



Grant Community High School

District Newsletter

January 2023

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Student of the Month

Joshua Hawkins



The Grant Community High School January Student of the Month is senior Joshua Hawkins, son of Daniel and Jennifer Hawkins of Round Lake Heights.

Joshua's academic achievements include induction into the National Honor Society as a sophomore, earning Honor Roll status each semester, he will have taken 11 AP classes through his senior year plus calculus III, he has taken and passed 6 AP tests through his junior year, and he scored 1550 on his SAT. He was awarded the AP Scholar with Distinction and he holds a 5.07 GPA.



His extracurricular activities include Math Team - earning individual and team awards, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) - 2022/23 Leader, Marching Band - Section Leader, Future Business Leaders of American (FBLA) during his freshman year, Student Athlete and Activities Leadership Team (SAALT) - 2022/23 Officer, Boys Bowling – Captain, 3rd place Regional Champion, Scholar Athlete.

Joshua participated in numerous volunteer activities such as Feed My Starving Children, Pop-Up Food Banks, roadside clean-up, St. Mark Lutheran Church audio/visual volunteer, and Fox Lake Park District activities. He also helps within the school as a peer academic tutor, Big Dawg, and concession stand worker for the Boosters.

In addition to all of his activities, Joshua enjoys video and board games, logic puzzles, and walking through the local forest preserves.

His plans for the future include earning a double major in physics and mathematics and is exploring universities such as MIT and University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign.

Board of Education

Steve Hill, *President*
Kathy Kusiak, *Vice President*
John Jared, *Secretary*

Shelly Booth
Ivy Fleming
Ed Lescher
Bob Yanik



HAPPY NEW YEAR

We're ringing in the new year, but still thinking about all the great events that took place in first semester. From home football games with cheering fans, a fall play filled with shenanigans, state send-offs for Tennis and Cross Country, and lots of Bulldog Buck winners, first semester helped us start the year off on the right foot.

There is so much more to come as we enter 2023. Within the first month of being back on campus, students will participate in a school-wide pep assembly to celebrate the accomplishments of our fall sports and get an update on how winter sports and clubs are performing. In addition to all the pep, we are excited for big second semester events including the winter dance, spring musical, prom, and graduation! We may be just starting the month of January, but May is going to be here before we know it. Although it can be bittersweet to think about the end of the school year, especially when we have to say goodbye to so many wonderful students, it's exciting to think about what else our students will achieve during the second half of the year.

There are still a few days left of winter break, so please continue to enjoy your time at home and all the relaxation that comes with that. We cannot wait to hear about your winter adventures and the memories created during your time off. Wish you warmth and good cheer this holiday season, and all the best in 2023.

- Your Bulldog Family





From the Desk of Dr. Sefcik

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break and is excited to begin second semester! It never ceases to amaze me how quickly the semesters go by, but here we are kicking off January and there is much to look forward to for the upcoming semester, including:

- Continued rollout of the MTSS framework to ensure students get the academic and social-emotional support they need, when they need it, to be successful.
- A new, shared district bilingual liaison, Ms. Vivian Hernandez, who will be working closely with our EL students, as well as students from Fox Lake 114 and Gavin 37. We are so proud that Vivian is a Grant alum!
- Continued expansion of the role of Student Representative to the Board of Education. The current Student Representative, Nicole Kaminski, has been a wonderful addition to the Board and continues to expand her involvement in a variety of student groups to further enhance communication and understanding between students and the Board of Education. Applications will open up in early spring for next year's Student Rep – be on the lookout if you're interested.
- January's Parent University is taking place on January 25th and will feature student-led panels. Join us for "Listening to Our Learners."
- School-wide Career Fair on Wednesday, March 22
- Two new student clubs to join – Bulldog Buddies & Latinx/Hispanic Club
- An additional level of lacrosse to expand student participation opportunities. Next year, girls' volleyball also expands a level.
- Concerts, competitions, celebrations, and more!

We are also very excited about several new dual credit courses that are under consideration for the 2024/25 school year. These courses would potentially provide students with the opportunity to fulfill general education requirements for the College of Lake County, while still a student at GCHS. More to come!

If you're a planner, the calendar for 2023/24 school year is posted on the District website, with homecoming 2023 festivities taking place the week of September 18-23.

Welcome back and make it a great semester!

Dr. Sefcik

5Essentials Survey

The Illinois 5Essentials Survey window will open on January 23 and will remain open until March 31, 2023. Parents, students and teachers across Illinois have an opportunity to participate in the statewide Illinois 5Essentials Survey. This opportunity allows stakeholders to share their thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in a survey about Grant Community High School. As a parent, we hope you will take this opportunity to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness at Grant Community High School. Your identity and survey responses will be kept completely confidential and will never be connected to you or your child. As per state requirement, students and teachers will also be completing the Illinois 5Essentials Survey.



Excellence in Education Award Winner: Jeff Austin



Jeff Austin is an outstanding candidate for the Excellence in Education Award. There are many, many reasons that Jeff embodies the characteristics in the Blueprint of a Grant Staff, but central to everything he does is students.

Jeff is endlessly dedicated to our students and their growth. This dedication certainly applies to developing them as artists, but more importantly as well-rounded Grant students who Keep it RED. Jeff gives 100% to his students in

and outside of class. He burns the candle at both ends, coming in early to prepare engaging lessons and staying late to allow students more time to work in the art studios and to receive additional help. It is impressive to see how Jeff is always looking out for his students' SEL needs by incorporating thoughtfulness, empathy, and compassion into his classroom.

Outside of the classroom, Jeff represents himself and his department professionally. With his team members, he works to collaborate annually to put on the NLCC Art Festival. Moreover, Jeff is always willing to be a staff leader when it comes to being a lifelong learner. He actively has led or participated in Parent Universities, peer classroom walk-throughs, many Teaching and Learning Committee initiatives, and taught the Professional Learners in Action Drop-In session "Making Learning Accessible."

Moreover, Jeff recognizes the importance of students connecting with our school community outside the classroom. Over the years he has sponsored multiple clubs and activities including Snow Dawgs, Variety Shows, theater set building, and this year he is stepping up to direct our spring musical. When he's not leading after-school activities, you can find him working Grant events, volunteering his time at activities, and generally finding reasons to connect with kids. Notably, Jeff is the founding sponsor of the service organization National Art Honors Society (NAHS). He researched, proposed, developed, and now sponsors the society. NAHS continues to grow its membership while quickly becoming an established service organization in both the school and larger community. This intersection of art, service, and community has led to multiple events that have raised money for local charities while instilling the important values of service and volunteering time with our students.

It is because of all of these reasons, and many more, that Jeff Austin is an outstanding representative of the characteristics Blueprint of a Grant Staff and recipient of the Excellence in Education Award.

DeLuna to Represent Grant at ILMEA All-State



The Music Department is thrilled to announce that Grant will have a student representative at the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Music Festival which runs January 25-28 in Peoria, IL. Senior, Andre DeLuna, has been selected by ILMEA to sing with the All-State Choir for the second year in a row! This is the first time in Grant history that a student has been consecutively selected for the All-State Choir.

Being selected to the All-State Choir is one of the highest accomplishments a high school choral singer can attain. Andre was chosen for this ensemble through a rigorous audition process and competed against the best singers in the state of Illinois. He will attend many rehearsals during the festival, which culminate in a finale concert on Saturday, January 28. Andre will be singing under the direction of Dr. Eric Johnson from Northern Illinois University, and singing with hundreds of the best singers from across the state. Congratulations, Andre, and good luck at All-State!

French Students Create *Bûches de Noël*!

French classes had a jump start on celebrating the holidays by making their bûches de Noël. This traditional Christmas cake, made and decorated to resemble a Yule log, is a dessert staple in France and other French-speaking countries. The history behind the cakes is that Napoleon Bonaparte had issued a proclamation ordering the people of Paris to close their chimneys



Lucy Lee & Gabriella Bieniarz's bûche

during the winter. It was thought that the cold air coming into the houses was causing the spread of illnesses. Since the use of hearths was prohibited, Parisians wanted some sort of traditional symbol that could be enjoyed with their family and friends during Christmastime.

Grant teachers and staff judged the French students' cakes in two categories: most traditional and most creative. Our winner for the most traditional bûche was made by Lilly Oplawski (French I). Our most creative "Ratatouille" bûche was made by Lucy Lee (French IV) and Gabriella Bieniarz (French IV). Félicitations!



Lilly Oplawski's bûche

Joyeuses Fêtes!

(Happy Holidays!)



FRESHMEN: TURN IN PROOF OF YOUR DENTAL EXAM

ALL FRESHMEN ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A DENTAL EXAM. PLEASE TURN IN PROOF OF A DENTAL EXAM, DATED WITHIN THE LAST YEAR. FORMS CAN BE FOUND UNDER THE [HEALTH SERVICES SECTION OF THE GCHS WEBSITE.](#)

FORMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF OR EMAILED TO HEALTHOFFICE@GRANTBULLDOGS.ORG. FOR QUESTIONS, CALL THE HEALTH OFFICE AT (847) 973-3452.



The Giving Spirit is Alive & Well in Transition

The Transition Program was busy as ever this holiday season between baking Dawg Biscuits, spreading cheer, and wrapping presents. As always, Dawg Biscuits were in high demand as staff wanted to treat their pups to some yummy treats during the holiday season. They impressed staff pets once again (they didn't even leave crumbs!). After baking in the kitchen, one of our elves, Brayden, took a trip to the Chain O' Lakes Chamber of Commerce. He helped assemble and decorate the tree for their office. For their final holiday activity, all our Transition elves came together to wrap presents for staff families. Not only did this provide some much needed help for our busy staff members, it gave our elves the opportunity to work on their math, dexterity, teamwork, and organizational skills. To celebrate the end of their biscuit baking and gift wrapping, the program gathered together for an igloo breakfast at Diamond Deli and a bowling outing with the Round Lake Transition Program.

The program is taking a break for the holidays and will be back in action on January 5. Keep yourself up-to-date on the various activities happening within the Transition program by following them on Instagram [@GrantTransitionProgram](#) or Ms. Morris on Twitter [@JoreeMorris](#).



Breakfast at Diamond Deli



Transition "Elves" wrap presents for staff families.



Brayden helps set up a tree at Chain O' Lakes Chamber of Commerce Office



Save the Date! Parent University for January 2023 is Coming!

Our next Parent University will be held on January 25, 2023. This event is our **S.O.S. (Supporting Our Students) 101** program. The evening will consist of three 30-minute sessions on a variety of panel discussions featuring our students. Look for information to appear on our website and via Skyward Family Alert beginning on Monday, January 9. The evening will begin with the first session at 6:30 P.M. and end with the last session at 8:30 P.M. We will do our best to make sure all attendees get the three sessions that they want. Here is a current list of topics:

- **I Wish I Would Have Known...**
 - Websites, Grades, & Support
- **What I've Learned: The Value of Clubs, Activities, & Sports**
- **What I've Learned: Opportunities in Fine & Applied Arts**
- **Planning for College & Careers**
 - Lake County Schools Tech Campus
 - AP Classes from a Student Perspective
 - Dual Credit

So, make sure you mark the date of January 25th on your calendar for this event. Also, look forward to January 9th when more information and registration will become available. Reserve your space by [pre-registering](#).

Musical Holidays

Leading up to finals, our Band and Choir programs put on wonderful performances that not only showcased the many talented musicians in our school, but also spread holiday cheer to all attending.

Between Silent Night and Under the Mistletoe, there was so much to enjoy.

For a few clips of their performances, visit our Instagram account.

2023 SAT Preparation Class

Bulldogs Test Better

Grant has again partnered with Mrs. Sandy Martinez to teach Grant's 2023 SAT Prep Class. Mrs. Martinez is an Associate Professor from the College of Lake County and is a veteran test prep teacher with years of experience working with various test preparation companies in multiple area high schools. The curriculum we follow utilizes the College Board's Official SAT Study Guide. Utilizing a combination of teacher-led instruction, strategy and content acquisition, and individual practice the course is designed to provide students the resources, structure, and content instruction to be successful on the SAT.

Why SAT?

The SAT is the most widely accepted college entrance exam. Additionally, the State of Illinois has adopted the SAT as a graduation requirement.

April 12, 2023 is the State-wide required SAT administration date in which all juniors take the SAT.

The Logistics

Class is open to all currently enrolled Grant juniors. Four class times are available Monday evenings 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Tuesday evenings 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Sunday mornings 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, & Sunday afternoons 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Depending on interest, we will be offering a spring break session. The same 21 hours of instruction will be concentrated into 5 days. Sessions will be held daily starting on Monday, March 27 and ending on Friday, March 31, from 9:00 am - 1:15 pm. All classes will be held virtually via Zoom.

Class Schedule

Monday Dates:	Thursday Date:
February 13	February 14
February 27	February 21
March 6	February 28
March 13	March 7
March 20	March 14
April 3	March 21
April 10*	April 4

Sunday Dates—both sessions:	
February 12	February 19
February 26	March 5
March 12	March 19
April 2	

*Note the different date due to President's Day Holiday on February 20.

Cost

The cost for this seven - week class is \$80 and includes one copy of "The Official SAT Study Guide" as well as custom, additional practice and instructional materials. Payments can be made online through Revtrak. Payment cannot be put on student obligations. Students eligible for free & reduced lunch or who may need financial assistance should see their school counselor to waive fees.

Enrollment

Enrollment begins on January 5 and closes on February 3. Enrollment is limited and will be on a first come basis. Students are automatically enrolled in the course once payment is accepted via Revtrak.

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Canine Connections Puppy Love

The giving spirit doesn't stop after the winter holiday season, and Canine Connections Club members are eager to get their new fundraiser started. Throughout February, Canine Connections will be holding a Puppy Love fundraiser with all proceeds going to help the American Brittany Rescue (ABR). ABR's mission is to provide the leadership and expertise via a network of trained volunteers to take in stray, abandoned, surrendered, and/or impounded purebred Brittannys, provide them with foster care, health, and temperament screening, an opportunity for any necessary rehabilitation and to assure their health and placement into new homes. To donate to this fundraiser and help ABR with its efforts, all Grant community members can purchase one of three "fondness" forms in which you can write about a dog you currently have, one you had in the past, or just your general love for dogs. Forms are available for \$3. If you would like to include a digitally scanned, 4x6-inch, landscape photo of your dog, the cost would be \$5 per form. Digital photos can be emailed to Mrs. Trevithick (ctrevithick@grantbulldogs.org). Forms will be displayed in the corner display case near the Senior Café. If you would like to donate but do not want to complete a form, please see Mrs. Trevithick in the Student Services Office. Cash or checks (made out to Grant Community High School) will be accepted. Thank you in advance for your support!

PUPPY LOVE Name: _____ Dog's Name: _____
 What I Love About My Dog... _____

The form features a decorative border of paw prints and hearts surrounding a large black paw print with a red heart in the center.

Puppy Love Form (1 of 3)



ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

Clothing & Textile Collection Bin

Over 85% of clothing and textiles end up in landfills, so donate your old, unwanted clothes today!!

YES:

Blouses
Coats
Swimsuits
Sheets
Plush Toys
Sofa Covers
Costumes
Socks

NO:

Shoes
Fabric Scraps
Rugs
Plastic Toys
Kitchen Supplies
Blinds
Wet Items
Lamps



LOOK FOR THIS BIN OFF OF
DEVLIN!!

I hope everyone had a happy, healthy, and relaxing holiday season!

While you were home with family were you able to have conversations about your plans after high school? If you have questions or would like to get these conversations started, reach out to Mrs. Masura at bmasura@grantbulldogs.org. It is never too early or too late to start thinking about your future.

To check out what is coming up in the College & Career Center, check out the [January CCC Newsletter](#). For consistent updates about what is going on in the College and Career Center please check us out on [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) @gchs_CCC.



**COLLEGE
& CAREER
CENTER**

Summer School Information

Brochures and registration forms for summer school will be available in the Front Office and on our website. Registration is open January 5, 2023. All classes are on a first come, first served basis. There are no refunds after the first day of class. Summer school is open to all students who reside within the District 124 attendance boundaries, and who have completed their Freshman, Sophomore, or Junior year. For further information, please visit our website.

Keep It RED

Happy New Year, Bulldogs! It's crazy to think we are already beginning 2023—who knew first semester could fly by this quickly? Throughout first semester, we celebrated 128 Bulldog Buck winners and 24 Bulldog Pride winners. These students were recognized by their teachers and various Grant staff members for being respectful, engaged, dependable, and overall, great representatives of what it means to be a Grant Bulldog. We look forward to celebrating even more Bulldogs and showcasing their behavior when we return from break. As we begin 2023, we hope the entire Bulldog community moves through the year spreading joy and positivity.



Happy Holidays!

Counselor's Corner

Registration Information:

During the weeks of January 9th (Sophomores) and 23rd (Freshmen), students will begin the process of selecting their courses for the 2023-2024 school year. Students will receive information from their school counselors during TEAM and attend one-on-one meetings with their counselors to confirm class selection. Please see the [Curriculum Guide](#) on the GCHS website to review courses with your student. If you need more information, please feel free to email your school's counselor with any questions you may have.

Community Scholarships:

We are excited to announce that the Grant Community Scholarships are posted and ready for you to apply! If you are a current Senior and interested in applying to these scholarships, please join the Community Scholarships Schoology page.

- Access Code: XCP8-JZCV-J4Q2C
- The application deadline for our scholarships is January 31, 2023 by 11:59 PM.
- Please note the Google Form to select the applications you are applying to, the Community Scholarship Application, and any applicable addendums must ALL be completed and submitted by the deadline. Instructions and a video tutorial can be found on the Schoology page.
- If you have any questions about the scholarships or the application process, please reach out to Ms. Peterson at apeterson@grantbulldogs.org or stop into the Student Services office.

Career Center News:

- The Career Fair is March 23, 2023. Please RSVP if you are an employer and interested in attending.
- If you are planning on attending CLC next year, make sure to reach out to Mrs. Masura (College & Career Counselor) or our College of Lake County Navigator, Jenny Landmann at jlandmann1@clcollinois.edu.
- Not sure what to do after high school? It's never too early or too late to get started. Reach out to Mrs. Masura at mmasura@grantbulldogs.org to make an appointment.

Financial Aid:

Just a reminder for seniors and their families- If you have not completed your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) please do so. The FAFSA will help you and your family determine if you qualify for financial aid for college. You can find the FAFSA at www.studentaid.gov. If you will not be completing the FAFSA then please complete the non-participation waiver. Either is a graduation requirement and is available in both English and Spanish. Please give your waiver to your School Counselor.

- [English Waiver](#)
- [Spanish Waiver](#)

Website Resources:

- College Board - www.collegeboard.org
- ACT- www.actstudent.org
- Khan Academy/SAT test Prep- <https://www.khanacademy.org/>



Calendar

January

Jan. 5	School Resumes, Second Semester Begins Summer School Registration opens
Jan. 11	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 am Flex Time Start
Jan. 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day, legal school holiday
Jan. 18	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 am Flex Time Start 8th Grade Enrollment Night
Jan. 19	8th Grade Enrollment Night
Jan. 25	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 am Flex Time Start Parent University: S.O.S. 101

February

Feb. 1	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 am Flex Time Start Progress Reports Parent University: Social Emotional Health Session
Feb. 2	Athletic Signing
Feb. 8	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25am Flex Time Start
Feb. 15	Parent University: Parents Back to School—Funuary!
Feb. 17	Institute Day, no student attendance
Feb. 20	President's Day observed, no school
Feb. 22	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 am Flex Time Start Parent University: Writer's Week

March

Mar. 2	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 am Flex Time Start Parent University: Social Emotional Health Session
Mar. 8	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 am Flex Time Start Progress Reports
Mar. 15	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25 am Flex Time Start
Mar. 22	School Improvement Meeting, 9:25am Flex Time Start
Mar. 27-31	Spring Break