

# The Grand River Gazette

September 2019

<https://www.nhaschools.com/schools/Grand-River-Academy/en>

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**28111 8 Mile Road  
Livonia, MI 48152  
248-893-6100**

## Principal Message

Welcome to the 2019-2020 Grand River Academy (GRA) school year. I am excited to join the Grand River Academy Community. We have worked hard all summer to prepare for the start of the school year to ensure we have the best year yet.

Many families attended our New Family Orientation, Meet the Teacher Event, and Kindergarten Camp. The staff and I appreciate your support and collaboration in ensuring our children receive the best education to prepare for high school, college, and beyond.

I have met many families, and I am grateful for your kind words of encouragement and warm welcome. I want to share a little about myself. This is my 7th year as a principal and my 25th in education. I am a Farmington resident and parent of a GRA student. I taught in 4th, 5th, 6th, and 8th grade. I also was a dean/assistant principal at two other NHA schools in Detroit. I am originally from Texas, but Michigan has been my home for the last 16 years.

Please join me in welcoming our New Staff:

Mr. Wright: ABSS  
Mrs. Schaible: Parent Ambassador  
Ms. Tingley: Middle School Social Studies  
Ms. Young: ALPS  
Ms. Herman: 4th Grade Teacher  
Ms. Ward: 4th Grade Teacher  
Ms. Duscio: 3rd Grade Teacher  
Ms. Walsh: Special Education Teacher  
Mr. Motley: 6th Math Teacher  
Ms. Bloomfield: Intervention Paraprofessional  
Ms. Hall: Intervention Paraprofessional

## News and Notes

- 9/3: First Day of School; Last day to sign up for Volleyball/Soccer tryouts
- 9/4: 7th-8th Grade Girls Volleyball Tryouts 4pm-6pm
- 9/5: 7th-8th Grade Girls Volleyball Tryouts 4pm-6pm
- 9/6: 5th-6th Grade Girls Volleyball Tryouts
- 9/9: 5th-6th Grade Girls Volleyball Tryouts
- 9/12: Girls Volleyball Home; Boys Soccer Home
- 9/16: Girls Volleyball and Boys Soccer @South Pointe
- 9/19: Picture Day; Girls Volleyball and Boys Soccer @Plymouth Scholars
- 9/24: Girls Volleyball Home; Boys Soccer Home
- 9/27: \$1 Jean Day; Bonaventure 5pm-7pm
- 9/30: Girls Volleyball and Boys Soccer @Keystone
- 10/1: Girls Volleyball and Boys Soccer @South Canton
- 10/2: Count Day (Free Dress for students)
- 10/3: Girls Volleyball and Boys Soccer @Canton
- 10/8: Girls Volleyball and Boys Soccer @Plymouth Scholars
- 10/10: Girls Volleyball and Boys Soccer @Achieve

## Reminder!

Please be sure to turn in all your paperwork and complete all the forms in your parent portal.

## Late Pick Up

Students who are not picked up by 3:45pm will be in the gym under admin supervision. A late pick up fee of \$1 per minute will be charged to families of late pick up students beginning at 3:45pm. Please note that this is a change from previous years and is aligned to the Parent Student Handbook. All families will have to enter through the front door to pick up students if it is after 3:45pm. This is due to meetings and personal obligations of staff members. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

## Early Dismissal

The end of the school day is a busy transition time for students and parents. One of our primary goals at Grand River Academy is student safety and high academics. To facilitate a smoother dismissal process for everyone we are implementing the following dismissal process. The school office will close at 2:30pm. If you want to dismiss your child early, it must be done before 2:30pm-unless there's an emergency. You can still call the office during this time.

We believe that this will create a safer environment for students and staff as the school day concludes. In addition to this, we will be able to protect and maximize the instructional time for all students.

## Online Learning Resources

[www.mynha.com/launchpad](http://www.mynha.com/launchpad)

Logging into this site will log your student into all of GRA's online resources.

[www.mobymax.com](http://www.mobymax.com)

[www.dreambox.com](http://www.dreambox.com)

### **OTHER FREE RESOURCES**

**NWEA MAP practice – math and reading**

[www.prepdog.org](http://www.prepdog.org)

**NWEA MAP Math Practice**

<http://www.sowashco.k12.mn.us/ro/pages/studentlinks/map/>

## Key Areas to Emphasize College Readiness at Grand River Academy

Students are considered tardy at 8:00am daily. Students should be in their classrooms and prepared to learn before 8:00am.

Appointments should be made outside of school hours whenever possible to eliminate the need for early dismissal. 24 hours notice must be given to the front office for a child to be dismissed early from school. No early dismissals are permitted after 2:30pm.

In an effort to maximize instructional time, once the school day has begun (8:00am), we are asking parents to refrain from going to the classrooms unless you have an appointment or are scheduled to volunteer in the classroom. Only scheduled volunteers or parents with appointments will be allowed in the building during our instructional hours. We welcome parents to join us in our assemblies as always.

## Invest in a Scholar Fundraiser

Our Invest in a Scholar Fundraiser takes the place of selling candy bars, wrapping paper, pizza kits, cookie dough, etc.

Your generous donations allows us to supplement the costs of family events, in school activities, purchase equipment, support field day and much more.

More information will be sent out the first week of school