Friday, May 8, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian(s):

Congratulations to the Class of 2024! On behalf of Grand Rapids Public Schools, we would like to acknowledge your dedication in partnering with us in the education of your child over the years! As we reach the milestone of your student transitioning to high school, there are a few action steps that will help make the transition from middle to high school more seamless.

1. **Verify your high school:** If you have not already done so, please verify which high school your student will be attending for the 2020-21 school year, viewable in StudentVue under “Course Request”. If you have been selected for a theme school, you should have already received notification. The theme school application process re-opened on May 1, so if you are still interested in applying, please visit apply.grps.org. For more information on all your GRPS high school choices, go to www.grps.org/ourschools/high-schools

2. **High School graduation requirements:** The chart below summarizes the 18 Michigan Merit Curriculum credits required to graduate high school. Specific high school requirements may vary and GRPS requires an additional four credits to meet the district’s graduation requirement of 22 credits. Contact your high school counselor for specific course selections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
<th>World Language</th>
<th>Visual/Performing Arts</th>
<th>Physical Education/Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Credits</td>
<td>4 Credits</td>
<td>3 Credits</td>
<td>3 Credits</td>
<td>2 Credits</td>
<td>1 Credit</td>
<td>1 Credit (.5 PE &amp; .5 Health)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Communicate with your high school counselor:** No matter which high school your student is attending this fall, it is important to be in contact regarding any necessary steps. See the list below for 9th grade counselors at the following schools:
   - C.A. Frost Environmental Science Academy: Deanna Coyne coyned@grps.org
   - City High Middle School: Ashley Tardy tardya@grps.org
   - GR Montessori High School: Rebecca Quinn quinnr@grps.org
   - GR Museum High School: Kristine Beeckman beekmank@grps.org
   - GR University Prep Academy: Robby Brock brockr@grps.org
   - Innovation Central High School: Martice Moffett moffettm@grps.org
   - Ottawa Hills High School: Erica Tuohy tuohye@grps.org
   - Southwest Community Campus: Deanna Coyne (temp) coyned@grps.org
   - Union High School: Mary Ann Harris harrisma@grps.org
4. **Explore extracurriculars**: Whatever you are interested in, there is a club or activity for you! Here are just a few of the many opportunities that may be available at your high school:
   - MHSAA Athletics (Football, Soccer, Swimming, Volleyball, Basketball, Track and Field, etc.)
   - West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology (WMCAT)
   - JROTC
   - National Honor Society
   - Student Council

5. **9th Grade Summer Checklist**: The beginning of high school is an exciting time. Your child may be adjusting to a new school, making new friends and becoming more independent. But your child still needs your help and involvement. Here are some things you can do the summer before high school together to succeed next year.
   - Visit a college campus together. Consider a virtual tour. Many campuses are offering this as an alternative due to distance learning. It’s a great way to get your child excited about college. Learn more about how you and your child can prepare for a campus visit.
   - Get the facts about how much college costs. You may be surprised at how affordable higher education can be. Learn more at [https://studentaid.gov/resources](https://studentaid.gov/resources).
   - Show your child how to explore career ideas. He or she can make a list of interests, talents, and favorite activities and start matching them with occupations.
   - Come up with fun reading ideas. Look for magazines or newspapers your child may like and talk about the books you loved reading when you were your child’s age. If your family makes reading enjoyable, it becomes a habit.

As always, if you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact the hotline at 616-301-1111 or email communications@grps.org. We look forward to continuing to serve and support you as you begin high school next fall.

Sincerely,

Ron Gorman, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools