
GRAND RIVER ACADEMY



Newsletter



A Note from the Principal

Happy New Year in advance! It's hard to believe but first semester is over and we are into second semester. Students will have their new classes loaded and they should begin those as soon as the break is over. Remember that students can continue to work on this semester's classes over the break if they are not finished with them.

The State of Colorado is responsible for the accountability of Colorado public schools. Each year they publish a School Performance Framework (SPF). It provides information on a school's performance.

The SPF has four possible ratings:

1. Performance
2. Improvement
3. Priority Improvement
4. Turnaround

Each of these ratings also has the possibility of having a "Low Participation" attached to it as well. This means that the participation rate on the Colorado State assessments was below the 95% that is required to meet the State's standard.

Grand River has received a rating of "Improvement- Low Participation." Our score was 51.9% overall on the SPF. The cutoff for a performance plan is 53%. Grand River is 1.1% away from meeting the cutoff for a performance plan.

However, we have work to do. Having an improvement rating means that we are required to write a Unified Improvement Plan or UIP. The UIP is a document that contains an analysis of our academic growth and achievement data to identify the causes of low areas on the SPF. It also addresses what we are going to do to improve in the areas where we are lowest and identifies goals for these areas.

Our focus for the Unified Improvement Plan is:

1. Increasing graduation rates
2. Maintaining dropout rates below state requirements.
3. Increasing SAT math achievement scores.
4. Increasing PSAT/SAT math growth.
5. Increasing PSAT/SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing growth.

The State will review our Unified improvement plan. The feedback from the State will be incorporated into the UIP.

The UIP will be available to review on the Colorado Department of Education's website in April. However, I'm happy to provide you a copy of our draft UIP if you would like to review it.

Student Photos

To build social awareness and our Grand River community, we would like to display a photograph of each of our students doing something they love. Please have your student bring in their picture when they return from break. If you'd like the photograph returned to you, please write your student's full name and grade on the back. You can also email the picture to karla.durmas@d51schools.org if you'd like us to take care of printing it. Thanks!

Thank you for sharing your student with us
Warm Regards
Steve States.

Ice Skating

Ice Skating at Glacier Ice Arena:

Hello Grand River Academy Families!
Below is information on a
January opportunity.

What: Ice Skating

When: Friday, Jan. 17 1:30-3:30

Where: Glacier Ice Arena: 2515 Riverside Parkway

Who: Grand River students and families

Cost: \$8/ person (includes skates and 2 hours on the ice)

RSVP

required: <https://forms.gle/hecbSPEGy42Ukg4k7>

Elementary students must have an adult remain.

Those that can attend will meet at Glacier Ice Arena.

Please rsvp by Jan. 13 so they can staff appropriately.

Permission slips are required. There are printed copies at school on the activities bulletin board and outside middle school classrooms. We can also email you a copy if you request one.

Year Book

This year Grand River Academy will have a yearbook put together by our fantastic students!

Order yours today!

K-12

Customizable

Hardcover - \$30

Softcover - \$20

E-book - \$10

Pre-order by Mar. 27, 2020

Order at:

Grandriveracademy.picaboo.com

December Calendar

1st-3rd Winter Break

6th Teacher Workday, no tutoring or study labs

7th Inservice Day, no school for 9th grade, 6th grade or k-2 students.

8th School resumes

20th No tutoring or study labs (no school)

27th Dodge Ball Tournament 4-6 pm

30th Conferences 4-8 pm

Attendance Matters

Attendance is one predictor of student success. Students must attend on their weekly day and attend online. Please make sure your student is getting 30 hours of work per week, at a minimum. Each Student's day onsite is counted in their instruction. Each teacher has made accommodations in their Odysseyware course to account for the on-site day. Below are the required days and times of attendance:

K-2nd grades- Tuesday 8:30am-2:30pm

3rd-5th grades- Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm

k-5th grades- Thursday 8:30am-2:30pm (optional day)

*6th grade- Tuesday 8:30am-2:30pm

*7th grade – Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm

*8th grade- Thursday 8:30am-2:30pm

9th grade- Tuesday 9am-2:30pm

10th grade- Wednesday 9am-2:30pm

11th/12th grade- Thursday 9am-2:30pm

*6th, 7th, and 8th grade have "Stay & Play" from 2:30pm-3:00pm on their scheduled day (optional).