



Tiger



Pause



**Griswold Community School District  
Newsletter**

**October/November/December  
2023**

For a CURRENT list  
of school activities go  
to the calendar at the  
school website  
<http://griswoldschools.org>

Griswold Community  
School District  
20 Madison, P. O. Box 280  
Griswold, Iowa 51535  
712-778-2152 (fax 712-778-4145)  
<http://griswoldschools.org>  
Questions/comments regarding the  
newsletter contact  
Monica Brandt, 712-778-2154 or  
[mbrandt@griswoldschools.org](mailto:mbrandt@griswoldschools.org)

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The mission of the  
Griswold Community School District,  
in partnership with our families  
and communities, is to provide  
leadership for positive change to  
ensure the best learning opportunities  
for everyone in a safe and  
caring environment.

## Conferences

**Tuesday, Oct. 24th and Thursday, Oct. 26th**

**4:00 - 8:00 pm each day.**

Tuesday, Oct 24th will be a two hour dismissal

Wednesday, Oct 25th is a normal one hour dismissal.

Thursday, Oct. 26th is a two hour dismissal.

There will be NO SCHOOL Friday Oct. 27th.

*Conferences may schedule by going to the school website  
under the Parent Teacher Conference tab to schedule a  
conference with your student's teacher.*



Picture retake day is scheduled for Tuesday,  
Oct 3rd  
All students who did not take their pictures the  
first time will take theirs taken on this day.

Teammates is continuing to look for more members in the community willing to help mentor students at Griswold Community Schools. Mentoring takes place during the school day for 30-60 minutes per week. If you are interested in mentoring and providing a positive influence on students, please call 712-778-2154 or see Charity Mundorf at the MS/HS building.

*Together We Transform Lives*

# TEAMMATES<sup>SM</sup>

## MENTORING

**K-5 Christmas Concert will  
be held on  
Friday, December 8th  
at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m**

# BUY YOUR Yearbook

**There are six  
2022-2023 Elementary Yearbooks  
still available for \$20.00  
in the school main office.**





## UPCOMING TEST DATE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**ACT Test - See [actstudent.org](https://actstudent.org) or more information and to APPLY ONLINE. Cost \$55.00**

- Universally accepted test for college admission
- Best practice is to test for a baseline during your junior year.
- Based on high school curriculum
- Provides valuable career and educational planning
- This year we are providing a great opportunity for our students. The John Baylor ACT Test Prep Course is designed to help students improve their ACT score. Many scholarships and college entrance scores consider ACT scores so the better a score is the greater the likelihood of acceptance. This course is an intense, rigorous course that will provide valuable pointers in the four basic areas – English, Reading, Math and Science. Over the 6 weeks of the course, students will attend 12 – 45 minute sessions and complete homework following each session. See Mrs. Bissell if you are interested in improving your ACT score with John Baylor and taking the course.

## Parents and Students

Please check out the School Counseling tab on the school's website for important dates, scholarship information, college information and more.

Students watch the counseling bulletin board for college recruiter visits. Please sign up if you are interested in attending their presentation.

### Griswold Alum Publishes a Best-Selling Book

A Griswold alum and former Cass County 4-Her Tina (Kneisel) Bakehouse, known as Tina B., a heart-centered, passionate communication consultant and coach, TEDx speaker, and former Disney Cast member, has a best-selling E-book live on Amazon, *Discovering Our Magnetic Speaker Within*. Tina B. has been protecting audiences from boring speeches and anchoring speakers' magnetic confidence for over 20 years. She facilitates storytelling, improvisation, and communication workshops, retreats, and coaching programs for leaders, nonprofits, and HR professionals. Her goal is to "support and serve people to embrace their inner magnetism." And her book guides the reader through that process by teaching:

The importance of audience preferences and self-awareness: who we are and what we think affects what we say and do.

The significance of clear, organized, and audience-centered messages in different contexts. Passion, storytelling, creative play, and flow all lead to magnetism.

The value of improvisation training, forgiveness, and practice strengthen your vocal and physical delivery and overall presence to attract and relate to audiences.

And so much more...

If you're interested in learning more, download her e-book on Amazon. It is available at a discounted price until October 13, 2023! You can also connect with Tina B. through her website [TinaBakehouse.com](https://TinaBakehouse.com), email [TinaB@TinaBakehouse.com](mailto:TinaB@TinaBakehouse.com), and follow her on LinkedIn and Facebook.

"The Veterans Day Appreciation Program will be on Veterans Day, November 11th at 6:30 pm in the High School auditorium. As always this event is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend. More information will be available later.

Similarly to previous years, we plan to send cards to those currently serving in the military. If you know someone who you would like to make sure is included, please give their name and address to Monica Brandt at 712-778-2154 or [mbrandt@griswoldschools.org](mailto:mbrandt@griswoldschools.org)



#### Parents'/Guardians' Rights Notification

Parents/Guardians in the Griswold Community School District have the right to learn about the following qualifications of their child's teacher/paraprofessional: state licensure requirements for the grade level and content areas taught, the current licensing status of your child's teacher/paraprofessional, and baccalaureate/graduate certification/degree.

Title I program. Parents/Guardians may request this information from the Office of the Superintendent by calling 712-778-2152 or by sending a letter of request to the Office of the Superintendent, 20 Madison, Box 280, Griswold IA 51535.

The Griswold Community School District ensures that parents will be notified in writing if their child has been assigned, or has been taught by a teacher for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not considered highly qualified.

Does your child need health insurance? Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (*hawk-i*) offers free or low-cost health insurance for children under 19 years of age. The *hawk-i* program covers doctor visits, immunizations, hospital care, eye exams and glasses, prescription drugs, routine dental and much more. A family of four making \$66,000 may be eligible for *hawk-i*. To find out if your children qualify, go to [www.hawk-i.org](http://www.hawk-i.org). You can even complete the application online, or call 1-800-257-8563 to learn more.

Title I Students: Parents will be notified if their child's Title I teacher is not highly qualified (having the proper certification). Individual parents will be given a timely notice if the parent's child has been assigned or taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

Breakfast and Lunch menus can be found on the school website under the Menus icon.





Any changes that a parent wishes to make concerning the pick up or delivery of their child must be called in to the bus barn the night before (712-778-2166) or contact your student's bus driver directly. This is necessary, due to the fact that no one monitors the phone at the bus barn in the mornings before routes depart.



Thank you - Jeb Peck

## Safety Tips for Motorists

The following are some safety tips for motorists who encounter a school bus:

- Use extra caution whenever a school bus is observed.
- Be alert for school children in the area.
- Be prepared to stop for the school bus. A school bus is required to stop at a railroad crossing, but is not required to activate the amber warning lights. (It is illegal to drive to the left of the roadway center to pass another vehicle within 100 feet of a railroad crossing).
- Know what is required whenever the flashing amber or flashing red lights of a school bus are activated:
  1. *School bus pre-warning signals. The purpose of the flashing amber lights is to warn other drivers that the school bus is preparing to load or unload students. A school bus driver is required (with some exceptions) to activate the amber flashing lights at least 100 feet before stopping in a speed zone of 35 mph or less, and at least 300 feet before stopping in a speed zone of more than 35 mph. It is a serious misdemeanor to pass or attempt to pass on the right side of a school bus displaying the amber flashing warning lights. Upon observing a school bus displaying flashing amber lights be extra alert for children in the area and be prepared to stop.*
  2. *School bus red lights and stop arm. When the school bus is stopped with its flashing red lights activated and its stop arm extended, traffic from both directions must stop at least 20 feet away from the school bus. Motorists must remain stopped until the stop arm is retracted and the red lights are no longer flashing. The only time motorists are not required to stop for a school bus with its red lights flashing is when the bus is on a separate roadway. A separate roadway means a road that is separated from a parallel road by a safety isle or safety zone.*

Penalties for school bus violations can be substantial. From a fine of not less than \$300.00, to a fine of \$3,000.00 and one year in jail, along with drivers license suspension.

- by Superintendent David Henrichs



# Student Fee Wavier and Reduction

## Procedures (policy 503.3R1)

The board recognizes that while certain fees charged students are appropriate and authorized, certain students and their families are not financially able to pay the fees. The school district will grant either full waivers, partial waivers or temporary waivers depending upon the circumstances and the student or student's parents' ability to meet the financial criteria.

### A. Waivers -

1. Full Waivers - *a student will be granted a full waiver of fees charged by the school district if the student or student's parents meet the financial eligibility criteria for free meals under the Child Nutrition program, Family Investment Program, or transportation assistance under open enrollment. Students in foster care are also eligible for full waivers.*
2. Partial Waivers - *a student will be granted a partial waiver of fees charged by the school district if the student or the student's parents meet the financial eligibility criteria for reduced price meals offered under the Child Nutrition program. The reduction percentage will be 50 percent.*
3. Temporary Waivers - *a student may be eligible for a temporary waiver of fees charged by the district in the event the student's parents are facing financial difficulty. Temporary waivers may be applied for at any time throughout the school year and will not extend beyond the end of the school year.*

B. Application - *Parents or students eligible for a fee waiver will make an application on the form provided by the school district. Applications may be made at any time but must be renewed annually.*

(Contact Hannah Bierbaum 712-778-2152 for application.)

C. Confidentiality - *The school district will treat the application and application process as any other student record and student confidentiality and access provisions will be followed.*

D. Appeals - *Denials of a waiver may be appealed to the superintendent of schools.*

E. Fines or charges assessed for damage or loss to school property are not fees and will not be waived.

F. Notice - *the school district will annually notify parents and students of the waiver. The following information will be included in registration materials.*

Students whose families meet the income guidelines for free and reduced price lunch, the Family Investment Program (FIP), or transportation assistance under open enrollment, or who are in foster care are eligible to have their student fees waived or partially waived. Students whose families are experiencing a temporary financial difficulty may be eligible for a temporary waiver of student fees. Parents or students who believe they may qualify for temporary financial hardship should contact the superintendent's secretary for a waiver form. This waiver does not carry over from year to year and must be completed annually.

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Griswold Community School District offers healthy meals every school day. Children need healthy meals to learn. Griswold Community School District offers healthy meals every school day. Your children may qualify for free meals/milk or for reduced price meals. We encourage all families to fill out applications for Free and Reduced Price School Meals. Applications can be submitted at any time during the school year. Return or mail the completed application to Hannah Bierbaum, 20 Madison St, Griswold, IA 51535 or [hbierbaum@griswoldschools.org](mailto:hbierbaum@griswoldschools.org). If your child/children already receive free or reduced meals, no further action is required at this time to continue benefits.

Daily breakfast cost \$1.80 (PK - 12th); lunch cost \$2.50 for PK - 5th \$2.70 for 6th - 12th. Reduced price meal is \$.30 for breakfast (PK - 12th) and \$.40 for lunch (PK - 12).

If you have other questions or need help, please contact Hannah Bierbaum at 712-778-2152 or [hbierbaum@griswoldschools.org](mailto:hbierbaum@griswoldschools.org).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.