

Ram Announcer

December 2019

www.g-aschools.org



**Robotics and STEAM Education are growing
at Galesburg-Augusta!**

Details on page 4



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Wendy Maynard-Somers, Superintendent

Thank you, Ram parents and community members for your on-going support of our students and their educational experiences at G-A. Many events occur that would not happen without the support of so many of you.

Over the course of the past year, the District has solicited feedback from parents, students, staff and community members as to the future challenges as well as hopes and vision for bettering our programming and facilities for students.

What we know is that families who send their students to Galesburg-Augusta, the students who attend and our graduates alike, always tell us that the best part of being at G-A is the sense of family that comes from being part of a small district. They also tell us that teachers know their students and truly care about their children.

They are glad to see that G-A has done a good job at increasing opportunities for students: wrestling, track and cross-country programs are growing and so are our youth programs. We have added more art, music and put more funds into lighting, sound and curtains for our small middle school auditorium. We are poised to see a drama program get started! Our hope is to keep growing opportunities in the fine arts as creativity and team work are critical skills for life after high school, both personally and in a career.

We have also been investing in more STEM/STEAM education. Courses that emphasize science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics help prepare students for the jobs that are the fastest growing across Michigan and the world. We are introducing these concepts as early as Kindergarten and support a First Robotics competitive team at the high school. Our goal is to build partnerships with local businesses to ensure our students experience what it means to use this knowledge to solve real-world problems.

Several students, parents and community members have provided us other suggestions for improvement. For example, we have not had a competitive track for our athletes nor for our high school physical education classes to use for health and fitness for over 20 years. Families and students wish they had more opportunities during and after school to investigate their interests and talents: soccer, dance, choir, archery, woodshop, weight-lifting, strength and conditioning, as well as adequate space for our youth teams, and space for performances and community recreational events.

Our challenge is that school funding is based on the total number of students who attend G-A. Additionally, there are no State or Federal funds for facilities. When families decide to send their students to other districts, it may be because we don't offer all the things that another district might be able to offer due to size, yet it's our small-town feel and family orientation that is the number # 1 thing that those who attend LOVE about G-A. Unfortunately, each child who goes somewhere else, means less funds overall for our district to continue to add the programming and facilities our students deserve.

Inside the pages of this Ram Announcer are some of the many ways our teachers, support staff and administrators work hard every day to make this a district we are proud of. When families with children move into our district, we want Galesburg-Augusta Schools to be their destination district! If you have a story to tell about ways G-A has been there for your student, email me and let's get your story of support out to others.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Holiday Season!

Wendy Maynard-Somers

wendy.somers@garams.org

SCHOOLS OF CHOICE ENROLLMENT FOR SECOND SEMESTER 2019-2020

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools is accepting K-12 Schools of Choice applications for the 2019-2020 school year. The application window for second semester enrollment of the 2019-2020 school year will be January 6, 2020 through January 20, 2020. Applications will be available on January 6, 2020, at www.g-aschools.org or the administration office, 1076 N. 37th Street, Galesburg, MI 49053. If you have any questions, please call the administration office at 269-484-2000.

G-A Community Schools Foundation

Education Enhancement Grant Recipients

The goals of the G-A Education Enhancement program are:

1. Fund up to \$500 for special and/or unique teaching ideas/projects that help students learn.
2. Encourage staff to create an enthusiastic student learning environment.

Great teachers are always looking for new ways to expand their instruction and engage their students. Innovative teaching is important--and it can include expenses not normally part of a building's budget.



The G-A Community Schools Foundation awarded 30 projects, totaling \$12,039.68 in the following areas:

Classroom chapter books

Raffle prizes for high school seniors on Senior Decision Day (celebrating all plans after high school)

Classroom materials for supporting social emotional learning

Clothing support for high school students in Education for Employment/Arts classes to attend job placements/fairs

Science investigations

Literacy center supports at the Primary School

Field trip to Greenfield Village

Celebrations to recognize students who follow the RAM way

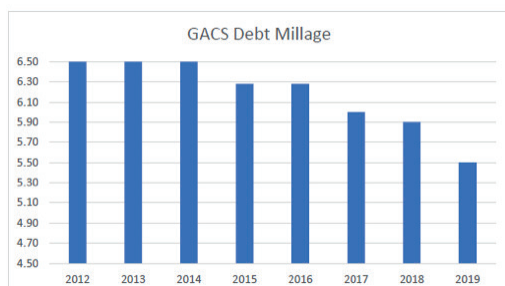
Computer software to help students learn computer coding and complete a design challenge



Debt Millage Changes for Galesburg-Augusta Taxpayers

- by Finance Director, Phillip Heasley

Below is a graph showing the changes to the debt tax level for G-A over the course of the last eight (8) years. The GACS Board of Education approved a tax levy resolution in June 2019 that included a debt tax levy of 5.5 mills on all property in the district, including households. This represents a 1.0 mill reduction (over 15%) since 2014. Homeowners in the District with a taxable value of \$50,000 will pay \$50 less in school debt tax this winter compared to 5 years ago.



2012 6.50
 2013 6.50
 2014 6.50
 2015 6.28
 2016 6.28
 2017 6.00
 2018 5.90
 2019 5.50

← Voter approval of \$10.2 million

County Calendar Has Been Approved for 2020-2021

All the districts in Kalamazoo County agreed to request a waiver from the MI Dept. of Education to start school before Labor Day. All districts have received a waiver for the next three (3) years. For those of our students who are participating in dual enrollment and Early Middle College, the before-Labor Day-start will put many of their calendars in sync.

While the district calendar for the 2020-2021 school year isn't complete, here are some dates you can count on:

First start date of school:

August 31, 2020

(Labor Day Weekend ~ Friday – Monday)

December holiday break:

December 21, 2020 - January 1, 2021

(Return to school on January 4, 2021)

Spring Break:

March 29, 2021 - April 2, 2021

~ The last week of March!

The last week of school:

June 7 – 11, 2021

(exact last date must still be negotiated)

Robotics and STEAM Education are growing at Galesburg-Augusta!

Why STEAM Education?:

STEM/STEAM education better prepares our students for the globalized economy of the 21st century. It also develops the skills and capacities that employers are looking for in the fastest growing fields in our economy.

STEM/STEAM Education:

- Fosters
 - Ingenuity and creativity
- Encourages
 - Resilience
 - Experimentation
 - Teamwork
 - Practical application of knowledge
 - Use of contemporary technology
 - Adaptation
 - Problem solving skills
 - Critical thinking skills



Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools STEAM Offerings:

- Kindergarten: Structure and Function-Exploring Design
- 1st Grade: Light and Sound
- 2nd Grade: Materials Science-Form and Function
- 3rd Grade: Stability and Motion-The Science of Flight
- 4th Grade: Energy-Collisions
- 5th Grade: Robotics and Automation
- 6th Grade: Design and Modeling
- 6th Grade: Computer Science-Coding
- 7th Grade: Medical Detectives
- 7th Grade: Computer Design-Graphic Arts
- 8th Grade: Automation and Robotics
- 9th Grade: Principles of Engineering
- K-12: Teaching for Artistic Behavior
- K-5: Music Education
- 6-12: Band

G-A is Focused on Reducing Class Sizes

Here at Galesburg-Augusta every student counts! To that end the Board of Education has put an emphasis on reducing class sizes so that teachers have more time for students, both academically and social-emotionally. When I talk to families of G-A students, when I talk to students about what they love about G-A, the first thing they always say is that it feels like "Family." We believe that all students deserve to build a strong foundation for future learning. G-A is committed to providing our students what they need, when they need it. We do that best when our teacher to student ratio is smaller!

Here is a look at our average class sizes for K-7:

Kindergarten = 19

1st grade: 18.25

2nd grade = 23

3rd grade = 23

4th grade: 18

5th grade: 20

6th grade: 18

7th grade: 22

Pathways to Potential Staff at Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools:



Ms. Jillaine Zonts has joined our district from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as a Caseworker and P2P Coach.

Our program is designed to improve attendance, connect families and build partnerships. We're partnering with the schools so we can be closer to the families in need. We work closely with families to address the areas of attendance, education, health, safety and self-sufficiency. Our goal is to see every family find and reach their pathway to success. Ms. Zonts has an office in our High School and can be reached at: 269-271-7903.

G-A Welcomes New and Current Staff!



Welcome fourth grade team to the middle school!

(L to R) Misty Pfeiffer, Anna Burke, Kathryn Dooley (new to the 4th grade team this school year) and Steve Washburn



New High School Teachers

(L to R) Chris Enders, Math Teacher and Jay Rietdyk, Science Teacher



Cheryl Cadwell
Food Service Director



Davis Brown
New High School
Alternative Education Instructor



Welcome 8th grade team to the high school!

(Back Row L to R) Bob Verduzco, Math, Mike Woodard, Social Studies, Kaj Holm, Science, Jacob Baumann, Special Education Resource Room
(Front Row L to R) Amanda Brincks, Spanish, Jessica McKinley, English
Kaj Holm, Jessica McKinley and Jacob Baumann are new to the district this year.

Galesburg Augusta Primary and Middle Schools celebrated International Walk to School Day on Thursday and Friday October 23rd and 24th.

Approximately 300 students from Galesburg Primary and the Middle School participated in the annual Walk to School event on Thursday, October 23rd and Friday, October 24th. Middle School students along with parents, teachers and community leaders enjoyed walking from the library in Augusta to the Middle School on Thursday. Primary students, parents, and teachers walked the Kalamazoo Valley River Trail on Friday.

Walk to School Day events raise awareness of the need to create safer routes for walking and bicycling and emphasize the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion and concern for the environment. The event builds connections between families, schools and the broader community.

About International Walk to School Day

- Walk to School Day was established in the United States in 1997 by the Partnership for a Walkable America. Canada and Great Britain already had walk to school programs in place. In 2000, these three countries joined together to create International Walk to School Day.
- In May 2006, the National Center for Safe Routes to School was established to assist communities in enabling and encouraging children to safely walk and bike to school.
- The National Center for Safe Routes to School serves as the national coordinating agency for Walk to School and Bike to School activities in the United States.
- Walk to School Day began as a simple idea – children and parents, school and local officials walking to school together on a designated day. It is an energizing event, reminding everyone of the simple joy of walking to school, the health benefits of regular daily activity, and the need for safe places to walk and bike. Schools focus on health, safety, physical activity and concern for the environment.
- Organizations supporting International Walk to School Day in the United States include America Walks, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Highway Administration, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the National Center for Safe Routes to School, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Safe Kids Worldwide, and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership.

GALESBURG-AUGUSTA PRIMARY SCHOOL

315 W. Battle Creek St. Galesburg, MI 49053

Principal: Shaun Sportel • (269)484-2040



Second Grade Teachers were at training for EBLI – Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction

The second-grade team: Mrs. Boniface, Mrs. Jankowski, Ms. Terry, and Mrs. Reisterer went to three days of EBLI training in September. What is EBLI you might ask... according to their website, EBLI consists of an explicit, systematic process of teaching literacy skills – reading, writing, and spelling – that assist learners of any age or ability level to reach their highest potential in these areas. Those trained in EBLI learn how to teach the skills, information, and strategies necessary to help students unlock the complex English alphabet code so they can use it to read and spell.



Working together!!

Mrs. Ryder's and Mrs. Palmer's third grade classes joined Mrs. Bell's four-year-old and Ms. Turner's three-year-old preschool classrooms outside to help make bubble snakes. What a great way for our students to work with each other and show kindness to one another.



RAM POWER PACKS

Exciting news! We are now serving 17 students!! Ram Power Packs are bags of food for students in need, to take home over weekends and breaks. The exciting news continues as the Kalamazoo Flower Group has agreed to donate all the food for our students over the holiday break! Things are also in the works for the Boy Scouts and area churches. We are so grateful for your donations!! THANK YOU!

Mr. Sportel's Showcase Book Selection

With the help of the Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools Foundation Grant, Mr. Sportel is able to continue to showcase a new book once a month. Our first three books this year were, "Schools First Day of School", "The Bad Seed" and "Who Would Win, Tarantula vs Scorpion". All classrooms receive a video message about the book from Mr. Sportel and then students Pre K-3rd grades receive a copy of the book for their classroom library. We can't wait to see what book will come next.



The following is a list of items needed for Ram Power Packs:

- Fruit/applesauce cups
- Cereal (single servings)
- Canned pasta
- Pop Tarts
- Granola bars
- Peanut butter (16 oz)
- Jam or Jelly in a plastic jar
- Ramen noodles
- Microwave popcorn
- Breakfast bars
- Instant oatmeal packs
- Chicken noodle soup
- Cheese and crackers
- Cheez-it (individual bags)
- Macaroni and cheese (microwavable)



WALK-A-THON



Adults for Galesburg-Augusta Kids (AFGAK) is a group of adults interested in improving the primary school experience and providing educational opportunities otherwise unavailable to the G-A Primary children.

On Thursday, Oct. 10th, AFGAK organized their 6th annual walk-a-thon. The students and the community brought in \$3,023.16 from the walkathon! The event took place out on the track, where students walked thru a hay maze, jumped over obstacles, and skipped and hopped their way around the track. The weather cooperated this year and blessed us with beautiful sunshine. As the students finished their walk, they were provided with a RAMS wristband, a water, and a snack for participating.

If you would like more information on how you can help out our PTO, please visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GA.AFGAK/> or email them at ga.afgak@gmail.com.



Students who raised \$100.00 or more towards the walk-a-thon got to participate in a Silly String fight with Mr. Sportel. The students and Mr. Sportel had a great time. Here are some pictures from the day :)

HAPPY Halloween



Halloween at the Primary is a huge event. If you have ever attended the Primary during Halloween you already know this, as the parking lot is full. Students and teachers prepare themselves for the parade, while parents, families, and guests work their way into the gymnasium to find a seat. The sounds of Halloween play over the loudspeakers and the parade gets under way starting with our preschoolers.

Rams Success Center

This year at the Primary School, we have the wonderful opportunity to provide our students with a place to have a sensory or needed break. We call it our Rams Success Center. Stationed in this room all day is one of our paraprofessionals, Mr. Bobb. Our room was designed for students to meet their needs when they need them. The room consists of Legos, coloring activities, a quiet corner, a screen to play things from Go Noodle, two treadmills, three trampolines, air hockey, foosball, punching bags, and balancing balls. This room is used throughout the day for students who have scheduled breaks with Mr. Bobb, but also for all students who need a break. They just need to present their pass from their teacher.



GALESBURG-AUGUSTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

750 W. Van Buren St., Augusta, MI 49012

Principal: Shana M. Wiese • (269)484-2020



Fire Safety Week

In recognition of Fire Safety Week, on Thursday, October 10, the Ross Township Fire Department visited fourth grade classrooms to talk about fire safety and prevention. This year's fire safety campaign was premised on the concept of everyday people motivating their households to develop and practice a home fire escape plan. The visiting firefighters stressed that these seemingly basic behaviors can have a life-saving impact. The presentation was topped off with a viewing of the fire trucks and hands-on experience with the power of a fire hose.



Community Circles are in full swing! At the start of each school day, students spend twenty minutes within their assigned community circles. These are groups facilitated by teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, and the counselor. In keeping with the middle school focus on our "School Family", we have implemented this program to create a sense of belonging / inclusion for our students. Mr. Korinek has created a calendar of discussion topics for the year, and staff members facilitate discussion within the groups, aimed at creating genuine, personal connections between / among students. Staff and students, alike, have embraced the concept and truly enjoy their time together. Much is being learned about sharing, listening, empathizing, and respecting others. This is an integral part of our building's promise to learn, to love, to lead, and to leave a legacy.



Positive Student Behavior Abounds!

What a great first marking period we've had with regard to students' positive behavior choices and all-around great attitudes. Throughout the day, staff members recognize students who are demonstrating positive behaviors and making good choices. Those students are given a RAMS ticket that they later submit for a weekly drawing. The more tickets a student submits...the better his/her chance of winning. One student ticket per grade level is drawn, weekly. These lucky winners are provided the opportunity to "shop" in our PBIS store. The 2019-2020 PBIS RAMS reward recipients, thus far:

4th grade

RJ Kasten
Kaiden Peugeot
Emily Baker
Camryn Jackson
Matthew Vasquez
Gixxer Blair
Jenisyn Klimp

5th grade

Gavin Lock
Tyler Evans
Emma Walker-Pike
Zoey Hopper
Peyton Newton
Anthony Behlke
Emily Coleman
Destini Lamons

6th grade

Jacy Hardin
Catori Collins
Avea Udvardy
Fischer Roodbergen
Wiley Johnson
Annabelle Garlin
Karlee Nigg
Maria Back

7th grade

Elijah Porter
Rhyann Wilson
Allisyn Stockwell
Isabella Gailhouse
Lillianna Perkins
Christina Cain
Elizabeth Flores
Jeremiah Mann

SPIRIT WEEK

Our Middle School Rams had an eventful spirit week (September 23-September 27), in conjunction with the high school's homecoming week. Students dressed in accordance with "themed days" such as: Pajama Day, College / Sports Day, Wacky Wednesday, Throwback Thursday, and G-A Spirit Day. Students earned a "spirit ticket" for each day they dressed for the occasion. Tickets were submitted on a daily basis; and on Friday, a grade-level drawing provided four lucky winners with spirit baskets, filled with unique gifts. The winners were: Sophia Georgeau (4th), Patrick Armock (5th), Robert Cain (6th), and Michael Harris (7th). The week was topped off with a pep assembly, hosted by the varsity football team and varsity cheerleaders. A great time was had by all!



DELAYED START LEARNING TIME

The theme for this year's delayed start days at the middle school is two-fold: Growth Mindset and The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. In our unwavering attempt to address the social and emotional needs of our students and to build positive relationships throughout the building, the middle school staff is committed to forging a path premised upon these habits:

- Be proactive (personal vision)
- Begin with the end in mind (personal leadership)
- Put first things first (personal management)
- Think Win/Win (interpersonal leadership)
- Seek first to understand, then to be understood (empathic communication)
- Synergize (creative cooperation)
- Sharpen the Saw (balanced self-renewal)

To learn more about these principles, read: *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen R. Covey

STRENGTHENING MATH SKILLS

The Math Interventionist has been working with all the grade levels at the middle school this year, providing individualized/small group attention and instruction to students based upon teacher recommendations and MAP percentile scores. With the 4th grade class specifically, additional testing and evaluations have been completed with recommended students. These assessments will be utilized to provide pointed remediation and skill building to promote a more successful experience for these students in their regular math classes.



GALESBURG-AUGUSTA MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY WRAP UP

The Galesburg Augusta Middle School Cross Country team had an excellent 2019 season. With many new runners, the team came together with support from each other and the community. This season we hosted our very own Jamboree at the Middle School, where all the runners had a personal record on their very own course.

From the first meet to the last, each runner practiced intensely to better themselves and the team. Many runners started practicing in the summer, which greatly benefited their strength and endurance. The boys' team was the largest it has been in years, with ten runners total. The boys led the team with their perseverance and determination, while along the way having a little fun with running games and humor. It has been an honor to coach a great group of young athletes!



-Coach Burke

GALESBURG-AUGUSTA HIGH SCHOOL

1076 N. 37th St., Galesburg, MI 49053

Principal: Christie Robinson • (269)484-2010



Etiquette Luncheon and Career Exploration

Etiquette Luncheon and Career Exploration

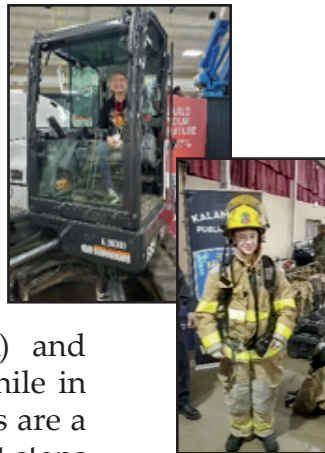
Ms. Hawk's Accounting, Banking & Finance, Business Management Administration, and Marketing classes took a trip this week to explore a variety of career choices at the Kalamazoo Airport and have a fine dining experience at Bravo. The employability goals in the Education for Employment classes include: employability, marketing, career choice, soft skills, and interview techniques. Students were allowed to tour the airport's TSA checkpoints, meet and greet with the airport Sheriff, climb inside a firetruck, and experience the other side of the airport system. As employees of an airport there is a whole different experience than that of a traveler.



MiCareer Quest

MiCareerQuest Southwest is a hands-on career readiness event just for middle school students designed to help them connect the dots and map their future ~ which may include taking Education for Employment (EFE), Education for the Arts (EFA) and other career path classes while in high school. These programs are a great springboard to the next steps after high school.

During this unique experience, students will test-drive possible careers – direct from people who do these jobs every day. We are grateful to the many businesses and individuals who support the event, volunteer their time, and help guide our young people toward their future.



The Mobile Dentist

Great news! Our school has partnered with the Smile Programs, and The Mobile Dental Clinic. GAHS will be offering in-school dental care on **Thursday, December 19, 2019.**

All insurance types accepted.

Uninsured can self-pay.

Licensed professionals.

Convenient.

Complete exams: exams, x-rays, fluoride, cleaning, sealants, even restorative care as needed. Sign your student up for the dental program at: www.myschooldentist.com



Harvest Dance

The 8th Grade class held a Harvest Dance November 1, 2019.

Students had a blast dancing, laughing, and playing games. Student Council members are working on the next student activity this month.



News from the National Honor Society

Written by: Delaney Dack

The Wes and Ruth Burrell Chapter of the National Honor Society held their annual blood drive with the Red Cross. The estimated amount of blood donated was 70 units, meaning around 210 lives were saved. We would like to thank the community members, students, and staff for taking a small amount of time out of their day to donate! Our goal for the next blood drive is to obtain 100 units of blood, and we could really use your help! The next blood drive is February 14th, Valentine's Day, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Galesburg- Augusta High School in the gymnasium. Show the love: donate blood.

Another important, upcoming event is the induction of new members in the National Honor Society. We are inducting six, bright students: Megan Earles (11th grade), Jordyn Klimp (11th grade), Alyssa Luce (11th grade), Xander Rainey (12th grade), Aubree Sedore (11th grade), Andrew Wilks-Millard (11th grade). The ceremony will take place Monday, December 9th at 7 p.m. at the G-A Middle School. Congratulations new inductees and the society cannot wait to see the contributions you make to the school and NHS.

Heads up, we are holding a pop can drive and would love some assistance! If anyone is interested in donating some pop cans, drop them off inside the office and let them know it is for NHS. Thank you!



Middle School Honor Band

In early October, the 8th Grade Band students had the opportunity to audition for MSBOA District 11 Middle School Honor Band, an annual event designed to give middle school band students a special performance opportunity with their peers from other local school districts. Lauren Gilbert, Collin Hatton, and Korbin Nigg were selected to represent G-A in this year's Honor Band, held at Plainwell High School on Tuesday November 5. These students spent the day rehearsing music with local band directors and conductor Dr. Mary Land, a Music Education professor from Western Michigan University. The Honor Band gave a concert that evening. Congratulations to Lauren, Collin, and Korbin on being outstanding representatives of G-A!



PBIS/Restorative Practices/ Community Circles

The high school student support team has been working hard with the teachers and staff to support our students as they navigate the many challenges facing teens in school. Three important methods of working with our students are: Positive Behavior Intervention Supports, Restorative Practices, and Community Circles.

PBIS has been an integral part of the high school as we promote good choices and exemplary behaviors of our students. The concept of restorative practice has been integrated into the process of working with students as a measure to keep students in school as much as possible. Key parts of restorative practices are looking for corrective action opportunities, and learning from mistakes. Community Circles are an opportunity to proactively discuss any issues that may be causing conflict between students and seeking resolution. If you would like to learn more about these methods of interacting with our students contact Brian Dolph, Dean of Students.

Looming Hats for the Homeless

Written by Angelica (WMU Teacher Intern)

The students of Ms. Smith's first hour class are demonstrating acts of kindness by looming hats for the homeless. Looming is a tedious process using yarn and a pick to create these cozy hats! Students have made hats in all shapes and colors to fit babies and adults. Sydney Johnson says, "I really liked looming for the homeless because it got a lot of stuff off my mind and it made me feel happy to help the homeless." Cassie Crispens mentioned, "It was hard at first but I overcame the challenge and actually bought looming things for home." The students of Ms. Smith's first hour-Kind Hearts Help Make Feet!!



KRESA CTE Millage

A huge shout out to all the supporters of the KRESA Career and Technical Education millage.

A few of the benefits this will provide our students:

- Increased equity, efficiency and quality of K12+ CTE programming
- More career readiness coaches exposing more students to potential careers
- A centrally located career center with smaller satellite locations
- Efficient transportation so more students can participate
- State-of-the-art technology and equipment to prepare students for high-demand, high-skill and high-wage careers
- More instructional support staff to help students who are at-risk those with disabilities
- Additional training and support for students and families, including under represented populations
- More career planning, apprenticeships and work-based learning to help students choose the right careers
- More students earning credentials/certificates to meet the needs of employers
- Enhanced partnerships with employers and colleges to help prepare students for the 21st Century
- More young people equipped with the skills needed to earn a good living, allowing them to raise families in the area
- Greater exposure for younger students to the many careers within a given area
- Traveling CTE programs for kids of all ages



Regional Champs 2019!

GAHS girls' cross country dominated their region and brought home the Regional Champ title! The team then qualified for the state meet at Michigan International Speedway. At the conclusion of the season, Coach Chris Thomas was awarded the regional coach of the year! Outstanding commitment and accomplishments to the team and coach! We are so proud!

There is no better way to describe the season than through the words of some amazing student athletes.....

The thoughts of Lauryn Coleman:

*It has been a dream of mine, and the team, to win a regional title. Coming all the way from freshman year where we only had three girl runners, to now where we are proving ourselves to other schools. I was so happy and proud of the girls for pushing through and improving all season.

*Definitely my favorite part of the season was playing Gaga every practice after our workouts. It was the highlight of my day and just let us all relax and have fun.

*I am so proud of coach for being a great role model for our team. She is always positive and pushing us to be our best, even on the worst days. Coach Thomas is one of the most dedicated people I know to running, and I am very thankful that she played along with our fun at practice. Congrats Coach, we love you!

The thoughts of Aubree Sedore:

*The entire season was quite fun. Cross Country is my favorite sport because of the team chemistry and working as a team, but also being able to work on yourself mentally and physically as it's a very hard sport in my opinion. We always knew we wanted to win that regional title as it was our goal for the season, and when we actually accomplished it felt like everything we've done in the past several months finally paid off and it was just so awesome!

*I would have to say I have two favorite parts of the season. One would be playing GaGa ball after our workouts because it brought the team together in a fun game, along with allowing the Middle School to bond with us as well. My other favorite part, is of course, Regionals. It was such an accomplishment for not just the team, but also for myself as I won Regional Champion and, to what I am aware of, I have the opportunity to be the first female runner to accomplish that at G-A. There was so much excitement, tears, and many other emotions that day and it was just like no other meet I've had before.

*Coach Thomas 100% deserves the award she was given. She walked into the team with raw talent and has done so much for us ever since. She has truly impacted G-A Cross Country, and also impacted my life as an athlete as well, for the better. To Coach Thomas, I would say that I couldn't thank her enough for everything she has done for us throughout the seasons, and I love that she is always so proud of us and is so supportive of us.

The thoughts of Aleigha Vos:

*This season was one to remember, definitely the best season that I have had the pleasure of being part of. We all had our good and our bad days but in the end we did accomplish our goal of Regional Champions. I knew that as a team that we could win because we had worked so hard for it all season and had set that goal way back in the beginning of the season, but I think that winning Regional Champions still came as a shock for a lot of us. My favorite part of the season was to be able to go out to the State Competition and cheer on my team. Coach Thomas, thank you for pushing me every day to be a better runner than I ever thought possible and for all the hard work and commitment you put into our team. Congratulations on your award, you deserve it and thank you for an amazing season, can't wait to see what next season holds for us.



G-A HIGH SCHOOL NEWS:



G-A High School College Adviser ~ Ms. Magbag

My name is Ms. Magbag, and I am the new college adviser at Galesburg-Augusta High School! Despite my job title, I want to make sure I promote and emphasize ALL postsecondary plans after high school! I can help with college access, trade pathways, resume building, work-force, internships, and apprenticeships! If it's a "plan" after high school, then I'm happy to help. A few things that have happened this fall:

- Admissions rep visits from multiple colleges throughout Michigan
- Campus visit to Grand Valley State University
- Visiting the trade labs at KVCC
- Giving away "swag" on my social media to students of G-A

Exciting Things to Come:

- Michigan Works! apprenticeship presentations to school
- Promoting career youth services programs
- Decision Day for seniors
- Free "swag" for attending resume building and application events!



Robotic Rams will be gearing up for their 5th season!

The team will begin building their next project after the holiday break and their competitions begin in March of 2020. Our Robotic Rams team could use any and all volunteers. We are looking for help in a variety of areas both technical & non-technical such as CAD, Programming (C++), fundraising, social media, artistic design, Writing, Presentations/ Public Speaking, Photography & Video editing, Woodworking, fabrication, electrical, public relations, travel logistics, transportation, Saturday snacks/lunches and other support. In-kind offerings are extremely helpful and include things such as metal cutting and bending, fabricating parts, printing services. We also appreciate any donation of tools, supplies or goods such as aluminum sheets and angles, electrical wiring (like used in cars), acrylic sheeting, machine screws and nuts, and use of an enclosed trailer to transport robot & equipment to competitions. If you or someone you know wishes to contribute to this year's team, please contact Donna Beatty at: dcbeatty24@gmail.com.



Robotic Rams Team from 2018-2019

G-A Community Schools Foundation

WHEN: Monday, February 24th, 2020
5:00-7:30pm

WHERE: Dig In Café
111 W. Michigan Ave, Augusta, MI

Adult-\$10

Child (10 & under) -\$5



Menu: Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, drink, and dessert!

Tickets can be purchased at the main offices of all Galesburg Augusta Schools (Walk-ins are also welcome)

The Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools Foundation has awarded over \$100,000 in the past 20 years to graduating seniors, classroom grants, and middle school awards. Please support our local foundation to continue helping our G-A students!

Project Lead The Way

At the start of the school year, a group of students started a new adventure in the Project Lead The Way exploratory class. Many of these students were completely unaware of what was going to be expected of them over the course of the quarter. Students began with simple engineering challenges, challenges that would become the building blocks of what lied ahead of them. They truly learned the importance of following instructions as they would ultimately have to give those instructions to a computer to follow. As the students became more comfortable with the tasks, and built confidence with completing challenges, they began to use basic software to make their creations come alive. No matter how frustrated many became throughout the process, they used their problem-solving skills, and weeks of learning to complete the task of creating the fastest drag car racer. Six teams lined their designs up and programmed their car to go the required 36 feet. After multiple trials, the champions in design and in speed were Jace Giebel, Benjamin Smeltzer, and Noah Tidd. It was a proud moment for many as their hard work paid off. Hopefully this experience will encourage some to go into a future of Robotics. Only time will tell. Thankfully a new crop of students come in at the start of the second quarter to accept their challenges.



Marching Band

The Galesburg-Augusta Marching Band had an excellent season this fall! This year's halftime show, titled "Give Up the Funk," featured popular funk hits from the 60s and 70s, including Soul Finger by the Bar-Kays; Brick House by the Commodores; So Very Hard to Go by Tower of Power; and Tear the Roof Off the Sucker by Parliament. This season, the G-A Band performed at every Friday night home Varsity Football game, the Battle Creek Marching Band Invitational, the Vicksburg Marching Band Invitational, and MSBOA District 11 Marching Band Festival. The band placed 6th in Class D at the Vicksburg Invitational and earned a Division 2 (Excellent) rating at Marching Band Festival. Congratulations to our band students on their hard work and excellent performances this marching season!

Be sure to catch the G-A Band in their upcoming performances in the Kalamazoo Holiday Parade on Saturday November 16, the Galesburg Winter Wonderland Parade on Wednesday December 4, and our annual Holiday Concert on Thursday December 12 at 7pm in the High School gym!



What do artists do?

The child is the artist.

The classroom is the child's studio.

In the GA HS Art Studio, students come up with their idea, select the materials to create their art, set up and clean up independently.

#teachingforartisticbehavior #garamsart

@niesenart
@teacher4_change



There's no such thing as
neutral education.
Education either functions
as an instrument to bring
about conformity or
freedom.

-Paulo Friere

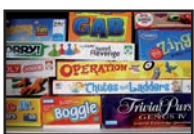


188 E. Michigan Ave. • Galesburg, MI 49053
269-665-7839 • director@gcmdl.org
galesburgcharlestonlibrary.org

Family Holiday Pizza Party— Stories, pizza, crafts, and Santa!
Saturday, December 14, 11:30 am—1:00 pm.



Meet the Author —The Library is proud to welcome former Galesburg resident, Johnny Thompson, on Sunday, December 1 from 2:00—5:00 pm. Ms. Thompson will read excerpts from her first novel, *Breaking Through*. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. A reception with refreshments follows the reading.



Game Day – Don't be bored this Holiday Break! Bring a friend to the library on **December 31 from 1:00—4:00** for an afternoon of board games. Play one of ours or bring your favorite from home to share. Snacks to share welcome.

Stitch & Chat - The Junior Edition - Bring your favorite craft to the library on **Thursday, January 2 from 10:00 a.m.—noon** to show and share with friends.





Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools
Home of the Rams



GALESBURG-AUGUSTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NEED YOU!

EDUStaff is an educational staffing company who specializes in training and providing quality substitute teachers (or guest teachers), substitute paraprofessionals, and other employee types to our partnering school districts. Founded in 2010, EDUStaff has quickly become known in the educational community for providing outstanding customer service to our partnering school districts, our external employees and our guest teachers!

BENEFITS OF BEING A GUEST TEACHER

Becoming a guest teacher provides great opportunity for every stage of life. Here are just a few:

- ✓ Flexible schedule to accept assignments when you want.
- ✓ Work in your child or grandchild's school.
- ✓ Make a positive difference in your community.
- ✓ Get a foot in the door at a school district as your potential future employer.
- ✓ If you like variety, EDUStaff offers a range of opportunities, which are customizable to your comfort level and experience.

GUEST TEACHER REQUIREMENTS

Per State of Michigan law, applicants must have one of the following to become a guest teacher:

- ✓ Current Michigan Teaching Certificate.
- ✓ Expired Michigan Teaching Certificate.
- ✓ 60+ credit hours from an accredited community college, or an accredited college or university with no less than a 2.0 GPA verified with official transcripts (acceptance of this minimum is at the discretion of each individual school district).
Note: Requires a \$45.00 substitute teaching permit applied for by EDUStaff
- ✓ Out of State Teaching Certificate with transcripts showing 60+ credit hours from an accredited community college, or an accredited college or university with no less than a 2.0 GPA.
- ✓ Anyone working in a K-12 setting must be fingerprinted and pass a criminal history background check.

HOW TO APPLY

Log on to www.EDUStaff.org

For more information contact our customer service department.



www.EDUStaff.org | 877.974.6338



G-A ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES for 2020

On January 10th and 11th the Galesburg-Augusta High School Athletic Hall of Fame will be inducting its newest members. Dave Meadows, a 1986 graduate, Jackie Bowe, a 2009 graduate, the 1968 Boys' Wrestling team and the 1968 Boys' Tennis team will be the honored inductees.

This year's inductees will be introduced between the varsity basketball games on Friday, January 10th, and will be formally inducted at a luncheon held on Saturday, January 11th, at noon. The public is invited and can purchase tickets by contacting Dale Martin (269-665-4443). Tickets must be purchased by January 3rd.



Dave Meadows was a 1986 G-A graduate. He earned six varsity letters, three in football and three in track.

As a member of the track team he was on the 4x100m. relay team that set the current school record.

Dave had much success on the football field. As a sophomore, he rushed for 719 yards scoring 46 points. As a junior he rushed for 820 yards again scoring 46 points. As a senior he rushed for a school record 1512 yards scoring 132 points, also a school record. His career statistics show that he rushed for 3051 yards and scored 224 points, both school records. In 13 of the 29 games he played he rushed for over 100 yards and in two games he rushed for over 200 yards. Dave averaged 7.8 yards every time he touched the ball.



The 1968 Boys Wrestling team was the first G-A team to go undefeated in dual meets going 13-0. They won both the G-A and Springfield Invitionals and placed 2nd in the Kalamazoo and Parma Western Invitionals going up against mostly class A and B teams. They were the first G-A team to win a Regional Championship and placed 7th in the State Tournament.

Jackie Bowe was a 2009 G-A graduate. She earned 4 varsity letters in softball.

Jackie took the art of pitching to a new level at G-A. In her four seasons she won 101 games, losing only 13. She registered 1,442 strike outs against only 212 walks. She pitched a staggering 706 innings.

The 2008 season stands out as her best. She sported a 28 and 3 record going into the Division 3 State Tournament. In the seven games she would yield only 1 run, that coming in the first game with Schoolcraft. The next six games would be shutouts. In the semi-final game with Gladstone, a 14-inning marathon, she would strike out 29 batters. In the championship game she would set a state record with 18 strikeouts leading the Rams to the State title.

Jackie was just as tough on the other side of the plate. Her career batting average was .563. She banged out 276 hits including 26 home runs, scored 233 runs and drove in 157.

Jackie earned a full ride scholarship to play at Notre Dame University where she played for four years.



The 1968 Boys Tennis Team continued the tradition that started in 1951. They won both the KVA League and Tournament titles making it 18 straight years for both. Tom Wilson was the singles champion and Jack Hogg and Bob Underwood were the doubles champions beating teammates Tom Smith and Carl German.

The Rams would win the Class C-D Regional title, the 16th in 18 seasons. Rick Lindsay won the singles title and with three doubles teams making it to the semi-finals it was a good bet the doubles title would go to G-A. In the end, it would be Tom Wilson and Jack Hogg winning over Bob Underwood and Carl German.

At the State tournament Lindsay would lose in the quarter-finals in singles. Underwood and German lost in the semi-finals of doubles competition and Wilson and Hogg would lose a three set finals match.

The Rams would finish 2nd in the State losing to Grosse Pointe University for the third year in a row.

G-A HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC NEWS:



GALESBURG-AUGUSTA BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE 2019-20

DATE	OPPONENT	LEVEL	SITE	
Thurs. 12-12	Constantine	JV	Away	w/girls
Fri. 12-13	Constantine	Var.	Home	w/girls
Tues. 12-17	Gobles	JV/Var.	Away	
Thurs. 12-19	Zion Christian	JV	Away	w/girls
Fri. 12-20	Zion Christian	Var.	Home	w/girls
Tues. 1-7	Lawton	JV/Var.	Home	
Thurs. 1-9	Hackett	JV	Away	w/girls
Fri. 1-10	Hackett	Var.	Home	w/girls
Tues. 1-14	Marshall Academy	JV/Var.	Home	
Thurs. 1-16	Schoolcraft	JV	Away	w/girls
Fri. 1-17	Schoolcraft	Var.	Home	w/girls
Tues. 1-21	K-Christian	JV/Var.	Home	
Thurs. 1-23	Constantine	JV	Home	w/girls
Fri. 1-24	Constantine	Var.	Away	
Tues. 1-28	Michigan Lutheran	JV/Var.	Away	St. Joseph
Thurs. 1-30	Delton	JV	Home	w/girls
Fri. 1-31	Delton	Var.	Away	w/girls
Tues. 2-4	Fennville	JV/Var.	Away	
Thurs. 2-6	Maple Valley	JV	Away	w/girls
Fri. 2-7	Maple Valley	Var.	Home	w/girls
Tues. 2-11	Lawton	JV/Var.	Away	
Thurs. 2-13	Hackett	JV	Home	w/girls
Fri. 2-14	Hackett	Var.	Away	w/girls
Thurs. 2-20	Schoolcraft	JV	Home	w/girls
Fri. 2-21	Schoolcraft	Var.	Away	w/girls
Tues. 2-25	K-Christian	JV/Var.	Away	
Thurs. 2-27	Delton	JV	Away	w/girls
Fri. 2-28	Delton	Var.	Home	w/girls
Tues. 3-3	Climax-Scotts	JV/Var.	Home	
Thurs. 3-5	Martin	JV/Var.	Away	

Tuesday JV games start at 5:30 p.m. and Thursday JV games start 15 minutes after the conclusion of the girl's JV game (approximately 7 p.m.)

Tuesday Varsity games start 15 minutes after the conclusion of the JV game at approximately 7 p.m. and Friday games start 15 minutes after the conclusion of the Girl's Varsity game at approximately 7:30 p.m.

GALESBURG-AUGUSTA GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE 2019-20

DATE	OPPONENT	LEVEL	SITE	
Tues. 11-26	Decatur Scrimmage	JV/Var	Home	5 p.m.
Tues. 12-3	Martin	JV/Var	Home	
Fri. 12-6	Olivet	JV/Var	Away	
Thurs. 12-12	Constantine	JV	Away	w/boys
Fri. 12-13	Constantine	Var.	Home	w/boys
Mon. 12-16	Parchment	JV/Var.	Away	
Tues. 12-17	Gobles	JV/Var.	Home	
Thurs. 12-19	Zion Christian	JV	Away	w/boys
Fri. 12-20	Zion Christian	Var.	Home	w/boys
Tues. 1-7	Lawton	JV/Var.	Away	
Thurs. 1-9	Hackett	JV	Away	w/boys
Fri. 1-10	Hackett	Var.	Home	w/boys
Thurs. 1-16	Schoolcraft	JV	Away	w/boys
Fri. 1-17	Schoolcraft	Var.	Home	w/boys
Tues. 1-21	K-Christian	JV/Var.	Away	
Thurs. 1-23	Constantine	JV	Home	w/boys
Fri. 1-24	Constantine	Var.	Away	w/boys
Tues. 1-28	Potter's House	JV/Var.	Away	Wyoming, MI
Thurs. 1-30	Delton	JV	Home	w/boys
Fri. 1-31	Delton	Var.	Away	w/boys
Tues. 2-4	Fennville	JV/Var.	Home	
Thurs. 2-6	Maple Valley	JV	Away	w/boys
Fri. 2-7	Maple Valley	Var.	Home	w/boys
Tues. 2-11	Lawton	JV/Var.	Home	
Thurs. 2-13	Hackett	JV	Home	w/boys
Fri. 2-14	Hackett	Var.	Away	w/boys
Thurs. 2-20	Schoolcraft	JV	Home	w/boys
Fri. 2-21	Schoolcraft	Var.	Away	w/boys
Tues. 2-25	K-Christian	JV/Var.	Home	
Thurs. 2-27	Delton	JV	Away	w/boys
Fri. 2-28	Delton	Var.	Home	w/boys

Tuesday and Thursday J.V. games start at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday Varsity games start 15 minutes after the conclusion of the J.V. games at approximately 7 p.m. and Friday Varsity games start at 6 p.m.

GALESBURG-AUGUSTA WRESTLING SCHEDULE 2019-20

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Wed. 12-11	Vicksburg Quad	Away	TBD
Sat. 12-14	G-A Tournament	Home	9 a.m.
Wed. 12-18	vs. Schoolcraft and Constantine	Home	6 p.m.
Sat. 12-21	Eau Claire Tournament	Away	9 a.m.
Sat. 1-4	Climax Tournament	Away	9 a.m.
Wed. 1-8	at Lawton vs. Watervliet and Coloma	Away	6 p.m.
Thurs. 1-9	Quad: Benton Harbor, Comstock, ??	Home	5 p.m.
Sat. 1-11	Homer Team Tournament	Away	TBD
Wed. 1-15	at Gobles vs. Gobles and Fennville	Away	6 p.m.
Sat. 1-18	Marcellus Tournament	Away	9 a.m.
Wed. 1-22	at Delton vs. Martin and Delton-Kellogg	Away	6 p.m.
Fri. 1-24	Comstock Tournament	Away	4 p.m.
Wed. 1-29	Lawton	Away	6 p.m.
Wed. 2-5	League Make Up Date	TBD	TBD
Sat. 2-8	SAC League Tournament at Coloma	Away	TBD
Thurs. 2-13	Team Districts	TBD	TBD
Sat. 2-15	Individual Districts	TBD	TBD
Wed. 2-19	Team Regionals	TBD	TBD
Sat. 2-22	Individual Regionals	TBD	TBD

Schedule is subject to change, so please check the school website at g-aschools.org for an up to date calendar and schedule.



GALESBURG-AUGUSTA BOWLING SCHEDULE 2019-20

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Mon. 12-9	4 p.m.	Hackett	rev. 10-29-19
Wed. 12-11	3:30 p.m.	Constantine	Continental Lanes
Mon. 12-16	4 p.m.	K-Christian	Eastland
Wed. 12-18	4 p.m.	Bronson	Eastland
Mon. 1-6	4 p.m.	Burr Oak	Bronson Strike Zone
Wed. 1-8	3:30 p.m.	Parchment	Bronson Strike Zone
Mon. 1-13	4 p.m.	Saugatuck	Eastland
Wed. 1-15	4 p.m.	Schoolcraft	Eastland
Mon. 1-20	4 p.m.	Hackett	Continental Lanes
Thurs. 1-23	4 p.m.	Constantine	T-Rivers South Lanes
Mon. 1-27	4 p.m.	K-Christian	Airway Lanes
Wed. 1-29	3:30 p.m.	Bronson	Eastland
Mon. 2-3	4 p.m.	Burr Oak	Eastland
Wed. 2-5	3:30 p.m.	Coloma	Eastland
Mon. 2-10	4 p.m.	Comstock	Eastland
Wed. 2-12	3:30 p.m.	Martin	Eastland
Fri. 2-21	TBD	League Tournament	TBD

GALESBURG-AUGUSTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
1076 N. 37th St.
Galesburg, MI 49053

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Vision Statement:

*To encourage learning, inspire pride and support all students.
WE ARE G-A!*

Mission Statement:

*Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools will empower all students to
be productive and responsible citizens.*

Administration Offices

1076 N. 37th St.
Galesburg, MI 49053
(269) 484-2000

Primary School (Pre-K through 3rd Grade)

Principal: Shaun Sportel
(269) 484-2040
shaun.sportel@garams.org

Middle School (4th - 7th Grades)

Principal: Shana Wiese
(269) 484-2020
shana.wiese@garams.org

High School (8th - 12th Grades)

Principal: Christie Robinson
(269) 484-2010
christie.robinson@garams.org

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected characteristic (collectively "Protected Classes") in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. The District's Compliance Officers shall handle inquiries regarding the Board's nondiscrimination policies and any complaint of discrimination.

Complaints or inquiries should be forwarded to:

1076 N. 37th St.
Galesburg, MI 49053