

Grand Junction High School



April 2017

Ari Goldberg, Principal | Carol Coburn, Assistant Principal | Meghan Roenicke, Assistant Principal
Alicia Timbreza, Assistant Principal | Tom LeFebre, Dean of Students | Carol Sams, Director of Athletics

Important Dates

State Testing

April 11, 12 & 18, 2017

Parent/Teacher Conference

April 13, 2017
3:30 to 7:30 p.m. @ Cafete-
ria, Commons and Library

Letter of Acceptance or Denial of School of Choice Application

April 14, 2017

Tiger Tour for Freshmen

April 24, 2017 6:30 to 8 p.m.
@ Gym

Prom

April 29, 2017 7:30 p.m.
@ Two Rivers Convention
Center

No School

May 4 & 5, 2017

Last day for seniors

May 9, 2017

Baccalaureate Graduation

May 14, 2017 7 p.m.
@ Auditorium

Graduation

May 16, 2017 8:30 a.m.
@ Lincoln Park

A Message From Principal Ari Goldberg:

April 2017

Welcome Spring!

Wow how the weather has become so beautiful these past few weeks. I hope everyone enjoyed the spring break week as we gear up for the testing season in April.

Last year Grand Junction High School met expectations for academic growth and for postsecondary and workforce readiness on our School Performance Framework (our school report card). We ranked as approaching for academic achievement. We meet expectations in dropout rates and graduation rates. Unfortunately, because we fell below the expected participation rate, our school dropped ratings from a "Performance" school to an "Improvement Plan" school by the Colorado Department of Education. We need parent support with less "opt outs" in order to move off this improvement plan.

We understand that there are a few individual students and families for whom opting out of the state testing is appropriate. A few years back, "opting out" was considered by some a necessary political message. Fortunately, that message has been heard by our legislators. In fact, the amount of time spent on testing is actually less than half what it was a few years ago. Also, the State has made changes that make sense for our high school students and post-secondary options. This year, 9th graders will continue to take the PARCC exams in literacy and math. Our 10th graders will all take the PSAT, which is the practice test for the SAT. All 11th graders will take the SAT. The PSAT/SAT is one of the two most commonly used entrance exam to colleges and universities. The PSAT/SAT has replaced the state given ACT that 11th graders were expected to take in the past years. We need your students to participate in these exams as they are purposeful and will benefit all students for options and opportunities after high school. The testing schedule is included in this newsletter.

As always, we are packed with extracurricular activities. Our spring sports schedules are in full swing. Our spring activities are underway. I want to recognize and congratulate Coady Shawcroft and our Academic Team for another State Championship win! Not

(Continued on next page)

only did they bring home the 5A State Championship Trophy but also the Governor's Cup for best in all classifications. Good luck at the National competition. Also I want to recognize and honor Josiah Rider. Josiah won his second state championship in wrestling this last winter season. Congratulations! As you can see, our students are working hard, learning, and achieving every day. I always love how busy things are and how much fun it is to watch these aspiring young adults work towards great achievements.

Have a great spring Tigers!

Ari Goldberg.

State Testing

GJHS Families,

It's that time again! State Testing is just around the corner: April 11th, 12th, and 18th.

Want to know more of what state testing is all about?

Check out this Factsheet link: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/cmasfactsheet>

In response to parents' input, the state has scaled back testing requirements for high school students. Just a few years ago, state testing took six days out of instruction time and all four grades were required to test. This year only freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are required to test and we will only cancel two days of classroom instruction (April 11 and 12) to accommodate most of the testing. Only juniors will miss classes during an additional half day on April 18 – some students in the morning and some in the afternoon.

Here are dates and tests and dates that students will take at each grade level:

9th Grade: April 11th and 12th - PARCC testing in Math and English.

- These tests will be taken on computer.
- Regular classes will be cancelled these two days.
- Students will not miss instruction time in order to take the PARCC tests.

10th Grade: April 12th – PSAT (Preliminary SAT).

- The PSAT provides a good way to begin preparation for the required SAT that students will take their junior year.
- The PSAT provides students with a projected score on and recommendations for study for the SAT the following year.
- The PSAT has a place in the registration process where a student can indicate interest in receiving material from a college or university.
- The PSAT is an early indicator of college readiness and can be used to guide course selection for the rest of a student's high school career.
- The PSAT is good practice for those students who want to take the PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) the fall of their junior year to gain opportunities for scholarship money.
- Students will not miss instruction time in order to take PSAT.
- Regular classes will be cancelled on these days
- Sophomores will not need to come to school on April 11th.

11th Grade: April 11th – SAT; April 18th – CMAS Science

SAT:

- Juniors will take the SAT on April 11th.
- This test replaces the ACT, which has previously been given to juniors in years past.
- Almost every college accepts the SAT as an entrance exam.
- Juniors are able to take it for free on this day and have their scores sent to colleges of their choice.
- If students choose not to take the SAT here at the school, they will have to make arrangements to take the test another time and will be required to pay for it on their own.
- **IMPORTANT:** The SAT is one way for students to meet the proficiencies in Math and English required for graduation. These proficiencies must be shown on standardized tests.
- Regular classes will be cancelled April 11 & 12. Students will not miss instruction time to take the SAT Test.
- Juniors will not need to come to school on April 12th.

CMAS Science:

- Juniors will take the state standardized test to show what they have learned in science at Grand Junction High School.
- This test will be given while classes are running on April 18th.
- Students will be assigned either the morning session or the afternoon session of testing and will be excused from a half day of classes in order to take the test.

12th Grade: No testing.

- **Seniors will not come to school on April 11th and 12th.**

NOTE:

If your student is unable to take any test for which he or she is assigned, please find the link on District 51 website for excusing your student from the testing. Further information will be forthcoming.

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Are you willing to make a \$200,000 gamble?

The average cost of 4-year public college is \$112,000; for private college, its \$236,000. Next to buying a home, post-secondary education is the most expensive investment a family will make. Yet many students leave it up to chance in finding the right college. Luck is not a plan. Let me help you find your "Best-Fit" colleges. Local, honest, experienced.



Kirk Golba
210-0727

1. Consider important college characteristics you want in a college
2. Understand your learning style and find colleges that embrace that
3. Prioritize and use the college characteristics as a filter when choosing your college list
4. Create a list that has two Safeties, three Targets, and two Reach colleges

Tiger Tips for Clothing in Spring Time

We are moving into the glorious warmer weather of spring! As we enjoy the sun and warmth, we need GJHS students to remember our clothing guidelines. This means wearing clothing that represents your personality, while also preserving modesty and respecting others. We want to remind students that short shorts, tops which expose the midriff, low cut or strappy tops, shirts with oversized armholes or with inappropriate pictures or messages are not school appropriate.

With this in mind, we offer the following condensed dress code rules:

Please have your student select clothing that...

- o Covers undergarments and traditionally private areas of the body. This includes bra straps, stomach, buttocks, upper thighs, back, chest and breasts.
- o Is mid-thigh length or longer when viewed from the back, as well as the front. Remember that you may need to walk up stairs, bend over, or sit on the floor at some point during the day. Make sure you can do this and stay covered.
- o Stays up, rather than sagging. Excessively baggy pants may be sagging lower than you think.

And avoid clothing that...

- o Is strapless, asymmetrical (one shouldered), open-backed (halter tops), or spaghetti strapped. These tops might be great layering pieces but should be covered at all times.
- o Exposes torso skin, undergarments, or otherwise inappropriate areas of skin (e.g., muscle shirts, see-through tops, jeans with "fashion holes").
- o Degrades any race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.
- o Is obscene, profane, vulgar, lewd, or legally libelous.
- o Promotes drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sexual activity, or weapons.
- o Denotes membership in a gang. This includes bandanas.

For a complete explanation of our Dress Code, please see Section III, Part C on pages 32 - 34 of the Student Handbook.



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All Spring Sports are underway at Grand Junction High School. Please continue to check the school website for changes in schedules, times, and locations. Please support all students and coaches this spring with positive cheers and excellent sportsmanship.



GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Tiger Girls' Basketball Team ended the season in Denver with a loss against Dakota Ridge in the 5A State Playoffs. This is the 17th consecutive season the Tigers have qualified for the playoffs. With the 4th most difficult strength of schedule in the state, the Tigers greatly improved as the season progressed. The Tigers' say goodbye to 6 seniors who provided strong team leadership during this season of growth.

One Tiger, Makenzie Younker, was selected 1st team All-Conference, the only sophomore on the 1st team. Congratulations, Tigers!!

BOYS BASKETBALL

The GJHS boys' basketball team completed the season a few weeks ago, with a 5-3 league record, and 13-11 overall record. The varsity team hosted and won a playoff game against Columbine on February 22, before falling to a highly ranked Grandview team in the 2nd round the following Saturday. All 3 of the GJHS teams finished the regular season with winning records with Varsity at 13-11 as mentioned, JV at 9-6, and Freshmen at 8-4. The 2016-2017 season was a great success for all three of the teams and the coaches are looking forward to seeing the underclassmen players continue to develop in the off season. Three of the varsity players, Andrew Hansen, Trevor Olkowski, and Drew Derrieux, were selected to the Southwestern League All Conference Team, and Drew was selected as the SWL Player of the Year. The attention now turns to the off season workouts and player improvement in preparation for the 2017-18 season.

WRESTLING

The GJHS wrestling had a stellar end to their season. During the last month of competition GJHS won the SWL team title, a Regional title, & finished 2nd at the Colorado State Championships. Plenty of individual accolades accompanied the team titles.

1st Team SWL: Dawson Collins 106 lbs, Angelo Guillen 113 lbs, Tyren Castonguay 126 lbs, Dylan Martinez 132 lbs, Josiah Rider 152 lbs, JT Skalecki 160 lbs, Hunter Tobiasson 182 lbs, & Shawn Garcia 220 lbs.

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Regionals:

1st Place Winners- Dawson Collins 106 lbs, Tyren Castonguay 126 lbs, Dylan Martinez 132 lbs, Josiah Rider 145 lbs, Seth Latham 170 lbs

2nd Place- Angelo Guillen 113 lbs, JT Skalecki 160 lbs, Hunter Tobiasson 182 lbs, Shawn Garcia 220 lbs.

4th Place- Talen Valerio 120 lbs

5th Place- Jeremy Latham 138 lbs

CHSAA State Championships:

1st- Josiah Rider 145 lbs (Josiah is now a 2x State Champion)(5A CHSAA Wrestler of the Year)

2nd- Dawson Collins 106 lbs

2nd- Dylan Martinez 132 lbs

3rd- Shawn Garcia 220 lbs

4th- Tyren Castonguay 126 lbs

4th- Seth Latham 170 lbs

5th- JT Skalecki 160 lbs

GIRLS' LACROSSE

The GJHS Girls' Lacrosse team is off to a great start! The Tigers have a huge number of girls who have come out to give lacrosse a try! This year the Tigers are fielding a full Junior Varsity and Varsity team. There are a number of home games at the end of March/beginning of April, so come out and support the girls' lacrosse team. Check the school calendar for dates and location of the games.

GIRLS' TENNIS

The 2017 Tiger girls' tennis season is underway. The Tigers have 5 returning varsity players from the 2016 season. With 6 new players added to the roster, the team is looking to gain momentum as the season progresses and finish with a strong showing at Regionals in May.

Incoming freshmen, Julianna Campos, will take the top spot for the Tigers at #1 singles. Returners Isabelle Manzanares, Bree Call, Kamryn Peltier, Elise Larsen, and Emily Starritt will be looked to for leadership throughout the season.

The month of March is a busy month with 5 dual matches and a 16 team tournament. The team hopes to build confidence, improve on skills and develop strategies that will propel the team to victory in April and May.

GIRLS' SOCCER

The 2017 Grand Junction High School Girls Soccer season opened this year with promise. This year seven returning seniors play their last season here as Tiger Soccer players. Joining the seniors are 22 other promising student athletes. With great senior leadership and improved numbers, the Tigers anticipate a productive and fun soccer season! Come out and support GJHS Girls' Soccer!

TRACK AND FIELD

Tiger track and field has been working hard and is excited to get into competition this season. They start their 2017 campaign at Stocker Stadium on Saturday, March 11th. The girls' squad is led this season by seniors Tasalyn Anderson, Megan King, Tiffany Maska, Alex Nicoletti, Kaia Rinaldi, Madison Schmalz, Jada Uylett, Isabella Wittrock, Tia Wright and Madison Younker. The boys' team will be led by seniors Andrew Bennett, Isaac Burton, Preston Deters, Nick Duncan, Jake Fairbanks, Nate Hale, Thomas Oakley and Michael White. The Tigers encourage everyone to come and support them this season to see their hard work pay off!

BASEBALL

Tiger baseball season is right around the corner! The season kicks off March 9th, 10th, and 11th with the Bill Fanning Classic at Suplizio Field and Canyon View Park. The team and coaches are excited to get started and are expecting great things this year. During spring break the Tigers will be in Arizona playing three games against teams from around the country. When they return, league play starts up against Fruita Monument. The team hopes to see as many people out at the games as possible. Go Tigers!!

GIRLS' GOLF

The GJHS Girl's Golf team is off to a great start with a first tournament championship under their belts. Monday, March 6th was the season opener at Chipeta Golf course. Despite the howling winds and cold temperatures, the Tigers won the tournament by 15 strokes over second place Glenwood Springs. Freshman, Gracie Olkowski, lead the way for the Tigers with a score of 71 follow by Junior, Savannah Balint 81 and Sophomore, Jenna Greenlee 82. Chloe Manchester finished with a score of 86 and Taylor Rubalcaba rounded out the varsity scores with a 93. The JV Tigers will start the season with a 2-person scramble at Lincoln Park.

BOYS' LACROSSE

With many off season workouts, the GJHS Boys Lacrosse program is excited and optimistic about the upcoming season. The Boys Lacrosse team has a demanding schedule this spring which will require all of the hard work the boy's put in during the offseason, to be put into action. With a young team, the future of Grand Junction High School Boys' Lacrosse is bright! Hope to see you at the games!! Come out and support the Tigers!!

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Paying for AP Exams

AP Exams have been ordered and are on their way to GJHS! If you have not paid for your student's exams please do so ASAP.

- All payments must be paid online.
 - Go to <https://user.totalregistration.net/student/login.php>
- Your student will not be allowed to take the exam if it has not been paid for in advance.
 - [Click here](#) for the AP Exam testing schedule
- If your student chooses not to take the exam there is a \$15 charge from the College Board to send the exam back.

Thank you for your help in making the administration of the AP Exams run smoothly!

GJHS Students Plan Suicide Awareness Walk

The RISE program at Grand Junction High School is putting together a benefit walk to raise awareness about mental health, suicide, and suicide prevention in Grand Junction.

The "RISE Above the Silence" walk will be held on CMU's campus on April 22nd, 2017. Registration begins at 5:30 and the event runs from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. To join the walk, the recommended donation is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students and kids. However, people are encouraged to donate whatever they can or want to, and all community members are invited to attend, even without a donation. All proceeds will be donated to The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Mesa County has one of the highest suicide rates in Colorado, a state with already high rates compared to other states nationwide. Our student population in Grand Junction has been tremendously impacted by loss as well, with four losses of current and former students at Grand Junction High School alone. Only through continuing education, advocacy, and community building can we hope to reverse this trend. We are hoping other members of Mesa County will join us in our fight against suicide and the stigmas that surround mental health issues, and will donate, recruit, or walk with us.

People looking for more information or wanting to register for the walk can go to the website: riseabovethesilence.weebly.com. They can also send inquiries to RiseAboveTheSilenceGJ@gmail.com.

About RISE: RISE is a college prep program at Grand Junction High School for students who want to go to college but come from disadvantaged backgrounds. It spans all four grade levels and includes 86 students and six teachers.

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Safe2Tell Colorado

Dear Parents,

School District 51 is excited to announce the launch of a new free resource available to our students and community. Safe2Tell Colorado provides another way for students, parents and community members to report unsafe and risky behaviors before they grow out of control. Each year, Safe2Tell Colorado receives thousands of reports on bullying, cyber-bullying, suicide threats, mental health concerns, child abuse, substance abuse, violence, planned school attacks, and other concerning behaviors. Each concern reported to Safe2Tell Colorado allows for caring, concerned adults to effectively intervene in the life a child or youth who is struggling.

Please use the link below to navigate through resources and information designed specifically for parents. If you have further questions please contact the Safety and Security Office at 970-254-5103.

<https://safe2tell.org/parents>

Sincerely,

Kati Garner

School District 51 Safe2Tell Representative

Booster Club

GJHS Booster Club needs you!

So far this year we have received and approved 18 requests for funding and the GJHS Booster Club has given almost **\$33,000** back to our students. The Boosters have supported the purchases of new equipment for the Track and Field teams, new books for our library and so much more.

As we look toward another graduating class of Seniors we also look to graduate many of our Booster Club members. We need you! The generous support of your time is all it takes to make this happen!



Come by GJHS Room 120 at 6:00 pm on 4/10/2017 and

check it out. A new and exciting way to support our students here at GJHS! If you have questions about becoming a Booster Club member and volunteer, please contact: GJHS Athletic/ Activities Director Carol Sams at 254-6900 or carol.sams@d51schools.org

Student Fees

Just a friendly reminder from the SBA office to encourage everyone to try and avoid the end of year rush to pay student fees. It is much easier for everyone involved to try to take care of outstanding balances as soon as possible and avoid the craziness of the last week of school. A special reminder to graduating seniors that all fees and fines must be paid before participating in the graduation ceremony. Fees can be paid online through MyPaymentsPlus, by mail, or in person with cash, check, or credit card. If there are any questions or issues with fees, please call Kathy Rigg, 254-6900 x 24107.

March 2017 Students of the Month!!!

Sydney Tuttle and **Carlos Murillo** are our Alpine/CMU Students of the Month! Lori and Richard Tuttle are Sydney's parents. Martha Huaracha and Rogello Murillo are Carlos' parents.

Viviana Grigware is our Kiwanis Student of the Month! Viviana is the daughter of Beverly and James Grigware. Grand Junction High School is proud to recognize these students for their outstanding work in the classroom as well as the leadership that they show in our school.

Knowledge Bowl and History Bowl

At the State Knowledge Bowl Tournament held at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, the GJHS Academic Team won the 5A State Championship. They also won first in all classifications and received the Governor's Cup. The team is coached by **Coady Shawcroft** and members of the team are: Captain **Joshua Foutz**, **Anij Magill**, **Sean Palmer**, **Noah Schmidt**, **Matt Chambers**, **R. D. Clare**, **Chance Eden**, **Amanda Gordon** and **Kordale Bavor**. Coach Shawcroft credits their success to the teachers at GJHS, the dedicated group of alumni and the incredible work ethic of the team. The team will compete at the National Academic Quiz Tournament High School National Championship Tournament, May 26 to 28 in Atlanta, Georgia.



GJHS's History Bowl A team placed first at the Colorado State History Bowl competition. In addition, GJHS's A and B teams both qualified for National History Bowl in Washington DC on April 23rd.

In the individual Varsity History Bee GJHS student **Noah Schmidt** won 1st in Colorado. **Sean Palmer** placed 4th in Varsity, and **Matt Chambers** placed 5th. **Anthony Booth** placed 4th in JV History Bee. All qualified for National History Bee.

Congratulations on the supreme effort of the teams!

Band

At the Jazz Festival at Fort Lewis College on March 2, 4th and 5th Hour Jazz Bands had a great showing. They had the top two scores of the day and 5th Hour won Top High School Jazz Band and Outstanding Jazz Band overall.

Wind Ensemble also had a great festival at the CBA State Qualifier on Monday, earning straight Superior ratings. Congratulations to the bands and Mr. Lavadie!



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