

GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF MEETING
November 14, 2016

The Board of Education of Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley Community Unit School District #5 met in regular session on Monday, November 14, 2016, at 6:15 p.m. in the GCMS Board Room located at 307 N Sangamon Ave., Gibson City. The board was called to order by Board President Josh Johnson. Roll was called with board members Elder, Leonard, Johnson, Swearingen, and Zbinden in attendance. Also present were: Susan Riley, Chris Garard, Justin Kean, Kyle Bielfeldt, Ross Brown, Curriculum Director Erin Nuss, FCSEC Director Rick Brackmann, School Board Secretary Lori Kristensen, Unit Office Manager Doris DeFries and District Superintendent Jeremy Darnell.

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance being recited by all present.

Recognition of Visitors:

None

Secretary Pro-Tem

A motion was made to nominate Miranda Leonard as secretary pro-tem in Tyler Young's absence for this meeting. Motion made by board member Zbinden and seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by voice vote, with all board members present voting yes.

A motion to **go into executive session** at 6:16 p.m. for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the district including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11). Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).

Motion was made by board member Elder and seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by roll call vote with all board members present voting yes.

A motion to **return to open session** was made by board member Zbinden and seconded by board member Elder at 6:35 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote, with all board members present voting yes.

Action Items to Consider From Executive Session

Accept Resignation for:

Motion to approve the resignation of **Jenae Ladage** as 3rd grade teacher effective immediately for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year. Motion was made by board member

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Swearingen and seconded by board member Zbinden. Motion carried by voice vote with all members present voting yes.

Accept Request for:

Motion to accept the request for maternity leave for **Kristin Tarrant** starting approximately January 4, 2017 and running 12 weeks. Motion made by board member Elder and seconded by board member Swearingen. Motion carried by voice vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion to accept **Key-Shawn Girkin** as a volunteer coach for the GCMSF Middle School Wrestling team for the 2016-2017 school year. Motion made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Zbinden. Motion carried by voice vote with all members present voting yes.

Additional Agenda Items:

Nothing to report at this time.

Consent Agenda

GCMS Accounts Payable bills approved were \$569,901.93

Education fund \$340,824.03

Building fund \$41,418.45

Debt Service fund \$0.00

Transportation fund \$58,734.86

IMRF fund \$8,245.14

Capital Projects fund \$0.00

W/C \$0.00

TORT \$9,174.55

F/HLS \$0.00

GCMS Payrolls approved were \$395,151.21

Education fund \$355,775.16

Building fund \$16,123.10

Transportation fund \$2,288.42

TORT \$20,964.53

FCSEC Accounts Payable bills approved were \$96,436.52

Education fund \$94,372.38

Building fund \$179.64

IMRF Fund \$1,884.50

FCSEC Payrolls approved were \$33,420.29 all in the Education fund.

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Motion to approve the financials as presented was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Zbinden. Motion carried by roll call vote with all board members present voting yes.

Financial/treasurers report on behalf of the GCMS District and the FCSEC, Lunch Report, the summary of investment report on behalf of the GCMS District and the FCSEC, and the destruction of executive session tapes through the end of May 2015.

Approve Field Trips for:

- 6th Grade Team to Peoria Chiefs on 5/10/17
- 7th Grade Team to Museum of Science and Industry on 4/7/17
- Early Childhood Education to Children's Museum in Normal, IL on 2/21/17
- Dual Credit Statistics Class to Parkland College on 12/15/16

Approve the following donations:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Designated To</u>
\$300	Glen and Marsha Riddle	High School Football playoffs

Approve Facility Use Agreements or Request for Use of School Kitchen/Cafeteria pending proof of insurance and all other district requirements for:

Approve the use of the Middle School cafeteria and gymnasium for Girl Scout Troop 2315 on 2/18/17 for the Daddy Daughter Dance.

Approve the minutes of the GCMS Regular and Executive Session Board Meeting of October 17, 2016 as presented.

Approve the Lunch report as presented.

Motion to approve the **consent agenda** as presented in the board packet. Motion was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Zbinden. Motion carried by voice vote with all members present voting yes.

Committee Reports:

Policy: Members - Elder, Leonard, and Zbinden.
No Report

Building, Grounds, and Transportation: Members - Elder, Swearingen, and Zbinden.
No Report.

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Personnel and Finance: Members - Johnson, Whitehouse, and Young.
No Report.

Strategy and Enrichment: Members – Johnson, Whitehouse, and Young.
No Report.

Building Administration Reports:

Principal's Report:

High School Principal, Chris Garard

Principal report is attached to these minutes.

Middle School Principal, Kyle Bielfeldt

Principal report is attached to these minutes.

Elementary Principal, Justin Kean

Principal report is attached to these minutes.

Special Education, Rick Brackmann

No report

Curriculum Director, Erin Nuss

Mrs. Nuss provided a review on the GCMS Illinois School Report Card. She shared that the data is typically utilized by families moving to the GCMS community. Anyone can view the school report card through the weblink on the gcmsk12.org website. Mrs. Nuss also shared results from the 2016 Fall Parent Survey. A majority of parents are interested in email and text messaging options for teacher-parent communications. Since parent-teacher conferences were held in October, 80% of parents have been contacted by GCMS staff for “touch base” purposes.

GCMS High School administered a practice SAT to all juniors on October 19. The average composite score was a 957 out of 1600. As a point of comparison: the average SAT score of students admitted to UIUC last year was around a 1160. GCMS High School will offer several more opportunities for students to prepare for the SAT this spring in addition to our strong core curriculum.

Superintendent's Report

Communications

Superintendent Darnell shared with the board his communication strategy for the GCMS community moving forward.

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Public Meetings

GCMS will utilize a variety of communication structures in order to manage and maintain the district's business. Regular announced public meetings will be the sole location that action is taken and decisions are made. This includes the annually scheduled monthly board meetings and special meetings that will be called from time to time in order to manage district business.

Advisory Groups

Several advisory groups are established to educate, inform and ask questions in order to ensure transparent and thorough governance. Policy, Personnel and Finance, Building and Grounds, and Strategy and Enrichment will all meet routinely as needed to advise the superintendent. Each of these committees will be represented by appropriate staff and two members of the Board of Education. Superintendent Darnell shared that the purpose of the advisory groups is to have more voices at the table.

Electronic Communication

The Superintendent will use email to routinely keep members of the Board of Education and staff abreast of district business and direction. The communication will be informative in nature. In the event information is sent to the Board of Education, never respond to "all" for this would be a violation of the Open Meetings Act. Individual responses to the superintendent or a call are appropriate.

Voice/Personal Communication

Individual meetings with the superintendent are encouraged. Setting a meeting or time for the phone call is encouraged. The multitude of meetings and desires to be present in the community and school buildings make random communication a challenge.

A motion to **accept the advisory structure and process presented** was made by board member Elder and seconded by board member Leonard . Motion carried by voice vote, with all members present voting yes.

Superintendent Darnell also shared with the board the activities that have taken place in the district over the last month and how many families and community members attended these events: Superintendent Darnell thanked the GCMS staff involved in organizing these events as well as Erin Nuss and Title 1 for sponsoring two of the events. Darnell also commented that the attendance numbers exemplify the ongoing effort by the GCMS staff for positive community outreach and building trust with our GCMS families.

- Elementary School (Title 1) STEAM night - 360 participants
- Middle School (Title 1) College and Career Night - 126 participants
- High School Variety show - 350 attendees
- Veterans Day Ceremony - 1700 district students, staff and community attendees
- Elementary School PACT Grandparent's Day - 550 participants

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- Parent Teacher Conferences - E.S. 96%, M.S. 74%, and H.S. 37% families represented

Expenditure

Superintendent Darnell reported that the Elementary School playground area had some recent repair work. The black top edges were ground down to a 45 degree angle for the safety of the students. The repair work cost the district \$2,400.

Presentation of the 2016 Tax Levy

Superintendent Darnell shared with the board that there will be a tax rate decrease next year from 6.47% to 5.89%. The major reason for this reduction is to lessen the district's debt service by \$500,000 and to also reduce the district's tort account. Darnell commented that previous boards and superintendents made some tough decisions to allow for the district to decrease the tax rate for next year.

GCMS Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2017

The first view of the 2017 meeting dates occurred at the meeting. The third Monday of the month will continue to be the consistent meeting dates except for the November meeting which is being held the second Monday of the month due to the Illinois State School Board convention. The 2017 board meeting schedule will be adopted at the December 19, 2016 meeting.

Ten Year Health Life Safety Report

The board received a review packet of all the completed projects to date. Any items that are marked on the survey report with an (A) will be completed within the calendar year. All other items that are marked with a (B) will be completed over the next five years. The summer maintenance work will be set in accordance with building leaders and the finance committee to determine what will be the order of importance for projects. Superintendent Darnell publically thanked Mr. Doman, Maintenance Supervisor, for managing a great deal of the recommended changes himself which saved the district additional costs.

2016 Delegate Assembly Meeting

The 2016 Delegate Assembly Meeting will be held on November 19, 2016 at the Illinois School Board Convention in Chicago. A motion to **appoint Steve Swearingen** as the GCMS voting delegate for the 2016-2017 Delegate Assembly was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by voice vote, with all members present voting yes.

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The board has decided to align themselves with the IASB recommendations at the school board convention this year. By doing so, the IASB will lobby on the school district's behalf.

A motion to **approve the Delegate Assembly votes for 2016 as presented** was made by board member Zbinden and seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by voice vote with all members present voting yes.

2016-2017 School Board Convention

Superintendent Darnell shared with the board the packet of information for the school board convention. In the packet includes: professional opportunities available at the convention, a list of breakout sessions, Friday evening hospitality room, and group family-style dinner. Board member Swearingen also shared that local legislators, IL Senator Barickman and IL Representative Bennett will be sponsoring a breakfast Saturday morning, 11/19 from 7:00-8:00 a.m. at the Chicago Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Bucket Drops

To Miss Broaddus and students for a putting on, once again, a fantastic variety show.

To KiLee McFerren and all the staff and students who participated in the Veteran's Day Celebration. The live feed of the program was wonderful for those who were not able to attend.

To those involved in Senior night football, it was nicely done and enjoyed by the GCMS families and fans.

Superintendent Darnell read a thank you note from the superintendent at Wethersfield School District commending the High School football coaching staff and players on their outstanding sportsmanship and respect during the November 5, 2016 playoff game.

To Parker Baillie, GCMS fourth grade student, who helped find money from the 50-50 drawing that blew away in a big gust of wind at the last home football game. He found the money under the stands and turned it in for the winner of the drawing.

A motion to **adjourn the regular session** was made by board member Zbinden and seconded by board member Elder at: 7:20 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote, with all members present voting yes.


Board President Josh Johnson


Board Secretary Pro-Tem Miranda Leonard

Elementary School Board Report 11/14/16

- 1) BUG
 - a. Had an assembly on 10-28-16 (also sang GO CUBS GO!!!, and practiced for Veteran's Day)
 - b. CITIZENSHIP is our character trait for the month (Next assembly is 11-22-16)

- 2) IPA Conference (Thanks!!!)
 - a. Attended sessions on: Technology, NGSS, Legal Q/A, KIDS Assessment, Google for admin, Standards based grading, etc.

- 3) Social events for staff
 - a. Birthday club in lounge, Theme lunches in lounge
 - b. Glass blowing event in Peoria (11-12-16)

- 4) Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - a. Over 96% of kids were represented at conferences!!!
 - b. Says a lot about our kids, our families, our community and our school!!!!!!

- 5) Author visit
 - a. Janice Harrington presented to the kids on Oct. 20th

- 6) Running Records
 - a. 1st round of ½ day training for all grade levels by Julie Eckberg (ISU) complete
 - b. We plan to transition to this method of assessment of reading level next year
 - c. Have another round of training set for December

- 7) Red Ribbon Week
 - a. Hosted over 575 grandparents/special guests throughout the week
 - b. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics)
 - i. Over 360 guests
 - ii. 6 stations (liquid nitrogen, exploding paint, dance, computers, slime, Legos, drones, etc.)
 - iii. Cathy W.S., Erin N., Deb Hohulin, Evon Fredrickson, and KiLee put it together (Mark Koon, Cindy Petersen, Walker Willis, Bess Lanker also helped at the event)

- 8) Enrollment:
 - a. ECE= 18
 - b. K= 78
 - c. 1st= 63
 - d. 2nd= 68
 - e. 3rd= 75
 - f. 4th= 69
 - g. 5th= 75
 - h. Total= 446

- 9) Upcoming date-
 - a. Nov. 18= picture retakes
 - b. Nov. 22= BUG assembly @ 1:20
 - c. Dec. 1= ½ Day RR Training for K/1
 - d. Dec. 2= Santa Shop in the cafeteria
 - e. Dec. 5-9= MAP testing for 3-5
 - f. Dec. 6= ½ Day RR Training for 2/3
 - g. Dec. 8= ½ Day RR training for 4/5
 - h. Dec. 11= Band concert
 - i. Dec. 12-16= MAP testing for K-2
 - j. Dec. 20= Elementary Christmas Concert @ 6:00-8:00 pm

GCMS Middle School Principal's Report

November 2016

Kyle Bielfeldt

Enrollment Numbers

- 6th Grade – 81
- 7th Grade – 73
- 8th Grade – 77

September Student of the Month

- 6th Grade – Kendyl Wright
- 7th Grade – Carmen Pondell
- 8th Grade – Mikayla Dykes

Red Ribbon Week – October 31-November 4

- We had dress up days, door decorations, prizes for students, etc. to promote the message that drugs and alcohol can take away what is important in your life.
- Great job by our students and staff. Assembly was a great success. 11 students played “Falcon Squares,” a version of the game show Hollywood Squares

Athletics

- Girls Basketball
 - 7th Grade Girls got 2nd in the TCC Tournament
 - 8th Grade Girls got 4th in the TCC Tournament
- Boys Basketball
 - First game Monday, November 7
 - 8th Grade – 14 players
 - 7th Grade
 - 8 7th Graders
 - 7 6th Graders

Re-designation of Horizon School to Watch

- Application submitted to AIMS for the honor (takes place every three years)
- Hope to know by January Board Meeting



Date **November 1, 2016**
TO: **Members, Board of Education**
FROM: **Chris Garard - Principal**
SUBJECT: **Monthly Update**

1. Enrollment- 333 (+4)
 - a. Freshmen – 94 (+3)
 - b. Sophomores – 92 (+1)
 - c. Juniors – 71
 - d. Seniors – 76

2. FFA – Attended the National FFA Conference in Indianapolis

3. Illinois Virtual High School update
 - a. Having students utilize this program for credit recovery. This has been our most successful credit recovery program. Provides the best options and student success rate.

4. Parent Teacher Conferences – 37% attendance for HS.

5. October 19 testing date
 - a. Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors took a version of the SAT for the first time. Preliminary results should be in for us to analyze.
 - b. Same three classes participated in afternoon workshops including SEL discussions, Interviewing skills and appropriate dress, Personal safety (internet, texting, and self-defense)
 - c. Seniors visited University of Illinois or Parkland College.

6. Athletics
 - a. Winter sports are beginning
 - b. Playoff excitement

7. Music students compete at ILMEA
 - a. Lauren Duquette, Sophie Hafer, and Rachel Harmet were selected to the All-District Choir.
 - b. Susan Harmet was selected to play in the All-District Band.
 - c. Sophie Hafer placed first in her second soprano voice.

8. Upcoming Dates - (**BOLD** items are invitations for the **BOE** to attend)
 - a. **November 11 – Veteran’s Day**
 - b. November 14-18 – Girls’ Basketball Tournament at Home.
 - c. November 21-26 – Boys’ Basketball Tournament at Home.
 - d. December 11 – Winter Choir Concert 2:30-3:30
 - e. December 11 – Winter Band Concert 4:00-6:00

Curriculum Office
November 2016 Board Report

- I. Illinois School Report Card Data Review
- II. 2016 Fall Parent Survey Results (see attached)
- III. Title I
 - A. STEAM Night at the Elementary School (November 3)
 - B. College and Career Night at the Middle School (November 8)
- IV. Professional Development
 - A. Outstanding feedback to Poverty Simulation
 - 1. "Today was useful and more like this in the future would be welcomed. I liked that it applied to all of the staff, not just select content areas."
 - 2. "I enjoyed this morning's exercise; it was very eye opening. Good day, well spent."
 - B. Looking ahead: January 3 will be a Tech Camp
- V. Assessments
 - A. SAT Results
 - 1. Average ELA Score: 486
 - 2. Average Math Score: 463
 - 3. Average Composite: 959
- VI. Falcon Flyer (see attached)

2016-2016 Fall Parent Survey Results- District

How would you prefer to receive communication from the principal/superintendent?

Response	Frequency	Percent	0	20	40	60	80	100	
Email	103	40.1%							
Text Message	95	37.0%							
Alt-Call	125	48.8%							
Hard Copy Letter	7	2.7%							
Social Media	8	3.1%							

How would you prefer to receive communication from your student's teacher(s)?

Response	Frequency	Percent	0	20	40	60	80	100	
Text Message	80	31.8%							
Phone Call	68	26.1%							
Email	170	67.2%							
Written Note	27	10.7%							
In-person Meeting	13	5.1%							

Which of the following best describes your thoughts on the Falcon Flyer, our monthly newsletter, which is published through email and social media?

Response	Frequency	Percent	0	20	40	60	80	100	
It is great! I enjoy reading about the GCMS Schools.	148	57.5%							
I like it, but I do not read it every month.	75	29.5%							
I've read it but do not find it to be useful.	8	3.1%							
I've never read the newsletter.	25	9.8%							

How often do you read the Gibson City Melvin Sibley Schools Facebook page?

Response	Frequency	Percent	0	20	40	60	80	100	
Only when it shows up in my newsfeed	67	28.8%							
Occasionally	54	23.2%							
Frequently	47	20.2%							
On a regular basis	65	27.9%							

On average, how much time per week does your student spend engaging in academic activities (independent reading, flashcards, etc.) during the summer break?

Response	Frequency	Percent	0	20	40	60	80	100	
None	12	4.7%							
Less than 1 hour	59	23.3%							
1-2 hours	108	42.7%							
More than 2 hours	74	29.2%							

Select one building:

Response	Frequency	Percent	0	20	40	60	80	100	
Elementary School	114	43.8%							
Middle School	138	53.1%							
High School	8	3.1%							

How have you already been contacted by your student's teacher(s) this school year?

Response	Frequency	Percent	0	20	40	60	80	100	
I have not been contacted	51	20.2%							
Email	163	64.4%							
Text Message	18	7.1%							
Phone Call	57	22.5%							
App	16	6.3%							

What type of academic activities does your student engage in over the summer break? Select all that apply.

Response	Frequency	Percent	0	20	40	60	80	100	
Independent Reading	218	92.8%							
Flashcards	41	17.4%							
Workbooks	61	26.0%							
Tutoring	8	2.8%							
Library Summer Reading Program	52	22.1%							
Community Summer Camp Program	43	18.3%							

Did your family attend any of the Title I Family Nights last year?

Response	Frequency	Percent	0	20	40	60	80	100	
Yes	70	28.9%							
No	172	71.1%							

Falcon Flyer

THERE'S VALUE IN READING ALOUD TO CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Written by: Deanna Leitz, GCMS 6th Grade Reading Teacher

In a hectic world, where many families run from one commitment to the next, we often find it impossible to fit one more activity in the day. There's just no time! Wouldn't it be nice to find an activity that was so beneficial to the good of the entire family, that you just couldn't not do it? The answer is so simple we often miss it! Reading aloud to our children! The benefits are both social and academic, and set the stage for kids to be lifelong readers!

1. Quality bonding time: Curling up on the couch with a good book, blanket, and your little one can be a time of peace and security for kids. Spending uninterrupted, one on one time reading a funny story or a favorite nursery rhyme will be memories that kids will never forget.

2. Gain life experiences: Kids who spend time listening to, or reading books can gain life experiences without the pain of experiencing them. Books portray characters who deal with loss, grief, relationships and more, before kids struggle to deal with their own feelings in a personal situation. From picture books to novels, there are plenty of great books available to address many of life's struggles.

3. Model fluency: Kids begin mimicking parent's speech and actions at a very young age. When kids hear parents reading, as fluent readers, they begin to copy that action. We see this when small children point to pictures and "create" a story of their own. As kids get older, they will copy tone of voice, inflection, and emotion as they read. All of this helps kids become fluent readers.

4. Improve vocabulary: When reading aloud to a child, stop and discuss challenging words and talk through the process of understanding the meaning. By modeling the strategy of using context clues aloud, students will be better able to understand and use those "three dollar words" when needed.

5. Becoming lifelong readers: Ultimately, the main support for reading aloud with children is to foster a love of reading. In turn, kids will look back on reading as a comforting and enriching activity that will stick with them throughout life. Most kids will go through phases of less reading, but those who have a love of reading instilled at a young age, will usually make their way back!



DID YOU KNOW?

- * There are 2 parent representatives on our Curriculum Coordinating Committee
- * According to the 2016 GCMS Survey of Parents and Families, 97.1% of parents in our district feel welcome when visiting the school
- * An average of 95% of elementary parents, 78% of middle school parents, and 37% of high school parents attended Parent Teacher Conferences last month.

FAMILY TIME

Written by: Cathy Walker-Steidinger, Parent Liason

If there is one thing we can all agree on it is this -- *Life is busy.* We all have full calendars and lists of "to-dos" that need to be accomplished every day. One of the challenges we face as parents is learning to balance our crowded schedules with meaningful support for our children -- no matter their ages.

There is no magic formula or one "right way" to best support kids. Each child, each family, each situation is unique. However, it doesn't have to be complicated, nor expensive. Here are two ideas your family might want to consider as we head in to Fall and Winter...

Eat together. Study after study shows numerous positive benefits for kids of all ages who regularly eat meals with their families. Is busy-ness crowding out family meal times? Then be creative! Maybe work and activities make eating dinner together impossible, could your family meal be breakfast? Or perhaps you can find time on the weekends to eat together? The purpose isn't to eat a fancy 10 course meal, but to spend time together in conversation and catch up on one another's lives.

Take a Technology Timeout. We have all seen the stories of families going cold-turkey for a week (or more!). Maybe the thought of that makes you break into a cold sweat! ☹ However, could you try an evening of screen-free fun? Make cookies, play a board game, visit friends or family... there are many meaningful things that could replace the screens for an hour or two. In today's world, we all need to learn to manage our technology and media use, AND teach our children those skills.

WAYS PARENTS CAN GET CONNECTED:

→ Join PTA and attend one of their monthly meetings! Check out the PTA webpage for more information:

→ Share your opinions and ideas by completing the GCMS Survey of Parents and Families this spring.

Update your email address! 67% of parents prefer to receive email communication from school but many parents do not have an email address on file. If you have not been receiving emails from school this year, please contact Don Worthington at djworth@gcmsk12.org to update your email address.

- * November 3: STEAM Family Night at Elementary School
- * November 4: Variety Show at High School @ 7:00 p.m.
- * November 11:
 - Veteran's Day Assembly @ 9:00 a.m.
 - 11:30 Student Dismissal
- * November 22: 2:20 Dismissal
- * November 23-27: Thanksgiving Break
- * December 5-16: MAP Testing ES and MS
- * December 20: Elementary Christmas Program at High School
- * December 21:
 - 2:20 Dismissal for Christmas Break
 - End of Quarter 2
- * December 22-January 2: Christmas Break
- * January 3: Teacher Institute Day--No Student Attendance
- * January 4: First Day of Second Semester

