



Spartan Scoop

Who Will Make the World a Better Place? Spartans Will!

Off to a Great Start!

Summer has come and gone, and it is time to bring on the 2017-2018 school year! There is a lot to look forward to, and we can't wait to make it happen!

Something you will notice as you walk through the hallways are the new faces of staff members. In third grade, Stephanie Smith and Cassandra Albright bring teaching experience to the team. In transitional kindergarten, Amber Haskovec is using her experience in guiding the new all day program. Librarian, Mary Ascher, joins us as our district librarian, and in her new role as paraeducator, Amber Timmer has joined the team. We welcome all of these talented individuals to our team at Grundy Center Elementary.

Our popular multiage student groups known as KIDS CLUB will be making its reappearance after a successful first year. This year's Kids Club will meet twice a month for 20 minutes and focus on creating and using a growth mindset. We will learn to be a jungle tiger and not a zoo tiger, which will make a lot more sense to you after we begin! Kids Club will also include lessons on creating and maintaining good character.

One Community, One Book has returned with the book, Wonder, by R.J. Palacio. The companion book, We are All Wonders is also by the same author. I encourage you to check out the book from the library or borrow it from a friend and read it with your child. It is a wonderful story about friendship and understanding what is on the inside is more important than what is on the outside. When you have read the book, feel free to sign the posters in our school library and at the public library!

The teachers at Grundy Center Elementary are sponsoring another Saturday morning workshop for teachers around the state of

Student Arrival Times

If your child is eating breakfast at school, he/she may arrive at 7:50 and enter the school building. If your child is not eating breakfast, he/she may arrive at 8:00 and enter the building.

There is an 8:00 arrival bell and an 8:15 tardy bell letting students know they need to be in their classrooms.

There is no outdoor school supervision until 7:45.

Please remember, parents dropping students off may stop in front of the doors to drop students off. When picking up, you may park along the street or in the parking spaces. **NO PARKING** is allowed in front of the doors.



Football Game Expectations

I am so glad many students are able to attend home Spartan football games. Here are a few reminders for students:

Students may play on the grass to the east of the stands **before the game and at halftime only**. Touch football is permitted, but no tackling or piling on other students.

Students should stay seated in the bleachers during the game and not run around.

Be respectful of others. Watch the game and cheer on the Spartans!

Use the restroom and get concessions during quarter and halftime breaks.

Students are not allowed to stop and hang out under the bleachers.

Students are allowed to sit on the first row of bleachers, but not stand at the railing. Keep the walkways clear.

Thanks for your cooperation!



Iowa called Think In on September 30. Think In creates an opportunity where we can sharpen our teaching skills, get updated on the best children's books of the year, and also gives us an opportunity to collaborate with others outside Grundy Center. This year, we will be Skyping with children's book guru, Colby Sharp. We will also visit virtually with three additional children's book authors.

Our Teacher Leadership teams are in place for the year, and we are excited about the possibilities! We have a Student Achievement Coordinator working on literacy, growth mindset, and math professional development along with monitoring general education interventions for struggling students. Our Mentor Teacher now has 1/2 day of non-teaching duties in order to get into class and work with teachers AND students about monitoring reading progress. Our Mentor Teachers have been increased in number in order to help the newest members to our profession. The Building Improvement Team will be working independently on skills for students to calm and refocus themselves when the body feels stress.

As a HUGE proponent of children's literature and fostering the love of reading, I am continuing the monthly Principal Book Talks. During the talks, I read a story, talk about the author and illustrator, and give brief book talks to get students excited about reading new literature.

If you have not heard, there is a free app you may download that will give you allergen and nutrition information for our school lunches. The app is called YumYummi. Download it and give it a try!

Our annual fundraiser is in progress. Thank you in advance for everyone who participates and assists students in raising money for our school. This money is used to fund field trips, bring in guest such as The Old Creamery Theatre,

Important Dates:

Sept. 12	Fundraiser Packet Turn In
Sept. 13	12:45 Early Out/Teacher PD
Sept. 14	Elementary Picture Day
Sept. 27	12:45 Early Out/Teacher PD
Oct. 4	Walk or Bike to School Day
Oct. 9	No School/Teacher PD
Oct. 17	Fundraiser Pick Up Day



pay for playground equipment, buy books for the library and classrooms, fund Battle of the Books expenses, fund author visits, and many other causes. It is an extra effort for families to participate. Please know we recognize those efforts and are very appreciative.

We will again be collecting BOXTOPS! Last year, we raised over \$1,000 of those tiny little squares! We spread the work of preparing the BoxTops for mailing in among all the grades throughout the year. Thank you for your participation

Maybe you have noticed the front garden rehab on the east side of our school. While the previous garden was beautifully grown, it also had become a bit overgrown with some key plants developing dead spots. The new landscaping will allow visual access between the school building and the street. Most plants on the upper tier will grow less than one foot tall, and everything that is growing can easily be divided to prevent overgrowth. Grundy Center Junior, Jake Ascher, is creating a metal Spartan logo which will be featured in the center of the lower garden!

Occasionally, it happens that another school wants to come and observe Grundy Center Elementary to see what we do because our reading proficiency scores are doing well. There is no doubt that we have support systems in place to help all learners, we have consistent curriculum in place to use, we have incredible staff professional development, and we have dedicated and talented teachers to guide the learning every day. But, in my opinion, we also have something special that encompasses everything previously mentioned. Our CULTURE. Celebrating reading is our culture. It's the way we approach the many literature based activities we provide for our students. It's the way we encourage readers to find just the right book they will love. It's the way we celebrate when a student makes connections with the books they hold in their hands. It's the way way we celebrate a book on it's publication birthday. It's the way we go beyond anything I have been a part of in my previous 18 years in education before coming to Grundy Center. Simply put, it's the way we do business. Please visit gcelementary.weebly.com to see some of these amazing activities that have helped us form our reading culture.

You can follow some of the latest news of Grundy Center Elementary on Twitter @MrBSammons and on my blog On the Bright Side at MrBSammons.weebly.com. Thank you for supporting our school and being great partners in education!

Sincerely,

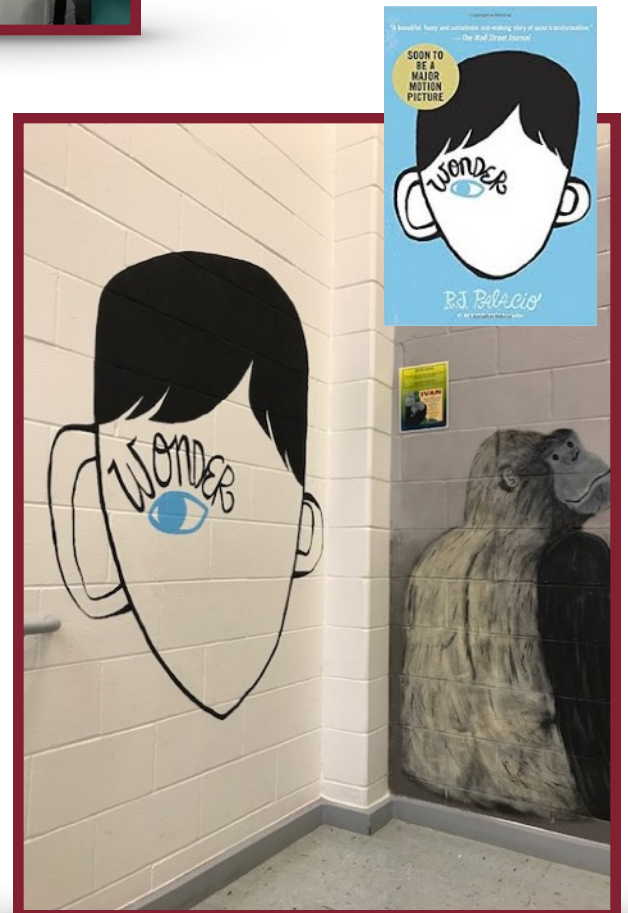
Brian Sammons, Elementary Principal



Little Elliot was chosen to visit New York City with Mr. Sammons this summer. Here are the photos he took and great books to accompany them!

Artwork for our One Community, One Book, Wonder, was created by art teacher Heidi Leverton and 2nd grade teacher, Shannon Dole.

Grundy Center Elementary staff took a few minutes to see the solar eclipse before school started. Don't worry, the sun wasn't visible so it was safe for those without special glasses!





Something new you might find in the library is the Makerspace. Each K-3 classroom has some time scheduled at the Makerspace. During this time, students experiment with the beginnings of engineering by thinking, designing, creating, and testing. Makerspaces have become quite popular at all levels in recent years.

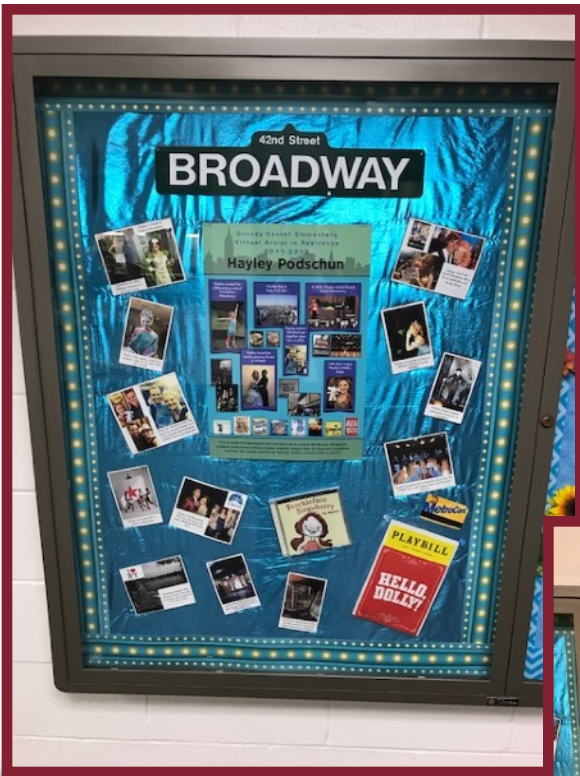


It's early in the year, but students have already been checking out MANY books from our wonderful library. When students go to the library in the morning, they are greeted by library associate, Mrs. Saak, two teachers, and one paraeducator who all help students pick out just the right books! Another face they may see is district librarian, Mary Ascher. Mary will visit our school 1-2 times per week. Welcome, Mrs. Ascher!





Bulletin boards in the entry way show our commitment to our Virtual Artist in Residence, Hayley Podschun and our One Book, One Community. Hayley will meet with all students, but will work most closely with third grade. Hayley will also be visiting us at Grundy Center, thanks to an Iowa Arts Council grant!



Photos from the front gardens at Grundy Center Elementary.





Students waiting in the chairs in front of the office now have something fun to do! We plan on keeping a small collection of books in this special box just for kids! Okay, adults can read them too, if you want!



Nationally recognized speaker of growth mindset, Trevor Ragan, visited Grundy Center Schools before school began. Trevor works with big companies like Microsoft and sports teams like USA Women's Volleyball. He taught us all how to Jungle Tiger!

