

# F.A.C.E. TO FACE

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW PALS (PARENT ACTION LEADERS)

### Aberdeen Academy:

Dominique Burns

### Blandford School:

Laura Vander Vennen

### Ridgemoor Park Montessori:

Emily Veurink

### Shawmut Hills:

Nicole Lester

We're grateful for her commitment to family engagement and look forward to the energy, ideas, and leadership she will bring to the Aberdeen school communities this year.

### Schools with PAL openings:

- Dickinson Academy
- GR Museum Middle
- North Park Montessori
- Riverside Middle
- Southwest Elementary
- Westwood Middle
- Zoo School

GRPS PALs are working together to support leadership, school families, and community partners for the good of all scholars. To learn more about the PAL role, [check out this video](#).

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

How to get on Santa's list...[Click here](#) to sign-up before December 13, 2025.

## POINT TO PONDER...

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."

- John Dewey

## PARENT UNIVERSITY:



**PARENT  
UNIVERSITY**

Stay connected with our online resource for support in areas of parenting, school support, community connections, social-emotional learning, and more.

[Power Parent – Parent University \(parents.grps.org\)](https://parents.grps.org)

### This month in Power Parent Magazine the focus is on:

- Traveling with Children During the Holidays
- Seasons of Self-Care
- Celebrating Different Holidays
- Winter Break Ideas
- Family New Year Resolution Ideas

### DIY Winter Story Jar:

A great low-cost literacy activity you can do at home! [Click here for word list](#)

1. Write winter-themed words (snowflake, sled, cocoa, scarf, frost) on slips of paper.
2. Place them in a jar.
3. Pull out 3-4 slips and create a story together.
4. Scholars can write or illustrate their stories.

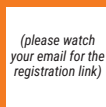


## SPOTLIGHT EVENTS:



### Taste Buddies with Corewell at the Downtown Market

Festive Flavors & Family Fun Cooking Class with GRPS Taste Buddies  
Monday, December 8 | 5:30 pm-7:30 pm



(please watch  
your email for the  
registration link)

### Math Workshop - Count Me In!

Tuesday, December 16, 2025



### Special Education Parent Workshop:

Understanding the Differences (IEP vs. 504 Plan)  
Wednesday, December 17 | 5:30 pm-7:00 pm  
Location: GRPS University



### Empowering Dads. Strengthening Schools.

Dad Cafes: 3rd Thursdays | 8:45-10:15 AM (in person)  
DADvocate Meetings: 2nd week of each quarter | 5:30-7:00 PM (in person & virtual)



**EARLY  
CHILDHOOD**  
at Grand Rapids Public Schools

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS  
FREE PRE-K FOR ALL**

Open to any child who turns 4-years-old by Dec. 1, 2025

**ENROLL  
TODAY!**



### GRPS Healthcare Resources

In partnership with Cherry Health and Catherine's Health Center

We proudly partner with Cherry Health and Catherine's Health to provide school-based health centers that offer high quality care for scholars in a convenient, school-friendly environment.

Scholars ages 3 to 21 years old enrolled in any GRPS school are welcome, regardless of their ability to pay.

#### **Cherry Health**

**Locations:** Innovation Central High School, Ottawa Hills High School, and Union High School

**Appointments:** Call (616) 776-5110

#### **Catherine's Health Center**

**Location:** Harrison Park Academy

**Appointments:** Call (616) 315-2852

# GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS EXPO & INFORMATION FAIR JANUARY 28, 2026 | 4:30 – 6:30 PM GRPS University



## THEME SCHOOL APPLICATION OPENS JANUARY 5, 2026

[LEARN MORE AT GRPS.ORG/APPLY](https://www.grps.org/apply)

### FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Jennifer Williams, Director

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[PARENTS.GRPS.ORG](https://www.PARENTS.GRPS.ORG)

