Happy New Year! We were excited to welcome teachers and students back on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. We are looking forward to a productive, enjoyable and positive 2019!

Shoutouts

- Andrew Hutchinson secured a spot in the Western Massachusetts Senior Honor Band. This ensemble will rehearse this weekend and perform at UMASS on January 12, 2019.

Things to know...

- 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) with any questions and/or comments.

- National Honor Society students are available to be tutors. If you are interested in learning more about this please contact administration and/or guidance.
- Schedules for the second semester will be posted on PlusPortals on Monday, January 14th. The second semester does not start until late January 2019.
- Take a look at what our new Audio/Visual Production class is doing at GJSHS. [Here](#) is RamCam's Youtube channel. This is an exciting new class and we are happy to share the product of their work with the community.
- The Granby Public Schools Wellness Committee has scheduled their meetings for the year. Any and everyone are welcome to attend any of the meetings. Hope to see you there! The meeting dates, time and location are:
 - Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 2:45pm-3:45pm, Granby Jr/Sr High School Library
 - Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 2:45pm-3:45pm, Granby Jr/Sr High School Library
 - There will be a SGP meeting on December 4th from 2-3pm in Room 106
- Click [here](#) for information on the Walden Woods Essay contest.
- Our next Advisory will take place on January 11th, 2019

Look Ahead

- GJSHS faculty and staff has an Hour of Power on Wednesday, January 9th after school.
- The Granby girls' basketball team will play in the 2019 Hoophall Classic in Springfield, MA on Friday, January 18th at 4:00PM. Tickets will be on sale for students during lunches.
- The Class of 2019 is running a Boston Celtics ticket raffle. The cost is \$10 per ticket and the drawing will be held on January 11th. Please contact Ms. Mahoney with any questions.
- 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.

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](#).
- Ms. Bierden has been meeting with those students who took the PSAT test in October to review their score reports. All students will receive a copy of their score report and a test booklet to review their answers. If you have any questions, please call Ms. Bierden in the Guidance office at 467-7106.

Resources, Supports and other things of interest...

- Flipped classroom (or Flipped learning) is not a new concept although it may be new to you. Many people may think of it as teachers just using videos as a form of instruction, but it is really about maximizing the time teachers have face to face with their students. This [article](#) goes into detail about the potential impact a Flipped classroom could have on student learning, instruction and engagement.

Athletics

---> The booster club is looking for volunteers....If you are interested, please email Tammy Sosa at Tammysosa1175@gmail.com

Admission prices:

Basketball games \$5 adult \$3 senior citizens/students

Wrestling-no admission

*Mark your calendars for the Granby Duals on January 12, there will be an admission charge.

Season tickets are now on sale! \$35 for 10 games (Adults) \$20 for 10 games (senior citizens & students)

Hoopball Classic tickets are on sale for \$6.00. Granby vs. South Hadley on January 18th @ Springfield College. See Ms. Jordan to purchase tickets.

Remember No food or drink in the gym during game.

Athletics in the news:

[A year in review "Proud moments"-Congrats Summer!](#)

[Athlete of the week-Congrats Nate Breault](#)

[Wrestling on the road](#)

Basketball sports' schedules can be found on www.miaa.net