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Galesburg-Augusta Girls Softball State Champs!!

We would like to congratulate the Lady Rams Softball Team on winning the State Championship! What a great accomplishment. They conquered the No.1 Allen Park Cabrini team 5-0 in the Division 3 Championship game at Bailey Park on June 14. This is G-A's first softball state title and the first state title for the school overall in over 35 years. Pitcher Jackie Bowe also set a new state record for strikeouts in a championship game with 18. She did this after a 14-inning one-hitter played the day before in the semi-final game.

The Lady Rams had some incentive for winning, "We had our basketball team go to state finals, in which they lost, and we have seven players on the team that were there," Bowe said. "So, we really wanted to take it home for them. It says a lot about our school to go to two state finals in one year."

We would also like to congratulate G-A head coach Ed Bowe for being named Battle Creek Enquirer's Area Softball Coach of the Year, a well-deserved recognition.

Four of our Lady Rams, Jackie Bowe, Ali Dawson, Mallory Schug and Alyssa Foy were each selected by area coaches



and the Battle Creek Enquirer Sports staff to join the Enquirer All-Area softball team. Great job!

2007/08 was a stellar year for the Lady Rams Softball team finishing with a 38-2-1 record and for the Lady Rams Basketball team for making it to the State Finals. We are looking forward to another great sports season.

There Have Been Some Exciting Changes at G-A

With a new school year comes a new beginning. We are pleased to announce, upon Board approval, Jeremy Mansfield as the new Assistant Principal for the Middle School. Mr. Mansfield is not new to our district, he has been around G-A since 2002 starting as an intern teacher and then hired as a science and health teacher in the High School the following year.

He originally comes from Berrien Springs and was a chemist for Birds Eyes Foods. He and his wife moved to Kalamazoo in 1999 as he pursued his degree in education. Since 2003, Mr. Mansfield has been the Girls Varsity Track & Field coach and in 2006 the Girls Varsity Cross Country coach.

Along with coaching, he has been the advisor for the G-A Bio-Club, an organization that explores the connections between the lessons in the classroom and their applications within the community. Mr. Mansfield has been a class advisor for the past four years and an active member of the G-A Educational Association for the past two.

Mr. Mansfield holds a Masters in the Art of Teaching and a Biology degree with two additional minors in science and



health education from WMU. He has been married for 8 years to Marnie and together they have two children, Abby age five and Mark age three. Jeremy states, "I'm very excited to become part of the great team at the Middle School and look forward to working with the rest of the school community."

Along with adding Mr. Mansfield to our administrative team, we made other changes as well. Mr. Chris Hurley will be assuming the responsibility of the K-3 Primary Principal, which became vacant when Mr. Scoville left at the end of June. Mr. Hurley is our most veteran principal and will bring great experience to the position.

In order to help our 8th graders succeed in High School, and to better align our curriculum for the new graduation requirements, Mr. Todd Reynolds will assume the responsibility of 8th grade and become an 8-12 Principal and Mr. Brent Cole will become the Assistant Principal of the High School.

To complete the changes, Mrs. Martha Hymer will assume the responsibility of grades 4-7, as well as continue as our MEAP and Data Coordinator. Mrs. Hymer's experience with curriculum will play an intricate role assuring our curriculum is aligned K-12.

Mr. Mansfield will be the on-site administrator and contact person for parents, staff, and students in the Middle School with support provided by Mr. Reynolds and Mrs. Hymer.

"We are excited about these changes. This is a great opportunity for administrative collaboration that will benefit the students, staff and parents," Doug Newington.

From the Desk of Superintendent Doug Newington

Greetings!

As the beginning of the school year approaches, we are anticipating a great 2008-2009 year here at G-A. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new students joining our district this year, and to welcome back our returning students and staff.

Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment – We are still enrolling students for our Pre-K program. This program has been viewed by many as the best early childhood program in the county. I have to agree. As we track performance, we believe it demonstrates a critical step that prepares our youngest learners for school. Also, I want to encourage our G-A parents to take advantage of our G-A Learning Center (for 2 ½ - 5 year olds) and our Before- and After- school programs.

FamiLinks – For all our young G-A children, we have a program to assist parents in preparing your child for school. Your School Board is very serious about learning readiness. It is a completely free program that supports parents in developmental assessments, linking families to great programs for younger children, as well as familiarizing families with G-A schools. Please call Tatiana Curtiss at 484-2040 ext. 3548.

Athletics & Pay-to-Participate – In order to assist in offsetting increasing costs, a pay-to-participate fee will remain in effect this year. It will require that a student/athlete pay \$25.00 to participate in a sport with a maximum of \$50.00 for two or more sports. The fee is due within two weeks of making the official team roster. If a student does not pay within the two week period, they will not be eligible to participate until the balance is cleared. Please make checks payable to G-A Community Schools and remit to the Superintendents Office. If, for any reason, you are unable to pay in full by the due date, please contact the Superintendent's Office. We appreciate all the support and generosity from the students and parents. All efforts are being made to keep this fee to a minimum.

KVA and Athletic Admissions – We are pleased to announce that there are no increases in the admission rates for sporting events this year. The general adult admission will remain \$5.00 per person. Discount passes are also available. A list of the prices is located on page 5.

Transportation – According to a spokesperson for the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, the bridge on 35th Street should be completed before school opens. If, for any unforeseen reason, the bridge is not completed, families will be notified of any changes in bus route/pick-up or drop-off times. It is our goal to minimize the amount of time students spend on the bus.

Student Achievement-No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

No Child Left Behind is a driving force for student achievement. Principals and faculty continue to engage each other in school improvement team meetings to discuss new ideas for improving student achievement. The new mantra: are the curriculum, instruction, and assessments aligned? Then, through an analysis of data we determine if teaching and learning are taking place. I can tell you there is more rigor, relevance, and relationship building going on between staff and students than ever before. Parent surveys will support this change. They reveal overwhelmingly that G-A's greatest asset continues to be its staff.

Coming Soon--Be sure to check out the look of our new website at www.g-aschools.org. This website will have a more modern look and be more user friendly. It was created and will be maintained by Mr. Mike Miller. If you have any questions or comments please contact Mr. Miller at mmiller@gacsnet.org

Facilities Committee

I would like to thank all of the participants of the Community Facilities Committee for the vast amount of time and dedication to developing a short and long term facilities plan. Mr. Chuck Whitman is the committee's facilitator and will be summarizing the results and presenting a report to the Board later this fall.

Community Relations Committee

Under the direction of Mr. Michael Way, our Community Relations Committee has re-formed and is becoming more active. The committee met a few times last year prior to taking a break for the summer. We will be announcing this year's meeting schedule soon. If you are interested in becoming part of the committee, please email me at dnewington@gacsnet.org.

The Galesburg-Augusta Education Foundation

The G-A Education Foundation is a non-profit organization established to promote, receive, invest and administer funds or other tangible gifts for students. The Mission of the Galesburg-Augusta Education Foundation is to provide financial support to Galesburg-Augusta graduates for their continued education. The Foundation also provides grants to teachers for concepts that enhance education in our district. For more information about the foundation, see our website, under "Our District", at www.g-aschools.org.

Respectfully,
Douglas P. Newington



Highlights & Events



Lunch Applications

Parents may now fill out lunch applications online at www.LunchApp.com. Paper applications will be sent home with students also.

Intermediate & Middle School Open Houses

The Intermediate open house will take place on Wednesday, August 27th at 6:00 p.m. at the Intermediate. The Middle School 6th grade orientation will take place on Wednesday, August 27th at 7:00 p.m at the Middle School.

Primary Open House

Primary school open house will be held on August 26, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. The kindergarten bus orientation will be at 5:45. The Pre-School will host an open house in September, the date yet to be announced.

Freshman Orientation

Freshman Orientation will take place on August 20, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. All incoming freshman and their parents are invited to attend. Freshmen pictures will be taken at that time.

Important Information for Parents/Guardians of New Students

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools. As a parent/guardian of a new or transfer student, we hope your transition is a smooth and positive experience. With your help we plan to maintain a safe and healthy environment for your child to learn and grow.

The Emergency Card

It is very important that the emergency card is completely filled out with a designated person authorized to pick up your child in the event we cannot immediately reach you. In addition to accident or injury, it is important that you have a designated person or network available for your child in cases of early school closing or inclement weather.

If your child has a medical condition i.e., diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, acute allergies (food, insect bites, animals), or physical disability, please inform the teacher or school secretary to insure a safe, healthy school environment.

Health Requirements for Starting School

Submit a Health Appraisal form completed by your physician. Must be completed by the first day of school. Minimum State of Michigan Immunization requirements:

4 – 6 years of age:

- 4 DPT – 1 after 4 years of age
- 3 Polio – 1 after 4 years of age
- 2 MMR – 1st after 12 months of age
2nd after 15 months of age
- 4 HIB – if entering before age 5 or entering the pre-school
- 3 Hepatitis B – vaccines in series
- 1 Chickenpox vaccine – after 1st birthday or date of history of the disease

7 – 18 years of age

- 4 DPT – 1 in the last 10 years
- 3 Polio
- 2 MMR – 1st after 12 months of age
- 3 Hepatitis B (vaccine series)
- 1 Varicella (chickenpox) if given after 1st birthday and before 13 years of age. Two doses if the vaccine is initiated after 13th birthday or date of history of the disease.

If you have a religious or medical reason why your child cannot be immunized, a waiver form must be signed before starting the first day of school.

6th Grade Immunization Assessment

Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, schools in Michigan will be required to assess and report the immunization status of all 6th grade students, in addition to the new school entrants, including kindergartners, whom they currently assess.

This fall 6th graders must have documentation showing that they have had the following immunizations.

- Two doses of MMR
- Three doses of Hepatitis B, complete series of DtaP/Td with one dose in the last 10 years.
- One dose of Varicella (or history of disease chicken pox)

The State of Michigan states that any student not completely immunized should be deterred from starting school. This requirement will help assure that all school-aged children are up-to-date and protected against all vaccine-preventable diseases.

Medication (Prescribed and Over the Counter)

For the safety of your children, Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools has a medication policy which requires written instructions from the prescribing physician or health care professional and a written request from both a physician and one parent/guardian. The request and permission must be renewed each year.

If at any time you have questions or concerns regarding your child's health or safety, please contact your building secretary or principal.

Identification

A social security number for the child will be requested. Social security numbers are used only as an identifier in data collection and analysis.

FamiLinks

A Connection Resource for G-A Families!

We offer links to local community services as well as free developmental assessments.

With the Ages & Stages screening tool, we are able to:

- Assure parents that their child is at age level concerning important skills.
- Identify children who may need extra help meeting developmental milestones.
- Help parents better understand their child's developmental level.
- Ensure greater school readiness for all children.

Tatiana Curtiss
FamiLinks Liaison
484-2040, ext. 3548 or tcurtiss@gacsnet.org

PRESCHOOL OPENINGS

Galesburg-Augusta offers preschool for three and four-year-old children.

We work with families to make the experience educational and enjoyable. To learn more about the programs,



Call 484-2040 TODAY!!



Current Job Postings for G-A

School Psychologist

2nd Grade Teacher (subject to enrollment)

Kindergarten Teacher (subject to enrollment)

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools

Mission Statement

The Galesburg-Augusta School District, in partnership with the home and community, will teach each student the knowledge, skills and attitude to be a productive and ethical citizen.

Vision

To be the preferred small-school district in our region.

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools

Important Annual Notices

Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

- 1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal or building secretary a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- 2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the School to amend a record should write the School principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent/eligible student, the School will notify the parent/eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- 3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent

that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted as its agent to provide service instead of using its own employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

- 4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
 U.S. Department of Education
 400 Maryland Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20202-5920

Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)-

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parents;
 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family
 3. Sex behavior or attitudes
 4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents;
- or
8. Income, other than required by law to determine program eligibility.
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of-
1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
 2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
 3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute information to others.
- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use-
1. Protected information surveys of students;
 2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
 3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools will adopt policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above

Parents who believe their rights have violated may file a complaint with:
 Family Policy Compliance Office
 U.S. Department of Education
 400 Maryland Ave. SW
 Washington, D.C. 20202-5901

Galesburg-Augusta Community School Policy on Searches of Motorized Vehicles, Lockers, and Students

Board Policy Number 8130

Searches of lockers, motorized vehicles, and students shall be conducted under the appropriate legal standard, to maintain the safety and security of students, teachers, guests, and school property.

Lockers

All lockers assigned to pupils are the property of the school District. At no time does the school relinquish its exclusive control of its lockers. The school Principal or designee shall have custody of all combinations to all lockers and locks. Pupils are prohibited from placing locks on any locker without the prior approval of the Principal or designee.

The school may assign temporary use of lockers to students for their convenience and the lockers may be used only as permitted by the rules developed by the Superintendent. The Board authorizes the Principal or designee to search lockers and locker contents at any time, without notice, and without parent(s)/guardian(s) or pupil consent. Random searches shall be conducted pursuant to a method and/or schedule approved by the Superintendent.

The Principal or designee may request the assistance of law enforcement in conducting a locker search pursuant to state statute. If law enforcement is summoned, the Principal and/or designee shall supervise the search. In conducting a search, the privacy rights of the student regarding any items

discovered that are neither illegal nor against school policy and rules, shall be respected.

Any illegal or unauthorized items found during a locker search or items deemed to be a threat to the safety and security of others may be seized. Such items include, but are not limited to:

- Firearms, Explosives, Dangerous weapons, Flammable material

8130 Searches of Motorized Vehicles, Lockers, and Students
 trolled substances or controlled substances analogues or other intoxicants, Contraband, Poisons, and/or Stolen property.

Law enforcement authorities shall be notified immediately of seizure of such items, or of items that must be reported to law enforcement under the Statewide School Safety Information Policy. The items seized will be turned over to law enforcement. The parent(s)/guardian(s) of a minor student or a student 18 years of age or older, shall be notified by the Principal or designee of items removed from the locker. A copy of this policy and accompanying administrative rules regarding locker searches shall be provided annually to each pupil and parent(s)/guardian(s) of the pupil assigned a school locker.

Notice for Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories - names, addresses and telephone listings - unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.⁽¹⁾

If you do not want Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing. Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools has designated the following information as directory information: [Note: an LEA may, but does not have to, include all the information listed below.]

- Student's name
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended

Footnotes:

1. These laws are: Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7908), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110), the education bill, and 10 U.S.C. 503, as amended by section 544, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (P.L. 107-107), the legislation that provides funding for the Nation's armed forces.

Pesticide Notice

Pursuant to Michigan Environmental Law's school administrators will notify parents before pesticides are applied on/around a student's building.

Schools of Choice Notice

Section 105
Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools participate in the Kalamazoo RESA schools of choice agreement. This agreement is a joint decision by all of the districts in Kalamazoo County regarding the decision of "choice" for the 2008-2009 school year.
Section 105C
We are accepting unlimited students in all grades, on a case-by-case basis, from within the boundaries of the ISD that is contiguous to our ISD until the end of the first week of school and then the beginning of the second semester until the end of the first week.

Non-Discrimination and Complaint Procedure

The District will not discriminate against any person based on sex, race, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, handicap, age, or disability. The Board reaffirms its long-standing policy of compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination including, but not limited to, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d. et seq.; and 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e, et seq.; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681, et seq.; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794; Title II, The Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101, et seq.; age discrimination act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6101-6107; the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act, MCL §§ 37.1101, et seq.; and the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, MCL §§ 37.2101, et seq.

The administrator in charge of Special Education is appointed the Civil Rights Coordinator regarding complaints of disability/handicap discrimination involving educational services, programs and activities. The Superintendent is appointed the Civil Rights Coordinator regarding discrimination complaints made by students (grades Pre-K through 12) and/or their parent(s)/guardian(s), and involving sex, race, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, age, or marital status. The Superintendent is appointed the Civil Rights Coordinator regarding all other complaints of discrimination. In the event the complaint is against the Superintendent of Schools, the Vice-President of the Board of Education is appointed the Civil Rights Coordinator. Inquiries or complaints by students and/or their parent(s)/guardian(s) related to discrimination based on disability/handicap should be directed to: The Administrator in Charge of Special Education Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools 1076 N. 37th St. Galesburg, MI 49053 269-484-2000

Inquiries or complaints made by students (grades Pre K through 12) and/or their parent(s)/guardian(s) related to discrimination based on sex, race, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, age, or marital status should be directed to: The Superintendent of Schools Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools 1076 N. 37th St. Galesburg, MI 49053 269-484-2000 In the event a complaint is against the Superintendent of Schools, the complaint should be directed to: The Vice-President of the Board of Education Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools 1076 N. 37th St. Galesburg, MI 49053 269-484-2000

Professional Qualifications

It is the right of every parent, or student of legal age, to request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers. The district must provide this information to the parent, or eligible student, within a timely manner. Requests for professional qualifications must be made in writing to the building principal.

Great Achievements Learning Center

Now Enrolling for Fall

Open to ALL G-A Community Residents with children ages 2½ to 5th grade
Affordable Prices & Flexible Schedules
Open Monday-Friday:
6:30am to 6pm

Located at the Primary Building
Contact: Crystal at 484-2040 ext. 3575

Asbestos Notice

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act requires inspection and notification of friable asbestos containing materials in school buildings. An asbestos report regarding Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools is available at the Administration Offices:
1076 N. 37th St.
Galesburg, MI 49053

Discount Athletic Passes

The KVA has set general admission as \$5.00 per adult, \$4.00 per student, and \$3.00 for Senior Citizens to enter an athletic event. G-A schools is offering discount passes for adults, seniors and students.

- ADULT PASS**
6 admissions for \$25
14 admissions for \$50 Seniors \$38
25 admissions for \$75 Seniors \$63
40 admissions for \$100 Seniors \$80

- STUDENT ANNUAL PASS**
Elementary and Middle School students \$20
High School students \$30

Please contact Athletic Director Mike Woodard to purchase a discount pass, 484-2010 ext. 1038

2008-09 Tentative G-A School Calendar

MEAPS:

Students grades 3-9 will be taking the MEAPS from October 14 through October 23, 2008.

Students will be taking the test in the morning hours. Parents are asked to schedule appointments in the afternoon so their student will be able to participate in the morning testing periods.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL SCHEDULES:

Middle School parents should expect to receive their student's fall class schedules in August. If you have questions regarding the schedule, Mrs. Sexton will be available beginning Tuesday, August 26. To reduce the amount of missed class time, schedule changes will be honored through the first week of school only. Please be aware that the school may need to make schedule changes to balance class numbers and class composition.

K-8 SAFE SCHOOLS PROGRAM:

The goal of this program continues to be providing a safe and respectful school environment for all students, staff and parents. Students will go through a refresher course and information packets will be sent home at the beginning of the school year. Parents are welcome to call the school offices for more information and to answer any questions and/or concerns.

G-A Theatre Program



Twice a year the theatre program will hold auditions for two theatrical performances. If being on stage isn't for you but you still want to be involved, you have the opportunity to work on one of the production crews. All students cast in a show **will be expected to rehearse every-day after school** for several hours from the time of casting through opening night. These dedicated students are rewarded when their talents are showcased to their family, friends and peers.

Please contact Eric Hayner if you have any further questions at 484-2010 ext 1014.

G-A to Participate in an Energy Audit

Conserving our world by conserving energy is very important to us at G-A, as well as implementing cost-saving ideas whenever possible. Carl Newton has unselfishly volunteered his time to find ways to achieve this goal. Mr. Newton, with the assistance of Tim Kerney, our new Head Maintenance, will be conducting an energy audit. This audit will be used to seek opportunities to reduce the amount of energy used throughout the school district. Some areas to be covered are lighting upgrades and controls, heating and cooling controls, heating and cooling temperature set points, condensing of building operations, time of day operation, and heat recovery.

Mr. Newton has been the Energy Reduction Manager for Western Michigan University for the past 12 1/2 years, until his retirement in June of this year. He has been a Galesburg resident for most of his life, graduating from G-A in 1966. He continued his education at Central Michigan University with a BS in Ed., with a major in Industrial Education and a minor in Physical Education. He also holds an Associates Degree in Electronic Engineering Technology from ITT Tech of Fort Wayne, In.

Carl has been volunteering for the Galesburg-Charleston Fire Dept. for almost 30 years. He and his wife, Vicki, have two Daughters, Lori and Lisa, who also graduated from G-A.

His career in facilities management/building maintenance has covered 25 years. Currently, Mr. Newton is self-employed, doing energy reduction consultation with a DBA of NCA Services. He works primarily with schools, churches, industry and commercial customers.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mr. Newton for offering his services to our district.

August 21 (Th)	Probationary Teachers
August 25 (M)	Staff Breakfast/GAEA/Building meetings
August 26 (T)	Professional Development
August 27 (W)	Leadership Council/Prof. Development
August 28 (Th)	Professional Development
September 2 (T)	School Begins- Half Day
Oct. 14(M) – Oct. 27(F)	K-8 MEAP Testing
Oct. 31 (F)	½ Day K-8 / ½ Day PD
Nov. 7 (F)	No School K-8 (½ day PD & ½ day Records)
	1st Marking Period Ends
Nov. 12 (W)	Parent Teacher Conferences 5-8pm K-12
Nov. 13 (Th)	No School – PTC 8:30-Noon, 1-4pm, 5-8pm
Nov. 14 (F)	No School K-12
Nov. 27 & 28	No School K-12 Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 19(F) - Jan. 2(F)	No School K-12 Holiday Break
Jan. 5 (M)	School Resumes
Jan. 15(Th) – Jan. 16(F)	½ Days 9-12 / H.S. Exams (7:35-11:15)
Jan. 19 (M)	No School K-12/Records Day/
	2nd Semester Begins
Jan. 30 (F)	No School K-12/ Prof. Development
Feb. 20(F) & Feb. 23(M)	No School K-12 Winter Break
March 6 (F)	No School K-12 Energy Conservation
March 10(T)	No School 9-12/MME Testing/Prof. Dev.
March 11 (W)	½ Day 9-12 (start 11:20)MME Testing/
	Prof. Dev. (am)
March 12 (Th)	½ day K-8 Records day, pm
	½ Day 9-12 (start 11:20)MME Testing/
	Prof. Dev. (am)
	K-8 3rd Marking Period Ends
March 18 (W)	K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences 5-8pm
March 19 (Th)	No School K-12 – PTC 8:30-12n 1-4pm 5-8pm
March 20 (F)	No School K-12
March 24 (T)	MME Testing Make up Date
March 25 (W)	MME Testing Make up Date
March 26 (Th)	MME Testing Make up Date
March 27 (F)	9-12 3rd Marking Period Ends
April 3(F) - April 10(F)	No School K-12 Spring Break
April 13 (M)	School Resumes
May 25 (M)	No School K-12 Memorial Day
May 31 (Sun)	Graduation 2 p.m.
June 2(T) & June 3(W)	½ Day 9-12 / H.S. Exams (7:35-11:15)
June 4 (Th)	½ Day K-12 Exams/ Last Day of School
June 5 (F)	Last Day for Teachers

Gilder Lehrman Institute Awards History Materials to G-A Intermediate

The Galesburg-Augusta Intermediate School was awarded an archive of reference books, CD's, maps, documents, and history kits to place in their school library by the Gilder Lehrman Institute. Rena Heleniak, a fifth grade teacher at the Intermediate, received these materials as part of her "Michigan History Teacher of the Year" Award. The G-A Schools received 150 resources that will aid teachers in providing supplemental materials to enrich their American history curriculum. The Gilder Lehrman Institute serves teachers, students, scholars, and the general public. Their goal is to promote the study and love for American history.



Holly DeLeon, Mrs. Heleniak, Katherine Dooley



SPORTS



Soccer Schedule Fall 2008

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	
Mon. 8-18	Bellevue	Away	5:30 p.m.
Thurs. 8-21	Gull Lake	Away	6:45 p.m.
Wed. 8-27	Paw Paw	Home	6:45 p.m.
Wed. 9-3	Delton	Away	
Mon. 9-8	K. Christian	Home	
Wed. 9-10	Hackett	Away	6:45 p.m.
Sat. 9-13	Heritage Christian	Away	TBA
Mon. 9-15	Pennfield	Home	
Wed. 9-17	Maple Valley	Away	
Mon. 9-22	Olivet	Home	
Wed. 9-24	Parchment	Home	
Thurs. 9-25	Otsego	Home	6:45 p.m.
Sat. 9-27	Allegan	Away	11:45 a.m.
Mon. 9-29	KVA Tourn.	TBA	
Wed. 10-1	KVA Tourn.	TBA	
Mon. 10-6	KVA Tourn.	TBA	
Oct. 13-18	Districts	TBA	

Games begin at 6 p.m. unless noted.

Football Schedule Fall 2008

JUNIOR VARSITY

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
Wed. 8-27	Maple Valley	Away
Thurs. 9-4	Schoolcraft	Home
Thurs. 9-11	Delton	Away
Thurs. 9-18	K-Christian	Home
Thurs. 9-25	Constantine	Away
Thurs. 10-2	Pennfield	Home
Thurs. 10-9	Hackett	Away
Thurs. 10-16	Olivet	Home
Thurs. 10-23	Parchment	Home

All Games Begin at 6:30 P.M.

VARSITY

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
Thurs. 8-28	Maple Valley	Home
Fri. 9-5	Schoolcraft	Away
Fri. 9-12	Delton	Home
Fri. 9-19	K-Christian	Away
Fri. 9-26	Constantine	Home
Fri. 10-3	Pennfield	Away
Fri. 10-10	Hackett	Home
Fri. 10-17	Olivet	Away
Fri. 10-24	Parchment	Away

ALL GAMES ARE ON FRIDAY AND BEGIN AT 7 p.m.

Cross Country Schedule Fall 2008

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
Thurs. 8-21	G-K Meet	Portage Northern
Sat. 9-6	Lawton Invitational	
Wed. 9-10	Delton Jamboree	Gilmore
Sat. 9-13	Mendon Invitational	
Tues. 9-16	Hackett Jamboree	
Sat. 9-20	Bangor Invitational	
Sat. 9-27	Otsego Invitational	
Tues. 9-30	Constantine Jamboree	
Sat. 10-4	Portage Central Invitational	
Sat. 10-11	Hackett Invitational	Hackett H.S.
Tues. 10-14	KVA Championship	
Sat. 10-18	Gobles Invitational	

Boy's Tennis Fall 2008

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
Thurs. 8-28	Hillsdale Inv.	Away 9 a.m.
Tues. 9-9	Bronson and Parchment	Home
Thurs. 9-11	Comstock	Away
Tues. 9-16	Hackett	Away
Wed. 9-17	Albion	Away 4:30 p.m.
Sat. 9-20	Paw Paw Inv.	Away 9 a.m.
Tues. 9-23	K-Christian	Away
Sat. 9-27	G-K Tourn. at Mattawan	Away
Tues. 9-30	Pennfield	Home
Wed. 10-1	Harper Creek	
Sat. 10-4	KVA Tourn.	TBA
Oct. 9 or 10	Regionals	TBA

Matches begin at approximately 4 p.m. unless noted.

Volleyball Fall 2008

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Sat. 8-23	Hackett Tourn. (Var.)	Away	9 a.m.
Sat. 8-23	Portage Cent. Tourn. (Fresh.)	Away	8:30 a.m.
Tues. 8-26	Varsity Quad with Coloma	Home	
	Portage Northern and Parchment		
Wed. 9-3	Maple Valley (JV/Var)	Home	6 p.m.
Sat. 9-6	Bronson Tourn. (Var.)	Away	8:30 a.m.
Sat. 9-6	Harper Creek Tourn. (J.V.)	Away	8:30 a.m.
Tues. 9-9	Gull Lake Mini-Tourn. (J.V.)	Away	4 p.m.
Wed. 9-10	Schoolcraft (All)	Away	6 p.m.
Tues. 9-16	Loy Norrix Mini-Tourn. (Fresh)	Away	4 p.m.
Wed. 9-17	Delton (All)	Home	6 p.m.
Sat. 9-20	Gull Lake Tourn. (JV)	Away	8 a.m.
Sat. 9-20	B.C. Lakeview Tourn. (Var.)	Away	8 a.m.
Wed. 9-24	K. Christian (All)	Away	5 p.m.
Sat. 9-27	Gull Lake Tourn. (Fresh.)	Away	8 a.m.
Mon. 9-29	Varsity Quad	Home	
	w/ White Pigeon, Climax, otsego		
Mon. 9-29	JV Quad at Climax	Away	
Wed. 10-1	Constantine (All)	Home	6 p.m.
Sat. 10-4	G-K Tourn. (Var) at Otsego	Away	TBA
Wed. 10-8	Pennfield (All)	Away	6 p.m.
Sat. 10-11	Kalamazoo Central Tourn.(JV)	Away	TBA
Sat. 10-11	Centreville Tourn. (Fresh)	Away	TBA
Tues. 10-14	Gull Lake Mini Tourn.(Var)	Away	4 p.m.
Wed. 10-15	Hackett (All)	Home	6 p.m.
Wed. 10-22	Olivet (All?)	Away	6 p.m.
Thurs. 10-23	Mendon (All)	Home	6 p.m.
Mon. 10-27	Parchment (All)	Away	5 p.m.
Sat. 11-1	KVA Tourn. (Var.)	TBA	

Fall High School Sports Practices

Fall sports practices begin on August 11th. If you have any questions, please contact the coach of that particular sport.

Volleyball:	Trish Kohl	207-6973
Soccer:	Steve Groetsema	484-4814
Football:	Brian Dolph	998-2707
Boy's Tennis:	Bob adkins	665-7121
Girl's Cross Country:	Jeremy Mansfield	873-1996
Athletic Director:	Mike Woodard	217-8230

All student-athletes must have a physical on file with the athletic director before they may participate in practice. A physical given before April 15th, 2008 will not be valid for next school year (Michigan High School Athletic Association Policy).

Galesburg-Augusta Board of Education

President, Jerry VanderWeele; Vice President, Curt Case; Secretary, Chuck Whitman; Treasurer, Jeffrey McCubbin; Trustee, Beth Wilson; Trustee, Bob Kinas; Trustee, Michael Way

School Board Meeting Dates & Locations

August 18	Board Room
September 15	
October 20	
November 17	
December 15	
January 19	
Feb 2 (AHP)	Board room
February 16	
March 16	
April 20	
May 18	
June 22	

All Meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the high school media center unless otherwise noted.

Board Committee Appointments

Finance Committee: Jeff McCubbin Curt Case Chuck Whitman Doug Newington	Policy Committee Jeff McCubbin Chuck Whitman Doug Newington
Community Relations: Michael Way Beth Wilson Jeff McCubbin Doug Newington	Building/Grounds/Transportation Curt Case Chuck Whitman Beth Wilson Rick Lewis Doug Newington
Personnel Committee Jerry VanderWeele Curt Case Bob Kinas Doug Newington	Legislative Relations Network Chuck Whitman
Academic Success Committee Bob Kinas Jeff McCubbin Doug Newington	Strategic Planning Committee Curt Case Michael Way Chuck Whitman Administrators

G-A Parent Involvement

Parent Advisory Committee

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meets several times a year to discuss important issues pertaining to the education of the Galesburg-Augusta students. The PAC has reviewed health curriculum, worked on the School Improvement Plan and strives to improve school communications. Please contact the Superintendent's office (269) 484-2000 if interested in joining the PAC.

Sport Boosters

The boosters are an organized group whose purpose is to support, encourage, and advance the athletic program and related activities of the Galesburg-Augusta School District. The organization promotes projects to improve facilities and equipment necessary to provide an adequate athletic program for the school district. The sports boosters is always looking for new members, if interested please call the high school, (269) 484-1000.

Parents Actively Supporting Students

P.A.S.S. (Parents Actively Supporting Students) is a parent-driven, staff supported organization representing the middle school in grades 6 through 8. G-A Middle school parents and staff work together to provide and organize events and activities promoting academic achievement and a supportive school environment. PASS has organized an annual Career Day, helps with the Gold and Silver rewards programs, the end of the year Gold and Silver celebration, supports Student Council activities, participates in our St. Nick's day celebration, helps out during MEAP testing, celebrates staff appreciation week for the middle school staff and gives a helping hand for a variety of other events during the school year. For more information contact PASS chairperson Lynne Wells.

Adults for G-A Kids

AFGAK is the parent-teacher group representing G-A Pre-School through 5th Grade Students by working together to create opportunities for the children during the school year. Our organization raises money for each grade to use during the school year to fund field trips, Reading Counts, library, music, gym, art, computer lab, 5th Grade Camp, 4th Grade Swimming and several other needs not included in the school budget. AFGAK meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. Contacts: Stephanie Hosmer 665-4953, President, Liz Coleman 665-4574, Vice President, Kristen Millen 665-9162, Treasurer, and Kim Chatman 665-7118, Secretary.

Important Band Dates 2008-09

Freshman Marching Band Orientation Friday, Aug. 8
 Ram Marching Band Camp (at G-A HS) (required 9-12) Aug. 11-15
 Battle Creek Marching Invitational (req. HS Marching Band) Sept. 20
 Kalamazoo Holiday Parade (req. HS Marching Band) Nov. 1
 Galesburg Holiday Parade (req. HS Marching Band) Dec. 3
 Christmas Concert (req. 7-12) Dec. 10
 Beginning Band Demonstration Concert (req. 6) Dec. 8
 HS District Solo Ensemble Festival (optional 9-12) Feb. 7
 HS MSBOA District Band Festival (req. 9-12) Feb. 27 or 28
 MS MSBOA District Band Festival (req. 7-8) March 6 or 7
 West Michigan Wind Festival (req. 7-12) March TBA
 HS State Solo Ensemble Festival (optional 9-12) March 28
 MS District Solo Ensemble Festival (optional 7-8) April 18, 2007
 Spring Collage Concert (req. 6-12) April 22
 Senior Concert and Band Awards (req. 9-12, opt. 6-8) May 14
 Graduation (req. HS Symphonic Band) May 31

Home 2008 Varsity Football Schedule:
 (Required for all Marching Band members)
 Thursday, Aug. 28th, Maple Valley
 Friday, Sept. 12th, Delton
 Friday, Sept. 26th, Constantine
 Friday, Oct. 10th, Hackett

Band Boosters Meeting Dates

*All meetings are at 6 pm, High School Band Room:
 Occasionally meeting dates are changed to facilitate school events.
 Feel free to call 484-2010 ext. 1040 to confirm the meeting date for that month.*

- Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008
- Wednesday, October 15, 2008
- Wednesday, November 19, 2008
- No meeting in December, 2008
- Wednesday, January 21, 2009
- Wednesday, February 18, 2009
- Wednesday, March 18, 2009
- Wednesday, April 15, 2009
- Wednesday, May 20, 2009

To join the band boosters please attend a scheduled meeting or call band director Jan Edgerton at 484-2010 ext. 1040. Please check the school web site often for schedule revisions: g-aschools.org

Foreign Links Around the Globe FLAG

FLAG (Foreign Links Around the Globe) a Richland based student exchange organization is looking for families willing to open their hearts and homes to our young student ambassadors arriving in late August. Are you ready for months filled with sharing, caring, laughter, and learning? Choose the international son or daughter that best matches your family's interests, such as sports, music, art, drama, photography, cooking, and more. For more information and to view letters and pictures please contact Heather Holmer at 269-629-0532 or at hholmer@flag-intl.org