



Community High School

Community News

We provide "Another Road to Success"

Dates to Remember

Dec 21-Jan 2: Holiday Break

Jan 3: School Resumes

Jan 18: Block 3 Ends

Jan 21: MLK Day No School

4th Annual Community and School for the Blind Blood Drive

Each year, Community High School partners with the School for the Blind and DakMinn Blood Bank to host a Blood Drive. This year, Mrs. Entzel and Mrs. Jerde combined the annual blood drive with a Health Readiness Fair. We had 6 speakers come in to talk about different aspects of bodily health and donation. One of the speakers was Dr. Joel Schleicher. He spoke about his experience of becoming a bone marrow donor and the woman who benefited from his generous donation. As a result of Schleicher's presentation, more students donated this year than in the past. After the blood drive wrapped up, Monica at DakMinn wrote us a thank you card for hosting and informed us that they received 43 pints of blood this year! Way to go, Community!

Community High Recent Graduates

Karissa Z.

Savannah D.

Madison R.

Cassidy S.

Calob S.

Congratulations!



We Are Community Day Event by Samantha R.

We Are Community Day events, were the brainchild of English teacher Mrs. Zygarlicke 13-14 years ago. The idea of this was to give Community students opportunities to volunteer and to have them experience things they wouldn't normally.

“When we’re out doing stuff, we want people to know who we are and that we can make a difference,” said Terry Bohan, principal of Community High School. “We want others to know that we will do all that we can to make a difference!”

Some of the events students have done have been having a blood drive, going to nursing homes and playing games with the residents, boxing up food at a food bank, and cleaning up neighborhoods to name a few. These events have impacted students by giving them different volunteer perspectives and experiences.

For the most part, students enjoy these opportunities. “It gives you a sense of gratification for what you did for the community,” said senior Ben Allred. “It reminds us to not stop giving to our community.”

New Art Teacher by Karissa Z.

This year, Community High School welcomed three new staff members. All three had ties to Grand Forks but only one had to move from a far distance. Karena Bergin, the new art teacher, just moved back to the area after living out East for the past twelve years. She accepted the job a week before the school year started, which made for a stressful beginning for her.

Karena and her husband, Josh, have two little girls, Allyson and Ingrid. She was excited to come back because her parents are here, she has extended family in the area, and this is her “true” home. “I love the Midwest, my true home, though I love to travel,” she said.

Although her goals for life include unpacking boxes and drinking coffee on her porch, her goals for school are a little more detailed. Bergin hopes to see her some of her students go on to college to pursue an art degree. “I’m ready to take on new ideas and give it all a try.”

New Math Teacher By Tayler S.

What does an accountant have in common with a math teacher? Not much except their love for numbers. At Community, new math teacher Hannah Siebels started out as an accountant but realized quickly that accounting didn’t fit her lifestyle. “I decided to change because I am a sociable person, and I wanted to work with high school students.”

A graduate from the University of Minnesota where she swam for the Gophers, Siebels didn’t always want to become a math teacher. She grew up with her parents being teachers and wanted to explore new things but then, later on, realized that teaching was the right path for her. “My parents are both teachers so when I was growing up I always wanted to do something different than what they did. However, it turns out I should have listened to my parents in the first place and become a teacher sooner.”

Excited to be at Community, she hopes to learn each of her students’ strengths and weaknesses to “better help them build their strengths and improve their weaknesses.” Siebels enjoys everything Community has to offer but one day hopes that she could have technology-based activities to be able to connect with the “real world.”

“If I could change something here at Community I would make my math classes more technology-based and add more activities to connect math to the ‘real-world.’ I hope to add more activities like this in my first few years here at Community.”

Principal in Action by Taylor C.

Have you ever wondered what our principal does during the summer, in his free time, and how he gets ready for school? Mr. Bohan likes to help coach summer sports and go fishing in his free time. This summer he worked on some landscaping projects. The things he loves the most about summer is the weather, being outside, and spending time with his family. Every year he sits on the porch, chases squirrels out of his garage, and enjoys sitting by the fire. Mr. Bohan did travel with his family to Montana and Oregon. His ideal traveling vacation would be a fly in fishing trip in Canada.

While his students are off on vacation, Bohan helps with Drivers Ed. Mr. Bohan has been the principal at CHS for 10 years. To get ready for the new school year he meets with the new students and their families. Bohan says his favorite part about coming back is seeing his staff interact with each other again. "It's like watching a band get back together and play again."

A Long Journey Away from Home By Kerper P.

In August of 2017, Community High School hired a new counselor, Mrs. Joanne Smith. Prior to living in Grand Forks, she resided in Slidell, Louisiana. So far, she loves living in Grand Forks. As a native Southerner who isn't used to the cold weather and harsh winters, she stated, "The spring and fall are so beautiful that it makes the winter worth it".

She loves being at Community and looks at the faculty, staff, and students as one big family. "We really are a loving community," she stated. Smith wants for students at Community to feel a sense of connectedness with the staff and each other in order to prepare for the next step--graduation and life after high school.

Even though she misses her family back home, she's found a new one here with us at Community.

Student Motivation and Support by Cole O.

Community High School does a very good job at keeping students motivated. Awards like Student of the Week and Student of the Block keep the Chargers pushing. Mr. Bohan says that "focusing on the basics and having close access to teachers really helps." Here, the students don't need to worry about anything else but smashing credits. The high school is an alternative learning center, and it has really helped a lot of students to stay motivated.

The counseling center at Community is strong and very helpful. Mrs. Smith, the counselor at Community, is very caring about the students. You can notice that the teachers and staff have a bigger connection because of the activities in school they participate in. They are also very helpful with problems outside of school, as the students have someone to talk to. The staff really emphasizes the community in their name.

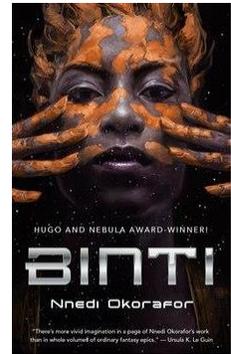
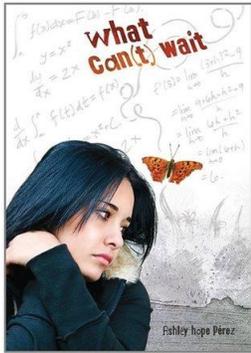
**Our greatest weakness lies in giving up.
The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.
Thomas A. Edison**

Parking Problems at Community High School by Cassie S.

Community High School needs a better parking system. Students sometimes do not have a spot to park and it can get very confusing if you cannot find a spot. We should have clear instructions of what to do when there are no parking spots available. There are times when students have ended up late because there is no available parking and that is not fair to students. However, there is a way to help fix that problem. Each time the school body assembles, Mr. Bohan could announce all the options of where to park when the student parking lot is full. That way most students will know what to do in those situations and a lot of the confusion will go away.

Lunch Time Book Club by Brock B.

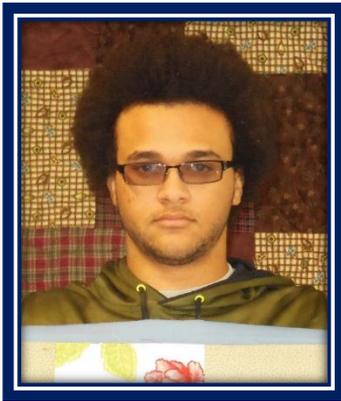
Community High School is partnering with Grand Forks Public Library for the lunchtime Book Club. We had a Book Club in the years before and the books were bought by teachers. Megan Lysford, who works at the Grand Forks Public Library, offered Community High School a grant for this year's books. We found a person for every book they donated. There are 12 students this year in the Book Club with teachers to help run the discussion. The first meeting was October 12, and the club meets every Tuesday and Friday. Each block there will be a different title. The book for Block 2 was *What Can(t) Wait* by Ashley Hope Perez and the book for Block 3 will be *Binti* by Nnedi Okorafor.



2018 War for Literacy Conference by Savannah D.

On October 22nd the three high schools of Grand Forks hosted Nic Stone, the author of *Dear Martin* and *Odd One Out*, as the keynote speaker for the 2018 War for Literacy Conference. Stone spoke to Red River High School in the morning, then Community High School just before 11:00, and soon after lunch, she arrived at Central High School. All the sessions at the schools were embedded into the school day. The conference was for the freshman class only.

“It was great to hear Nic Stone talk about *Dear Martin* because it was a book that a lot of students can connect with,” said Kelly Entzel, an English teacher at Community High School.



Quilt Winners

Block 1: Taylor C.

Block 2: Mersadez F.



GFPS District Information to Parents

Talking with Your Child-Parents Lead

Talk Talking openly and honestly with your kids is one of the most effective ways to support their behavioral health. Whether it's everyday topics like friends and school, or more serious topics like substance use, anxiety, or depression, it's never too early to start the conversation. As your kids grow, your conversations may change, but they will always be centered on keeping them happy, healthy, and safe. Keep your conversations relaxed, friendly, nonjudgmental, and genuine. And most importantly, be a good listener.

Get to Know Your Child's Friends-Parents Lead

An advantage to getting to know the parents of your child's friends is that you will know the kind of people that are influencing your child. Also, by getting to know the parents, you can verify your child's statements when he or she says, "All my friends get to do it." Most importantly, connecting with the families of your child's friend will help form a safety net for your child because you can help supervise each other's children and look out for their safety. It is common in small towns for everyone to know everyone even through generations! Here are several ways you meet other families: set play-dates, arrange to share driving with other parents for after-school activities, volunteer at your child's school, join PTO, attend faith-based activities, attend sporting events or other social gatherings, etc.

More Information Needed? Visit: Visit <http://www.parentslead.org/>

Child Nutrition Account Balances Policy

It is the expectation of the Grand Forks Public School District that funds will be readily available for students' use during their breakfast and/or lunch period. If funds are not available, the student will continue to receive the meal of their choice. When the account has \$5 remaining an automated email and/or text messages will generate from the district office one time per week. These emails will continue until adequate funds are received.

A referral will be made to the School's administration and/or their assigned social worker when a student's account reaches \$30 negative. As funds are available the Grand Forks Foundation for Education will cover the meal cost when the account exceeds the \$50 charging limit.

Each school's cook manager will send home a letter one time per week to Parents/Guardians of students carrying a negative balance in any amount. Other school officials may be notified at this time to assist in the collection efforts. The Child Nutrition Office will periodically run reports and attempt to collect on large balances throughout the school year.

Adults are not allowed to carry a negative balance. Prepayments may be made into a lunch account or cash must be provided at the terminal.

Friendsgiving 2018 by Ali G.

On November 16th, Community High School hosted Friendsgiving. Prepping was a lot of work; it was a lot of making sure things were ready, warm enough, and to see if the presentation was right. Mrs. Jerde, Megan, and I helped make the food for Friendsgiving and we had many choices to choose from. We had turkey, ham, potatoes, stuffing, and lots of sides. Everyone that attends Community High School and all of the teachers were invited.



Students of the Block



Block 1: Cole O.



Block 2: Kaitlyn R.