



RAM ANNOUNCER

AUGUST 2023

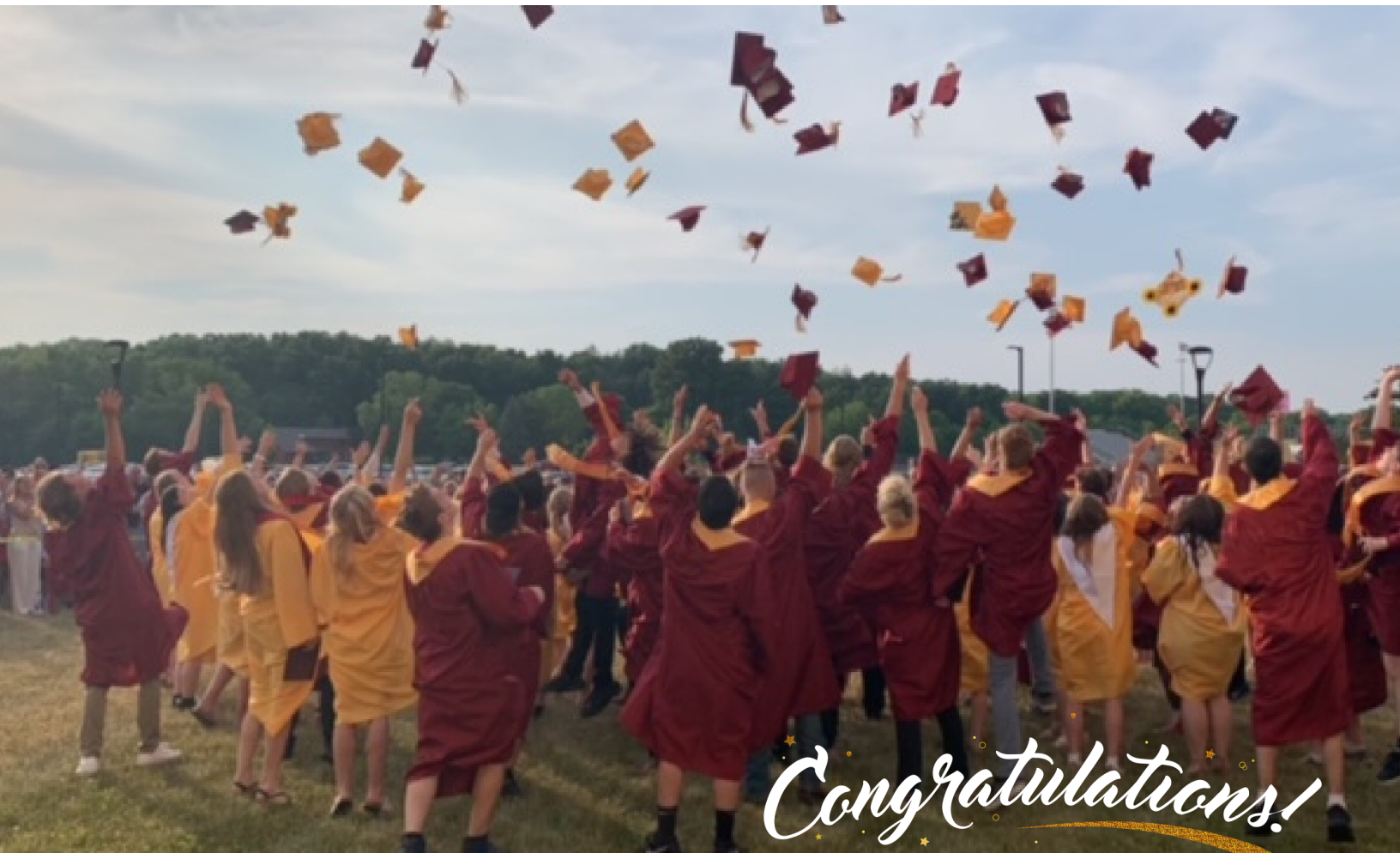


Inside:

- Food service and transportation updates
- Athletic schedules
- Bond project updates
- Academic & athletic schedules

**Class of
2023**

A LOOK BACK TO LAST SPRING



Congratulations!



2023 - 2024

G-ACS Calendar Highlights

First Day
of School
(Half Day)



Last Day
of School
(Half Day)



Make Plans for School Breaks

Thanksgiving Break

NOV
22-24



Winter Break



DEC 25 - JAN 5

Spring Break

MAR
22-29



End of Each Marking Period (MP)



Half Days

AUG 28 - First Day
SEP 20 - Teacher PD
OCT 19 - Conference
OCT 25 - Teacher PD
NOV 3 - End of MP
NOV 15 - Teacher PD
DEC 13 - Teacher PD
JAN 17 - Teacher PD
JAN 25 - HS Exams

JAN 26 - End of MP, HS Exams
FEB 14- Teacher PD
FEB 22- Conferences
MAR 13- Teacher PD
MAR 21- End of MP
APR 17 - Teacher PD
MAY 15 - Teacher PD
JUN 6 - HS Exams
JUN 7 - HS Exams

No School

SEPT 1 - Labor Day Weekend
SEPT 4 - Labor Day
OCT 20 - Teacher Comp Day
FEB 23 - Teacher PD
FEB 26 - Mid-Winter Break
MAY 27 - Memorial Day

Follow Along Online for Updates and Changes



facebook.com/GalesburgAugustaCommunitySchools



g-aschools.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Happy 2023-2024 School Year, G-A Ram Family:

The energy was inspiring this week as our school staff reported back to work. We also welcomed some new members to the Ram Family. Like all other districts across the county and state of Michigan, the teacher shortage is real and it has made hiring new staff more difficult than in years past. In talking with other district superintendents, we are all struggling to find enough teachers to fill positions. The number of young adults going into education has dropped by more than 50%. However, I am grateful that GACS has been able to fill all but one position. Mr. VanDyk has been appointed to be our Dean/Behavior Academic Support Specialist at the Middle School. I believe that Ms. Amy Pratt, the new MS principal, and Mr. VanDyk are going to make a great new leadership team at our middle school. Mr. Sportel is searching for a 3rd grade teacher to replace Mr. VanDyk and we are hoping to have that completed by the time students return to the classroom.

*Inside the walls of every school building is the **future**.* Teaching is an awesome responsibility and our students deserve the best. Our teachers deserve to be paid well for all they do. Especially in smaller districts, how Michigan funds schools hinders us from competing with other larger districts who can offer greater pay. Yet, so many staff choose to stay at G-A because we truly are *Small Towns, Big Hearts*. One can walk our halls and meet administrators, teachers and support staff who care about our students and support one another. For that I am extremely grateful and honored to be the leader.

What else am I grateful for? Our district's new three year strategic plan. This past June more than forty staff, administrators, parents and community members spent a full day reflecting and writing G-A's next strategic plan. We used data that we collected during this past school year. Many of you may have participated in those focus groups and completed surveys. Using all that data, the group rethought our mission and vision for the future.

As the world changes, so must we rethink who we are and why we exist. We also looked inward and were able to articulate the values and beliefs by which GACS will educate our littlest and biggest Rams. We hope that as you and your children return to school, you will feel our mission: *to develop personal connections and innovative learning pathways for each student to become a successful individual.*

I am also grateful for our community trusting and believing in us. The addition and renovations to the Primary School are getting their final touches. Our ribbon cutting will occur Wednesday before open house. This past year our third graders watched their new classrooms being built with excitement. Cranes and other big equipment operated outside their windows. And now, as fourth graders they are excited to move in. Our fourth grade teachers have returned from middle school and have spent lots of hours unpacking and setting up among new furniture, spacey cupboards, large whiteboards and flexible seating. Our new STEAM classroom will provide a flexible work space for students to create new knowledge. They will investigate, innovate, problem solve and create solutions to real-world problems. Our STEAM teacher, Brenda Latinga, is excited to have a space that will truly accommodate such exploration.

Also this fall, we are excited to open our new athletic facilities built behind the high school. Construction will be completed by the end of September and we will host a home football game against Saugatuck on October 6th. It will truly be a grand opening as this is a celebration of our students and the community. Please find details on our website and FB pages as we celebrate the future of GACS. We hope our community will join us for this big event. IMAGINE: Holding our first home track meet next spring in over 20 years! And our PE students walking out of the building onto the track and field and completing healthy living habits. None of this could happen without you and the rest of the Ram Family. On behalf of the Board of Education and speaking for our staff and students, THANK YOU.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, hear something in the community you wish to know more about, reach out to our principals or myself. High performing teams create success; we welcome you to be part of that team.

Sincerely,
Wendy





STRATEGIC PLANNING

Vision Statement:

As the Ram Family, we will empower and support each student to excel by providing real-world learning.

Mission Statement:

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools will develop personal connections and innovative learning pathways for each student to become a successful individual.

We Value...

- Total inclusivity
- The Whole Child foundation
- Honest communication
- A safe and supportive environment
- Engagement among all Ram Family members
- Individual student pride and success
- Innovation

We Believe...

- In a commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where everyone is celebrated and respected
- In fostering positive and long-lasting relationships by focusing on the whole child
- In transparent communication and collaboration
- In the entire Ram community being responsible for encouraging and developing good citizenship
- In continuous growth and an innovative approach



OUR GOALS

- 1 Develop and implement a clear and consistent behavioral support system to create a safe learning environment for students and staff
- 2 Provide staff with relevant data driven professional development to support teachers, in order to improve student learning
- 3 Implement a clear and consistent system to improve two-way communication
- 4 Improve relationships to increase trust throughout the district
- 5 Increase student awareness and accountability of negative behaviors and student conflict to improve the climate and culture in our buildings
- 6 Increase student and staff relationships through meaningful connections, high expectations, and validation
- 7 Provide and facilitate opportunities for Ram Fam networking
- 8 Equip staff with professional learning and collaboration to engage students and subject matter with real world scenarios and problem-based instruction
- 9 Inform our Ram Fam of educational and career readiness opportunities to increase awareness and student participation
- 10 Identify and address student needs through the Whole Child system to improve student well-being
- 11 Increase opportunities for staff to be engaged in district improvement initiatives
- 12 Implement best practices in order to build an inclusive culture and community



Students from Galesburg-Augusta High School’s Student Council, National Honor Society, Volleyball and Basketball teams helped teachers and staff kick off the new year by providing child care during the first week of professional development.

Despite it still being their summer break, these students stepped up and showed up when teachers needed child care. Many traditional daycares close for cleaning before the new school year, and finding child care during non-school days can be troublesome. GACS teachers and staff were thrilled by this new initiative and stated they felt supported and a greater sense of community. A big thank you to junior, Jaidyn Klimp, for organizing student volunteers!

Students who helped will earn volunteer hours, while teachers do not have to miss out on important learning and collaboration. A win-win for the Ram Family!

IT’S GAME TIME

You're invited to the

HOME OF THE RAMS STADIUM

&

MASKILL FIELD

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

October 6, 2023

Time To Be Announced



BOND PROJECT UPDATES



PRIMARY ADDITION & REMODEL

- Locker installation in addition completed
- Carpet and tile installation complete
- Classroom cabinets and storage installed and complete
- Asphalt and resurfacing at Pre-K entrance is complete



STADIUM & ENTRANCE BUILDINGS

- Lights & scoreboard installed
- Bathrooms nearing completion
- Signage on its way here
- Sidewalk concrete poured



HIGH SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ADDITION

- Fencing up & temporary wall installed
- Reworked exit signs
- Rerouting existing gas lines
- Excavation and demo to begin August 28
- To be completed June 2024

G-ACS is happy to introduce our new School Resource Officer, Deputy Matt Murphy!

Having a School Resource Officer (SRO) program in the district can dramatically improve the safety and security of the district. It can also serve to improve relationships between law enforcement and our school community. Successful SROs can develop and foster relationships with students and staff, and work to ensure the school district maintains a safe and secure environment with a strong focus on preventative measures. SROs can also improve the overall climate of the district. Many SRO's for example, serve as mentors to students. With younger students, he can inspire youth to be their best.

Deputy Murphy will be a part of our district's safety planning team. His expertise will provide guidance on drills and training; he will be able to work alongside administrators and social workers to identify resources needed by the district. We also will include him on our district's chronic absenteeism team. You will start to see Deputy Murphy around the district soon. His start date was Monday, August 21st.





Dear Ram Fam,

We are looking forward to another great year with our students in G-A! And this year, regular school attendance is a priority. As always, regular school attendance is important, but this year it is a major focus. Our goal is that every student in the district misses no more than (9) nine school days this year.



Research shows that students who miss just 1.5 days of school a month, will miss the equivalent of over a year of instruction by high school graduation. We also know that when students miss too much school, regardless of the reason, it can cause them to fall behind both academically, emotionally and socially. Prior to the pandemic, approximately 8 million students nationwide were chronically absent (missing 10 percent or more of school days in a school year due to an absence for any reason). Since Covid-19, that number has *doubled*.

We need your help, now more than ever, to make sure our students are attending regularly. Please send your child to school every day unless he or she has a fever or a contagious illness. We will be monitoring all student attendance across the year so that we can support families when absences become a concern. If your child is at risk of missing more than nine days of school, please contact any of the following staff members for assistance:

Jeff Russell, Family Advocate	269-484-2049
Hilary Diebold, Coordinator of Interventions & Supports	269-484-2128
Jillaine Zonts, Pathways to Potential, MDHHS	269-484-2126

We are here for you and your children, and we look forward to your continued partnership with meeting our goal.

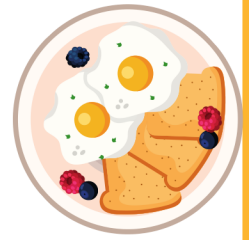
9 **NINE DAYS OR LESS
FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS!**



Sources: www.attendanceworks.com.

Sprick, Jessica, and Randy Sprick. 2019. *School Leader's Guide to Tackling Attendance Challenges*. Eugene, Oregon: Ancora Publishing.

FREE MEALS FOR ALL STUDENTS!



Galesburg-Augusta Community School is happy to offer free meals for **all students** this year, as part of the Michigan School Meals program!

Michigan School Meals ensures students have access to healthy and filling breakfast and lunch throughout the school year. We're excited to help our students succeed by helping fuel them with favorite menu items and a variety of delicious new recipes!

It is important that families still complete the 23-24 School Meals and Summer EBT application, which helps ensure ongoing state funding and may qualify our schools for other special programs, like free summer meals. Parents or guardians can submit applications online at galesburg.familyportal.cloud or in person at your child's school office.

Should any parent/guardian have questions about our food service program, please reach out to our team directly so we can provide you with the information and updates you need.

Mr. David Scohera
Director of Dining Services
269-484-2116
david.scohera@garams.org



From our Transportation Director:

Welcome back, students! The Transportation Department at Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools works hard each day to ensure that all bus riders arrive safely to school and back home again. We are asking our Ram Fam to support us by talking to your students about following these simple but important procedures:



- **Be on time:** Make sure your child arrives at the designated bus stop five-ten minutes early each day.
- **10 – 20 feet:** Students should wait for the bus safely and in an orderly fashion, back from the roadway. Behavior problems at the bus stop can create hazardous conditions for children and drivers.
- **Wait for the signal:** When the bus arrives, your child should wait for the bus driver's signal before boarding. Children should board single file.
- **Ride safely & respectfully:** Teach your child to sit calmly on the bus ride to and from school. Loud noises or behaviors can distract the bus driver, and it is important that they are able to concentrate on driving safely.

We are deeply committed to the safety of your child, other drivers, and our community. If you have any questions, please reach out to the transportation department at 269-484-2015.

Did you know??? Since the **Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools Foundation** began in 1992:



- a total of 357 seniors have benefited from \$510,490 in scholarships awarded
- 291 Education Enhancement Grants have been awarded totaling \$108,781.51
- 104 Middle School Students have been recognized with gift cards totaling \$2600.

A grand total of **\$621,871.51** has been distributed to assist our G-A students!



UNITED WAY MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN GALESBURG & AUGUSTA

Did you know that if you designate your United Way gift or pledge to the Galesburg-Augusta Community your money is returned to our community? A committee of G-A residents decides who receives the grants. Shirley Kupiecki is the chairperson of the Galesburg-Augusta United Way Committee.

For years Galesburg-Augusta United Way has funded grants for educators and staff at G-A Community Schools, Food Pantries, Warm Kids program (coats & hats), programs at Augusta and Galesburg-Charleston Libraries plus many other projects.

Please help us help our communities. Give to United Way and designate Galesburg-Augusta Communities. If you have any questions or need a pledge card, please contact United Way by phone: 269-343-2524.

Leave a message if no one answers.

You may also donate by using the QR code.

Thank you for your help.



PRIMARY SCHOOL

A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM MR. SPORTEL

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! My name is Shaun Sportel and we here at G-A Primary School are excited to have all the new and familiar faces this fall. This promises to be an extraordinary year full of hope, love, and reward. This coming year, we will be continuing our focus on our routines and instruction in Literacy and Mathematics. We will also be working on more in-depth and rigorous K-4 writing. G-A Primary School is a wonderful place to learn!

I strongly believe in building solid relationships. It is equally important to me that our school community be a safe and caring environment. Please feel free to contact me anytime:
shaun.sportel@garams.org
My door is always open. I love this school -it is our family. We look forward to getting to know all of you and adding you to our family.

SCHOOL TIMES

Doors open at 7:35a and school officially starts at 7:50a

Full day - 7:50a - 2:54p
Half day - 7:50a - 11:05a

Your child will follow the plan as indicated in PowerSchool. If a change needs to be made, please send a note or call the office on that particular day! No changes will be allowed after 2:00 p.m.

Our front office is available for any questions you may have
269-484-2040

Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Martin will be more than happy to help you!



FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Please be sure to confirm address and phone number in PowerSchool. If there are any transportation changes, please update and also contact the Primary office.

Lunch Program - Please fill out an "Education Benefits Form" being sent home or go to galesburg.familyportal.cloud

Yes, even though breakfast and lunch are free this year, we still need the free and reduced lunch form filled out for everyone.

Arrival, Drop-off/Pick Up and Dismissal Procedures will be changing this year. More info to come.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

MEET THE NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, MS. AMY PRATT



This is Ms. Pratt's 23rd year in education; 14 spent as a middle school math teacher and then 7 years as a mathematics consultant and instructional coach at Kalamazoo RESA. Through this role, she joined the Ram Fam at G-ACS as the K-12 Mathematics Specialist. Ms. Pratt is also mom of two (plus a dog). To learn more about Ms. Pratt, you can find her introductory letter on the homepage of our website: www.g-aschools.org.

MEET THE NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELOR, MR. JASON OCHOSKI

Where did you grow up? I was born and raised in Northern Ontario.

Where did you go to school? My first degree was in Architecture at Humber College in Toronto; second was Teachers College at The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto; third was my undergraduate degree from Northeastern University in Chicago; finally, my Masters in School Counseling from Capella University in Minneapolis.

What are your hobbies? I love to cut gemstones, build furniture, sculpting, painting and collecting different things.

What are you most thankful for? I am most thankful for my family and health along with helping people.

What motivates you? Adventure and discovery motivate me the most.



Picture Day!

School Picture Day at Galesburg-Augusta Middle School is

Wednesday, September 13.



HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Galesburg-Augusta High School Families,

On behalf of all the high school staff, I would like to welcome you to the upcoming 2023-2024 school year! We are RAMped up and looking forward to a year of success, accountability and community. The G-AHS staff remains focused upon both the academic and social-emotional success of every student and classroom.

The high school will be working to build community, spirit and excellence in everything we do. This starts with relationships built on trust, ownership and effort. In order to be our best we must bring our best everyday. Respecting self and others, Achieving responsibilities, and Managing ourselves responsibly will equal Success in the classroom and school. The staff at G-AHS look forward to partnering with families in making the 2023-2024 school year productive and meaningful for all.

I hope you had a great summer. Remember, it's important to start to get back in routine. This starts with getting to bed at a decent hour and waking up a little earlier each morning.



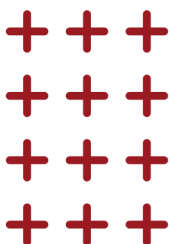
If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the high school office at (269) 484-2010 or email me directly at lindsey.newton@garams.org. I anticipate a great year!

Go Rams!
Dr. Lindsey Newton

VOTE G-A ONCE PER DAY

Our school has a chance to win a \$1,500, \$1,000, or \$500 prize donation in Johnny's School Spirit Challenge!

Vote for Galesburg-Augusta High School once a day at johnnymarkets.com/school-spirit from **September 4 - October 16, 2023**.



www.johnnymarkets.com/school-spirit

HIGH SCHOOL

Meet our Office Staff! We are here to help!

Communication is our goal! In this age of instant communication, sometimes the best way to reach out is still using a telephone.

Our front office is available by phone for any questions you may have: 269-484-2110.

Mrs. Barck is also available at Jen.Barck@garams.org. She will be more than happy to help you!



Our **counseling office** is working to finish up schedules and tie loose ends. If you were part of our RAM FAM last year, just know we are 124,560 miles ahead of where we were last year! We currently have PowerSchool paused so that we can focus on completing schedules. At Open House we will have communication on how to make change requests if needed.



If you need to speak to the counselor's office, you can call 269-484-2103.

Mrs. Amber Couch, our counselor secretary, and **Mrs. Bethany Stanton** can be reached at Amber.Couch@garams.org and Bethany.Stanton@garams.org.

For **student supports** please contact **Mr. Brian Dolph** at 269-484-2014 or Brian.Dolph@garams.org.

Our school social worker is **Mr. Brandan Mitchell**. He can be contacted at Brandan.Mitchell@garams.org.



S.A.C. ATHLETIC ADMISSION CHANGES

As we get ready to start the 2023-24 academic and athletic year, I would like to provide everyone with an update on some changes with the athletic admission policies in our athletic conference and neighboring conferences. The price of admission will now be \$4 for middle school athletic events and \$6 for high school athletic events in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (our conference). Other conferences have raised their admission prices to \$5 for middle school and \$7 for high school events. Please be prepared if we are playing at a non-conference school.

The reason for the change in admission prices is due to the increase in officials' pay. So why the need to increase the pay? Unfortunately, we have seen a drastic decline in the number of officials over the past few years. There are several contests that are canceled each year due to officials being unavailable or contests that take place with a partial officiating crew. There are multiple reasons for this decline, but the number one reason is the abuse that has been directed towards officials by spectators. Raising the pay will hopefully attract more officials while we work on better ways to support them.

Galesburg-Augusta students will continue to receive free admission at our regular season home events. Please note, **students in grades K-6 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to receive free admission.** Students in grades 7-12 need to present their student I.D. to receive free admission.

Senior citizens will continue to receive free admission for S.A.C. events with a senior citizen pass. Passes are free and are available in the middle school or high school offices. Most leagues accept the pass as well for free admission or at a discounted rate.

One last item to note - While many school districts will be using on-line ticket sale and/or credit/debit card only, G-ACS will continue to accept cash. We will also be using card readers this year, for those who would like to use a credit/debit card. We will be putting a link on the school website that will list the policy at each league school. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. My office phone number is 269-484-2016 and my email address is Michael.woodard@garams.org

Take care,
Mike Woodard
Galesburg-Augusta High School Athletic Director
Go Rams!



Fall Athletic Schedule Previews

Please visit our website for the most up-to-date schedules!

GALESBURG-AUGUSTA FOOTBALL PREVIEW 2023

VARSITY		
DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
Thurs. 8-24	Decatur	Home
Thurs. 8-31	White Pigeon	Away
Fri. 9-8	Parchment	Away
Fri. 9-15	Homer	Home
Fri. 9-22	Schoolcraft	Away
Fri. 9-29	Lawton	Home
Fri. 10-6	Saugatuck	Home
Fri. 10-13	Comstock	Away
Fri. 10-20	Delton	Away

VARSITY GAMES START AT 7 P.M.

JUNIOR VARSITY

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
Wed. 8-23	Decatur	Away
Wed. 8-30	White Pigeon	Home
Thurs. 9-7	Parchment	Home
Thurs. 9-14	<i>Open</i>	
Thurs. 9-21	Schoolcraft	Home
Thurs. 9-28	Lawton	Away
Thurs. 10-5	Saugatuck	Away
Thurs. 10-12	Comstock	Home
Thurs. 10-19	Delton	Home

JV GAMES START AT 6 P.M.

GALESBURG-AUGUSTA VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW 2023

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Tues. 8-22	Comstock (JV/Var)	Away	6 p.m.
Sat. 8-26	J.V. Tournament at Quincy	Away	9 a.m.
Tues. 8-29	Var. Quad at Parchment Parchment, Zion Chr. And Heritage Chr.	Away	5 p.m.
Tues. 8-29	J.V. Quad at The Point (K-Zoo)	Away	5 p.m.
Tues. 9-5	Howardsville Christian (JV/Var)	Home	
Sat. 9-9	Climax-Scotts Tournament (Var.)	Away	8:30 a.m.
Tues. 9-12	Holland Black River (JV/Var.)	Away	
Thurs. 9-14	Delton (JV/Var)	Home	
Mon. 9-18	JV Double Dual at Bridgman vs. South Haven and Bridgman	Away	
Tues. 9-19	Var. Double Dual at Delton vs. South Haven and Bridgman	Away	
Thurs. 9-21	Martin (JV/Var)	Away	
Sat. 9-23	Battle Creek Cent. Tourn. (Var)	Away	TBD
Tues. 9-26	Gobles (JV/Var)	Away	
Wed. 9-27	JV Double Dual at Lawton vs. Hackett and Lawton	Away	
Thurs. 9-28	Var. Double Dual Hackett and Lawton	Home	

Matches start at 5:30 p.m., unless noted.

Freshmen and JV will play at the same time when all three teams are together. Varsity matches will start approximately 30 minutes after the conclusion of the JV or freshmen and JV matches.

GALESBURG-AUGUSTA CROSS COUNTRY PREVIEW 2023

DATE		SITE	TIME	
Tues. 8-29	Marshall Invitational	TBD	6 p.m.	HS only
Thurs. 9-7	Delton-Kellogg Invitational	Gilmore Car Museum	5:30 p.m.	MS/HS
Sat. 9-9	Centreville Invitational	Centreville HS	8:30 a.m.	MS/HS
Wed. 9-13	S.A.C. Jamboree #1	Parchment HS	5:00 p.m.	HS only
Sat. 9-17	Mendon Invitational	Mendon HS	10 a.m.	MS/HS
Tues. 9-19	Comstock Jamboree	Comstock HS	6 p.m.	HS only
Sat. 9-23	Hackett Fox and Hound	K.V.C.C.	TBD	MS/HS
Wed. 9-27	S.A.C. Jamboree #2	South Haven, Warner Camp	5:00 p.m.	HS only

G-A FIGHT SONG

We'll always be loyal and true
all through our school days
and when we are through!

On G-A High!

Three cheers for you!

We pledge our hearts and our
souls to you!

V-I-C-T-O-R-Y

Victory!!



NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("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 after the day the Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students who wish to inspect their child's or their education records should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records 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 Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools to amend their child's or their education 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 or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and 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 provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from 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. The criteria for determining who constitutes a school official and what constitutes a legitimate educational interest must be set forth in the school's or school district's annual notification for FERPA rights. A school official typically includes a person employed by the school or school district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer, contractor, or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically 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:

Student Privacy Policy Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

[NOTE: In addition, a school may want to include its directory information public notice, as required by § 99.37 of the regulations, with its annual notification of rights under FERPA.]

Please visit the district website, www.g-aschools.org, to see the list of the disclosures that elementary and secondary schools may make without consent.

INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT REQUIREMENTS

The Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires all states to have a "comprehensive Child Find system" to assure all children who are in need of early intervention to special education services are located, identified, and referred.

If you have a G-A student or a registered Homeschool and suspect your child might have a disability please contact:

- Early On (Children birth to three years): Kathy Hollis at 269-250-9649
- Pre-primary Evaluation Team (Children three to five years): Felicia Burnette at 269-250-9670
- Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools (children five & up): Jennifer Chiechi at 269-484-2020

NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected characteristic, (collectively, "Protected Classes") in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

The District's Compliance Officers shall handle inquiries regarding the Board's nondiscrimination policies and address any complaint of discrimination.

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools
1076 N. 37th St.
Galesburg, MI 49053
269-484-2000



Vision Statement:

As the Ram Family, we will empower and support each student to excel by providing real-world learning.

Mission Statement:

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools will develop personal connections and innovative learning pathways for each student to become a successful individual.

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools
Administration Offices
1076 N. 37th Street Galesburg, MI 49053
Phone: 269-484-2000

Primary School (Pre-K through Grade 4)
Principal: Shaun Sportel
269-484-2040
shaun.sportel@garams.org

Middle School (Grades 5 - 8)
Principal: Amy Pratt
269-484-2020
amy.pratt2@garams.org

High School (Grades 9 - 12)
Principal: Lindsey Newton
269-484-2010
lindsey.newton@garams.org

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Complaints or inquiries should be forwarded to:
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Galesburg, MI 49053