



Early Release Day Added to District Calendar

By Wendy Burch

Tired of school? Need a half day? On December 11, all Fulton City Schools have added a half-day to the calendar. Instead of a full day of instruction, students will now be released at 10:30 a.m. (secondary) or 11:30 a.m. (elementary).

The reasoning for this change in the instructional calendar is to train the staff throughout the district in safety and security measures for the schools. G. Ray Bodley will close at 10:30 a.m. for the training of the secondary staff from 11:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.

Mrs. Parkhurst noted that all staff (including clerical, custodial, aides, kitchen) will be participating in the school safety training.

She said, "December 11 will be the first of a few training sessions" and added that she and the administrative staff are hopeful that knowing staff will begin training on how to respond will be reassuring for staff, students, and parents.

Senior Jada Ballard said, "It feels good to know I have a day to come home after New Visions and get caught up on my homework, then be able to have some free time to do whatever I want for the rest of the day."

Sometimes students are tempted to skip on a half-day, but students must come to school to stay up on their attendance and to get their education for the day.

Students will have the opportunity to work on their portfolios in their classes, as needed, as they move through their schedule in the morning.

Three hours is not a lot of time, so come see your friends and say hi to some teachers. Then, go home and relax (or do some homework)!



Picture from Google images.

Seven Scholar Athlete Teams Recognized

By Rylie Cotton

Many of the fall sports teams achieved their team goal of being a scholar athlete team. To be a scholar athlete team, the team's overall academic average needed to be 90% or above.

Girls varsity soccer, boys varsity soccer, girls varsity tennis, girls and boys varsity cross country, varsity girls volleyball, and varsity golf were GRB's scholar athlete teams for the fall sports season.

Varsity boys soccer coach Mr. Murray stated, "I don't stress soccer as much as I stress having high integrity in everything we do, which includes academics and they do a really good job with having high integrity in sports and school." Mr. Murray is so proud

of his soccer team and everything they have accomplished.

Mr. Beckwith, the varsity girls soccer coach, said, "Our goal every season is to make sectionals and to be a scholar athlete team because being student athletes we place a high emphasis on the student aspects as well as the athletic aspect." Mr. Beckwith pushes his team to strive in academics before they strive in athletics.

Varsity volleyball coach Mrs. Frost stated, "The Scholar Athlete achievement recognition is something we strive for as a team every year. The girls on the team know that their academics come first and are of the utmost importance."

She added, "I coach in order to develop young ladies into

positive, independent, respectful women with strong character. I consider academic achievement one of the ways in which they can display these qualities.” Mrs. Frost’s main goal is to develop the girls to be the best they can on and off the volleyball court.

These teams strive to be scholar athlete teams every year. GRB has always emphasized that academics must come before athletics.

Varsity Girls Tennis – 94.051
Varsity Golf – 93.797571
Varsity Boys Soccer – 92.121866
Varsity Girls Soccer – 95.411538
Varsity Girls Volleyball – 92.359375
Varsity Girls Cross Country – 93.279357
Varsity Boys Cross Country – 95.0935

Scholar athlete teams need overall academic averages of 90% or better. Listed above are the averages for GRB’s seven scholar athlete teams.

GRB Student Attends All-State Symphony Orchestra

By Dani Avery

For the first time in ten years, one of GRB’s string students has been accepted into All-State! Junior Leah O’Hanlon has achieved this major accomplishment and everyone at GRB is very proud.

The Symphony Orchestra Concert took place on December 2 at the Eastman School of Music. In order to be accepted into All-State, musicians must play an All-State Level 6 solo at NYSSMA, which is the highest level, and they must score a 100 on it. O’Hanlon said, “It takes a lot of practice, but it can be done!”

While there, O’Hanlon and the other performers played Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4 and a piece written by a local composer.

O’Hanlon has been playing the cello since fifth grade and has plenty of other accomplishments. These include playing in the pit and playing in the Symphoria Young Artists Orchestra.

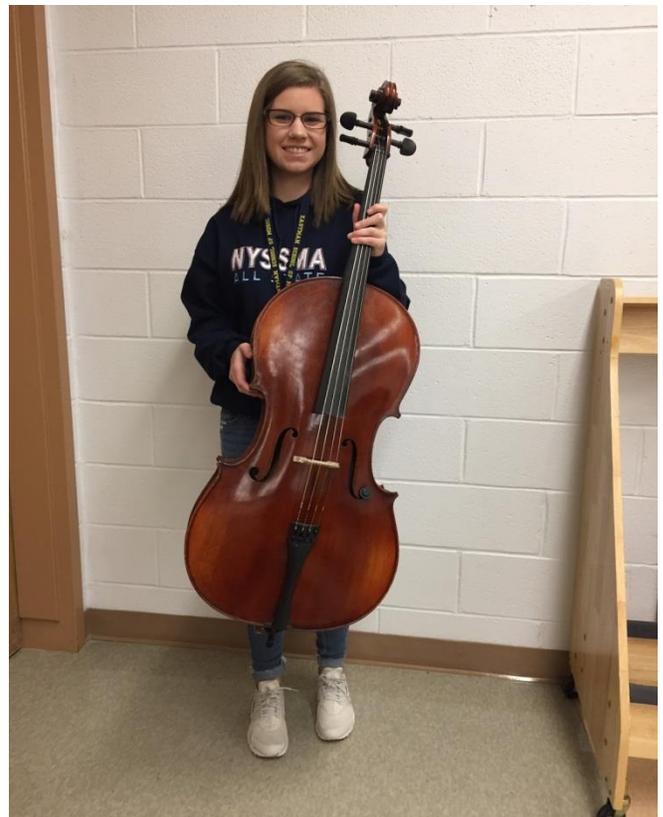
Mrs. Edele explained that the Symphoria Young Artists Orchestra offers an orchestral experience

with the most challenging repertoire, somewhat longer rehearsals, and three performance experiences. In addition, student musicians will join their professional counterparts to perform on a Symphoria masterworks performance. Sectional coachings will be offered by Symphoria musicians for each concert cycle, as well as masterclass opportunities throughout the year. The Symphoria Young Artists Orchestra is open to students up to age 22.

O’Hanlon has always thought about what would happen if she got to attend All-State but said, “Once you actually get there, it’s like all these people who are just as talented and even better. It was really cool.”

Orchestra teacher Mrs. Edele said, “She is an excellent student. I loved having her when she first came in grade nine because she was very dedicated to her cello. She even told me once that she was up at 2 a.m. practicing.”

Congratulations, Leah!



After the NYSSMA All-State performance, junior Leah O’Hanlon was ready to keep practicing.

Anything Goes at GRB in March

By **Lizzie Russell**

Quirk's Players recently announced they will be putting on the musical *Anything Goes* March 7, 8, and 9. This musical is a comedy that takes place on a ship traveling from New York to London. It contains a love story, mistaken identities, and gangsters, but, "Yes, it has a happy ending," said Mr. Lescarbeau, the musical's assistant director.

If you are interested in auditioning for the play, auditions will be held on Monday, December 10 and Tuesday, December 11. Junior High School auditions will take place on Monday, December 17. Musical director Mr. Briggs will have a sign-up sheet on his desk starting Monday, December 3.

If you are going to audition, you will be required to sing a selection from the show and read from the script. If you are interested in being in the tech crew you will

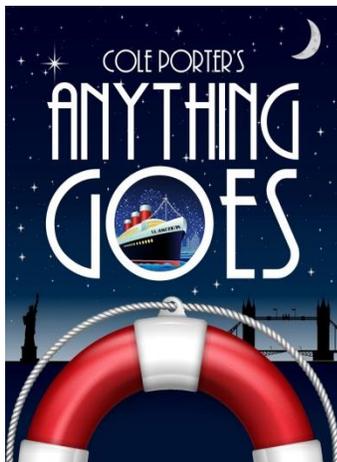


Image from Google.

need to fill out a tech crew form, which will be available at one of the two nights of auditions. If you are only interested in the ensemble, you will not have to read from the script.

The cast list will be posted before Christmas break and the first

Off Broadway Dance Center Holds Annual Christmas Recital

By **Dani Avery**

The GRB Auditorium was packed on Saturday, December 1 with friends, family and supporters of Off Broadway Dance Center (OBDC) performers. Why? Because they were putting on a "Flurry of Fun", this year's Christmas recital. And it was just that, lots of fun!

There are quite a few students in the school district who dance at OBDC. Freshman Mary Jane Mullaney has danced there for 11 years now and said, "My favorite part about recitals is performing for everyone because I enjoy showing how hard we worked to have a successful performance."

The show was full of great jazz, ballet, and tap numbers that were all related to Christmas. Sophomore Jaidyn Perry said, "This year we had a few super fun dances that really stick out, like our dance 'Christmas Can Can' that had lots of personality."

rehearsal will be held in the new year. The first rehearsal is mandatory and if anyone participating in the musical is not present, he or she will be dropped from the show.

Many students and staff are already looking forward to another great production from Quirk's Players!

Senior Jenna Hood has been dancing at Off Broadway since she was really little and stated, "My favorite thing about dancing at OBDC is the close friendships I have with the other dancers and it feels like I have another family at the studio."

Congratulations to Off Broadway Dance Center for another spectacular show and stay tuned to check out the dates for local spring dance recitals!



Seniors Lizzie Russell (left) and Jenna Hood (right) pose after the "Flurry of Fun" finale number on Saturday, December 1.

Student Government Tackles the “Juul Problem”

By Caleb Clarke

Within the past few years, the issue of vaping and the use of E-cigarettes has become a bigger problem at GRB. The administration called a meeting on November 30 with all class officers in response to student complaints about people juuling in the bathrooms.

Students have reported feeling very uncomfortable using the restrooms because often there are students vaping in bathrooms. The student government leaders agreed that it was an issue and said that they also feel very uncomfortable using school restrooms. A few added that they refuse to go to the bathroom in school because of the issue. Principal Mrs. Parkhurst and vice-principals Mrs. Stephenson and Mr. Copani proposed a few possible solutions including bag checks, metal detectors, closing certain bathrooms, and installing a “Juul detection system.” Unfortunately, none of the solutions were either logistically or economically sustainable solutions.

The administrators are very worried, not only because of the issues that it causes with the bathroom, but because of the potential health risks. Their main concern is that they do not know how it will affect teens in the long run. The large amount of nicotine in juul pods is something that they find very concerning.

GRB’s school resource officer, Officer Hutchinson, talked a little bit about the possible consequences of juuling or vaping on school property. He said if a student is caught with a juul on school property, “You’re talking probably a day of in-school [suspension] depending on your history because we have progressive discipline here and we would set you up with the drug counselor to show the dangers.” He noted there is also a difference if a student is caught using a juul, in which case he said the consequence is “probably a three-day suspension.”

The meeting ended with no real solution. However, they continue to take the issue seriously and will continue to look for new ideas to facilitate a healthy and safe campus.

A few juul users were willing to anonymously comment on the issue. All of the five students had a similar story and all except one said that they started because the people around them started juuling.

One student said, however, that he “wanted to quit smoking cigarettes.”

They all said that they have been juuling for approximately a year. None believed that it should be allowed in school, but one student commented, “If you are of the age of eighteen or older then it should be allowed.”

All five students either quit recently or are in the process of quitting.

Some students’ concerns seem to contradict the concerns of administration and the problem should decline as students continue to quit and juuling falls out of favor.



Pictured is a juul along with pods and a charger for the juul. Picture from truthinitiative.org.

Correction

The article “Coach Broderick puts Academics Before Basketball” in the November 29 edition of RaiderNet contained a mistake.

It should have read, “Mr. Broderick has a strong focus on developing the character of the players and has a strong belief that they are students first and athletes second.”

We apologize for the error.

Please view the corrected article on the RaiderNet page of the Fulton City School District website.

Raider Hockey Plays in First League Games and Tournament

By Eric Shear

Raider hockey recently played in a tournament in Baldwinsville. Fulton was one of four teams that participated in the tournament. The other teams consisted of the Baldwinsville Bees, Watertown IHC, and Cazenovia Lakers.

The Raiders' first game was on Friday, November 28 at 5:30 against Baldwinsville. This game also counted as the team's first league game of the 2018-2019 season.

The Raiders came out fairly well for the first six minutes until the Bees scored their first goal of the game and the Raiders could not recover from that goal. At the end of the first period, the score was 5-0.

Coach Bartlett made a few line changes and the Bees led 7-0 at the end of the second period.

The Raiders lost that game 11-0. Goalies, including junior Jadon Lee, freshman Trey White, and sophomore Nate Blasczienski, made a total of 47 saves. Fulton looked to move forward to the next game on Saturday.

On December 1, the Raiders came out looking to rebound for their loss against the Bees. The Raiders played the Cazenovia Lakers.

The Raiders came out strong and fast. Senior Eric Shear scored his first goal of the game, assisted by sophomore Derick Schumaker and senior Joe Galvagno. The Raiders continued the momentum and Schumaker scored another

goal shorthanded. Galvagno put up his first of the game and the Raiders ended the first period with a 3-0 lead.

Fulton came out sluggish in the second period. They made mistakes that resulted in two goals scored in the period. At the end of the period, the Red Raiders led 3-2.

The Red Raiders came out in the third period just like they did in the first. Shear scored his second of the game on a one-timed shot assisted by Galvagno and Schumaker.

The Raiders won the game 4-2. Hannibal junior Cal Connolly stated, "The new jerseys really pumped us up before the game and we were set on being undefeated in them." They were looking to use this momentum in their second league game of the season against Mohawk Valley on Tuesday.

Tuesday, December 4, the Fulton Red Raiders played The Mohawk Valley Raiders in their home opener. The game was at 6 p.m.

The Raiders came out fairly slow in the first period. Fulton had five minor penalties in the first period, but were able to kill them off. They did not get many shots on net. However, goalie Jadon Lee made many saves keeping the game tied at zero at the end of the first period.

The Red Raiders came out flying in the second period and the Raiders scored four unanswered goals. The goals came from Shear, Schumaker, and two from Galvagno. The Raiders led 4-0 after two periods.

Fulton came out in the third period aiming for more goals. However, Mohawk Valley came out and scored their first of the game on a powerplay. Halfway through the period, the Raiders gained the momentum back. Connolly scored his first of the year on the powerplay. Freshman Freddy White and freshman from Central Square Owen Dixon scored their first career varsity goals. Schumaker stated, "Energy and persistence conquer all things."

The Red Raiders won the game by a score of 7-1. They are now 2-1 on the season and 1-1 in their league where they are tied for second place. The Raiders next game is home against the Liverpool Warriors on Tuesday, December 11 at 6 p.m.



Pictured from left to right are sophomore Cal Connolly, senior Eric Shear, sophomore Derick Schumaker, junior Kevin Van Buren, and senior Joe Galvagno celebrating after Connolly scored his first career goal against Mohawk Valley on December 4.

Fulton Swimmers and Divers Face Oswego

By Cameron Grower

On December 4, the Fulton swim team had their second swim meet of the season. At 4:00 after school on Tuesday, the Oswego swim team came to the Granby pool to face the Raiders.

In past seasons and sports, the Oswego Buccaneers have been a huge competitor. The Oswego swim team has not been a huge threat and Coach Lacey was confident in the team's ability to win the dual meet.

As the meet started, the 200 medley relay, the first event, began. A medley relay starts with one person swimming two lengths, which is a 50 of backstroke, then another person does a 50 of butterfly, another person will do a 50 breaststroke, and the fourth person will finish the event with a 50 freestyle. The relays are very important events and Fulton got first, fourth, and fifth in this relay. After the relay, the next event is the 200 IM, which is the individual medley. Junior Mark Tallents took second, eighth-grader TJ Clayton took third, and eighth grader Aunna Metelsky took fourth. After the IM, the 200 freestyle is the next event. Eighth-grader Bryce Rogers took second, junior Koji Burdic took third, and sophomore Justin Atwater took fourth in this event.

Diver Will Patterson placed third with 145.15 points and junior diver Tanner Vant placed second

with 184.6 points. The next big event is the 100 butterfly and then the 100 freestyle. In the 100 butterfly, eighth grader TJ Clayton placed second, senior Jenna Ruzekowicz placed third, and eighth-grader Aunna Metelsky placed fourth. In the 100 freestyle, senior Ean Stevenson placed second, junior Jaden Patterson placed third, and sophomore Justin Atwater placed fourth. In the 500 freestyle, Rogers placed first, freshman Rebecca Stone placed second, and freshman Christina Tallents placed fourth.

In a lot of the races and events, the team did not get first place, but in almost every race they placed second, third, and fourth. Coach Lacey said he was very happy with this outcome.

The four final races are the 200 freestyle relay, the 100 backstroke, the 100 breaststroke, and the 400 freestyle relay. For the 200 free relay, senior Ean Stevenson, junior Mark Tallents, junior Koji Burdic, and Rogers placed first. Clayton, Atwater, Metelsky, and Jaden Patterson placed second. In the 100 backstroke, junior Nate Archer placed first, senior Cameron Grower placed third, and Ruzekowicz placed fourth.

For the last two events, Fulton was so far ahead that Coach Lacey decided to run them as exhibition, which means they do not score points. For the 100 breaststroke, Tallents placed first, Bur-

dic placed third, and freshman Tyler Ladue placed fourth. For the final race, the 400 relay, Rogers, Archer, Atwater, and Burdic placed second, and Christina Tallents, Grower, Ruzekowicz, and Metelsky placed third.

Stevenson, one of the four captains, said, "It was a hard swim meet that could've gone either way, and it's a good start to the season, but we need to stay humble and keep pushing."

The Fulton Raider's first home swim meet also went really well on December 29 when the team beat Cicero North-Syracuse. They won almost every event except the 50 freestyle and 200 Medley relay because of disqualifications.



Guided Study Hall teachers received a bag of cookies on Monday, December 5, to give to the 709 students who were referral-free for the first quarter.

Students Surveyed in Guided Study Hall

By Kim Bednarz

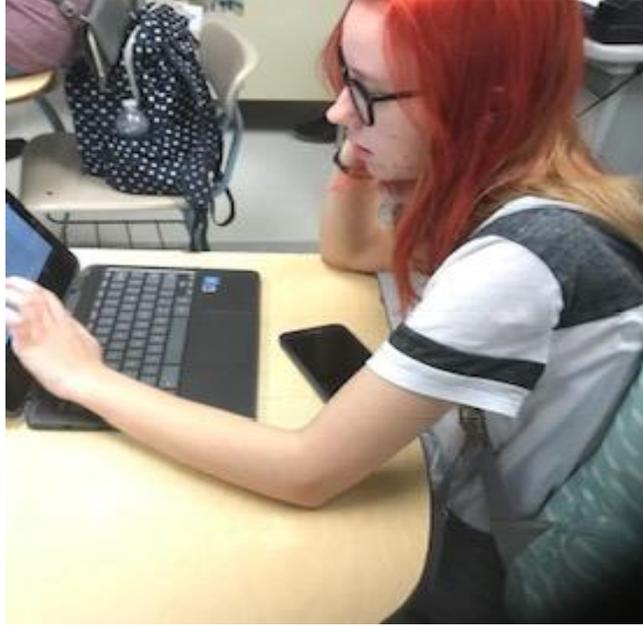
On Monday, December 3, G. Ray Bodley students completed a School Perception Assessment during Guided Study Hall. The topics for the survey were teacher-student relationships, sense of belonging, and school safety. Students were asked to rate their perceptions for such questions as, "I feel welcomed and part of my school."

Mrs. Parkhurst explained, "This process helps us gauge how well we are doing and where we need to focus efforts toward improvement."

She added that she appreciates everyone's support and teachers' leadership with "this crucial work of continuous improvement."

Freshman Courtney Bednarz said, "I think the survey was unnecessary but useful at the same time. I think that the survey is giving suggestions to make the school better. I wouldn't change anything." She added, "I think the survey will help determine students to speak out more and use their time wisely."

Students have varied opinions about the survey. Surveys are not to punish students. They help reveal what students and staff need to work on. With this survey and any survey, it is important to answer honestly.



GRB Junior Paige Pierce took the student survey on a Chromebook during Guided Study Hall on Monday, December 3.



Senior Luke Kimball (right) was one of 339 VIP students invited to enjoy the fries, tater tots, and mashed potatoes at the potato bar outside the auditorium during lunch bells on November 30.