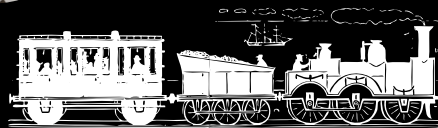


# The GFS D EXPRESS



ISSUE 1 • SEPTEMBER 2021



## IMPORTANT CALENDAR CHANGES:

### ◆ PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES UPDATE

Fall conferences are on November 1 & 2. There will be no school for elementary students on these days. Middle and high school students will attend for a half-day. Schools will send out further information on how to sign up soon!

### ◆ OCTOBER 13 WILL BE AN EARLY OUT WEDNESDAY FOR STUDENTS.

GRANITE FALLS  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NEWSLETTER

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# BUS TRANSPORTATION

Gentle Reminder:

Please remember to yield to our buses for safety and time sensitivity.

Our bus drivers are given a tight schedule to keep in order to get our students home safely and on-time. If you can remember to yield to buses as they exit and enter the schools before and after school, it would be greatly appreciated.

Check out these other great resources:

[When to stop for a school bus](#)

[How to ride the school bus safely](#)



**Transportation is in desperate need of drivers! Learn how to apply by contacting the Transportation Department directly at 425-335-1508.**



# ATTENDANCE AWARENESS

Did you Know?

- Starting in Kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.



Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school-and themselves. start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in school, college, and at work.




# ANNUAL STUDENT INFORMATION UPDATE

Every year students need to have their information updated in case of changes. The district used to send a paper packet home for each student to be completed and returned. Now those forms are available online for a much easier and quicker process. These forms include the annual FERPA form, emergency contacts, HIPPA, and other mandatory forms that must be completed by October 1 of each year. We ask that you complete this process as soon as possible for a smooth start to the school year. It's vital that we have up-to-date contact information (phone numbers and emails) for your child. This information is used in communicating with our families in times of emergency. If you have any questions, please contact your child's school or the district office.



 MENU 

Popular Links +



**Granite Falls  
School District  
332**

We Expect Success!

## NEW WEBSITE - NEW LOOK!

Granite Falls School District has moved to a new website through Blackboard. The district and school buildings all have individual websites to service our families and communities more efficiently.

### CHECK IT OUT!

#### COMING SOON!

A new mass communication tool and App will also be coming in the next few months. This will allow us to streamline our communications with quicker response and notification times. We will also have the capability to narrow down on areas within our district. No more unnecessary phone calls!

# DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

National Disability History and Awareness month is designated to foster greater awareness, knowledge, and understanding of disabilities, and to promote full participation of people with disabilities into school and community activities. We hope to increase respect and promote acceptance and inclusion. Understanding disabilities, rather than stereotypes, and focusing on individual strengths and capacities, will encourage students to recognize the whole person rather than an individual's disability. Our schools have scheduled several activities in our buildings this month to recognize National Disability History and Awareness Month.



## FREE & REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATION

Granite Falls School District participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program sponsored by the USDA. All families who meet federal income eligibility guidelines may apply for meals at a reduced rate or at no cost. Applications are given to all students at the beginning of the school year and may be completed and returned to the school or completed online. All information provided is kept confidential. Information on this program is available in the school office or you can call 360.283.4310 for more information. Parents will be notified by the district of your approval status with a printed letter mailed home when the application has been processed.

**\*\*For the 2021-22 school year all students will received free meals, but we still encourage families to apply for the Free and Reduced Meal Program which aids the Granite Falls School District in being eligible for additional funding.**



## REMEMBER TO VOTE!

With the General Election nearing, we want to remind you to register to vote. Your vote counts! Registering to vote has never been easier. You can register to vote at any school, the district office or any public library. You can also register online at [www.sos.wa.gov/elections/register.aspx](http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/register.aspx)

Please contact the Snohomish County elections office with further questions at 425-388-3444.



## SAFETY FIRST! WINTER WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

With the winter weather approaching, we urge you to use this opportunity and talk with your child about safe walking/biking to and from school:


- **BE VISIBLE.** Wear bright/light clothing. Put reflective tape on your child's backpack. Stock up on glow sticks that are on sale for Halloween and use those as flashlights while walking in the dark.
- **Be on Alert.** It's not safe to wear headphones because you may not hear approaching vehicles.
- **Stay on Route.** Always use a sidewalk or crosswalk. Do not walk in the road, especially county roads where cars are traveling faster and turning corners. Don't take short cuts through dark/wooded areas.
- **Obey Traffic Signals, Signs and Crossing guards.** Always look both ways, behind and in-front before crossing a street.
- **Do Not Walk Alone.** Walk in groups of two or more.
- **Do Not Talk to Strangers or Approach a Strange Vehicle.** If a stranger asks you to get into their vehicle—fight, shout, scream, kick, bite, run and tell a trusted adult what happened.
- **Stay Away From Deserted Places—**do not go alone into empty buildings or parking lots or places where there aren't any people around.
- **Immediately Report Suspicious Activity.** Tell a trusted adult about any suspicious activities or people encountered by giving as many details as possible. Call 911.

We attempt every precautionary measure to inform parents of safety guidelines and help students be safe when walking or biking to and from school.



# ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS TO FAMILIES & THE COMMUNITY

## STUDENT PRIVACY (FERPA) AND PROTECTION (PPRA)



The FERPA (Family Rights and Privacy Act) and PPRA (Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment) federal guidelines outlines specific student information that can and cannot be released such as "directory information." The current copy of this notice is found in the Annual Student Information Update to be completed annually by every family. You can review the laws surrounding FERPA online via WAC 132P-33-100.

Occasionally, we will take photographs/videos of students for use in District or school-produced publications, which may be used in the news media. If you do not wish to grant permission, please check the appropriate box(es) on the FERPA agreement that is included in the enrollment packet found online in the Annual Student Information Update. It is important to inform the school office of your preferences annually through the FERPA agreement at the beginning of each school year.

Granite Falls School District Policy 3232 outlines information related to parent/student rights in administration of surveys, analysis or evaluations in accordance with the Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 (PPRA).

## HOMELESS AND/OR DISPLACED CHILDREN AND YOUTH

If you lost your housing and now live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, camping ground, or temporary trailer; on the street; doubled-up with family or friends; or in another type of temporary or inadequate housing, your child might be able to receive help through a federal law called the McKinney-Vento Act. Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children in transitional situations have the right to:

- Attend either the local school or the school of origin, if this is in their best interest; the school of origin is the school the child attended when he/she was permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollment, such as a birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization/medical records.

Homeless, or displaced, students will be provided district services for which they are eligible. Parents or students should contact the Student Services Department at 360.691.7717 for full information.

## ACCESSING OTHER SCHOOL INFORMATION

The Granite Falls School District has a wide variety of information available on the District's website, [www.gfalls.wednet.edu](http://www.gfalls.wednet.edu). Each school also maintains their own separate school site and each site is accessible from the district website homepage. If you have any questions regarding information on a specific schools website, please contact the school directly.

Information on the district website includes reports required by the state, student handbooks, district calendar, commonly requested forms, frequently asked questions, lunch menus, bus routes, school board policies and minutes, plus much more. If you cannot access forms, links or information from the District website, please contact Melanie Freeman at 360.691.7717.



# ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS CONTINUED

## DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS

Many of the current activities/events, student accolades/achievements, important parent/student information, and emergency information will be sent out via district communications. More than 2,000 parents, staff and community members have subscribed to receive our district emails. Have you? If you would like to receive district "SCHOOL NEWS" emails, please subscribe here.

The following are forms of communication that will be distributed via email:

- District SCHOOL NEWS Emails: On the district website, "Communications" page, you will find a listing of current and past newsletters from the district.
- TigerPause Newsletter: The TigerPause Newsletter is distributed monthly through the District School News emails. Please visit the Communications page on the district website.

Other District Communication Methods:

- Tiger Tales: Quarterly Newsletter mailed out to all addresses within the community.
- District Facebook page: follow us on Facebook by liking our page here:  
<https://www.facebook.com/GFSD332/>
- Twitter: Follow us on Twitter at  
<https://twitter.com/GFSD332>
- District Website: [www.gfalls.wednet.edu](http://www.gfalls.wednet.edu)
- School Messenger: The District will send an automated phone message to the phone number that was provided by parent(s). Parents will be notified of a closure/delay through this messaging system. All district emergency notifications will be sent via school messenger.
- FlashAlert: [SUBSCRIBE HERE](#) to receive school closure/delay information via email and/or text message. Local TV, radio and newspapers pulls information from FlashAlert so this allows you to receive the information the same time as the news media. Already have a FA account set-up?... Click [HERE](#) to Log-in. Families need to understand that by updating their info on FlashAlert, this DOES NOT mean that the information is automatically updated at the schools. It's VERY important to update your contact information with the schools anytime there is a change. In the fall, please contact your child's school with any new contact information.

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Granite Falls School District offers classes in many career and technical education program areas including Business Education, Computer Information Technology, Agriculture Science and Manufacturing Technology and Industry under its open admissions policy. Lack of English language proficiency will not be a barrier to admission and participation in career and technical education programs. For more information about CTE course offerings and admissions criteria, please contact the CTE Director at 205 N. Alder Ave. or 360.691.7717.

## REQUIRED PUBLIC NOTICES

The District updates its legal notices to students, staff and the community at least annually, more often if needed. Visit the [district website](#) for a list of all these notifications.

## INTERPRETATION/TRANSLATION SERVICES

If you need assistance with obtaining information in languages other than English, please contact the Director of Special Education and Student Services Department at 360.691.7717.



# ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS CONTINUED

## EMERGENCY/INCLEMENT WEATHER

Every effort is made to make the decision on late start/school closure by 5:30 am.

When the decision is made to close or delay school, the information will be listed on the district website and sent via FlashAlert. Parents will also be notified of a closure/delay through the phone messaging School Messenger system, District Facebook page, & posted on the SR92 Electronic Reader Sign.



## FOOD ALLERGIES/FOOD BROUGHT TO SCHOOL BY STUDENTS/PARENTS



Food allergies can be a life-threatening situation. We have several students at our school who have life-threatening food allergies including cinnamon, walnuts, pecans, and peanuts. School staff have been trained to recognize such a reaction and to administer medication (epinephrine) in an emergency. You can help staff and the school by taking advantage of opportunities to learn more about food allergies and by helping your child understand the foods they freely enjoy can be dangerous to others. See the Nutrition Services webpage on the district website for more information.

Guidelines for Food Served at Room Parties or Brought to School by Students/Parents- Many schools have classroom parties for the holidays or other occasions that include refreshments. In addition, students may often bring treats from home to celebrate a birthday or other special day. Since improperly handled food can be the source of foodborne illness, it is wise to use caution when planning these events. See the Child Nutrition Services webpage on the district website for more information.

