

THE GRANDVIEW

# Connection

May 2021

## The Cycle of Rethinking

The essential components of learning

## Celebrating Student Success

Blake R. '21, Dominique I. '22, and Violet N. '27

## Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 24-28

## Inside the Classroom

## Focus Groups

Preparing self-study

## Spring Musical & Dance Concert

Live broadcast via YouTube May 6th at 6:30

Cover photo: Early Childhood student, Gabriel A.







Seniors, Elle B. and Julien R. sharing stories during the candle lighting breakfast.





# A Cycle of Rethinking: The essential components of learning

Jackie Westerfield  
Head of school

Thinking is both a science and an art. Throughout time, great thinkers have recognized the essential components of learning, noting that learning is a constant process that should be prioritized over the fixed information itself. Socrates, one of the world's most acclaimed teachers, deeply understood and promoted this inquiry method for his students. The Socratic method, as it is known, places questions and the critical thinking process above rote knowledge. The method requires a cycle of rethinking based on new information and new understandings. Plato, a star pupil of Socrates, famously illustrates this principle in his *Allegory of the Cave*.

Without retelling the whole story, the basic summary goes like this:

The allegory has many well-studied and deeply analytical meanings, but particularly emphasizes that wisdom and knowledge are not identical concepts. Wisdom is a continuous **process** employed by the learner, while knowledge is the more fixed **object** of the learning. The art of thinking kicks in when we confront information that is inconsistent with what we know or believe. For example, it was once

common knowledge in science that the earth was flat. In order for people of the time to adapt to changing information, the wisest artfully employed the process of questioning, rethinking, and reformulating to allow for an expanded understanding. Established research in

*"If knowledge is power, knowing what we don't know is wisdom."*  
Adam M. Grant

## Allegory of the Cave, Plato

*Prisoners are chained to a wall in a dark cave where they can only see in front of them the firelit images of objects outside of the cave cast as shadows on the cave wall (think shadow puppets). Eventually, a prisoner is freed, who ventures beyond the cave and sees that the world is actually sunlit, with three dimensional creatures that are not at all like the shadows on the cave wall. The freed prisoner returns to the cave to tell of these miracles and set the others free, but he is rejected as mad by the others who take comfort in their known understandings.*

modern education underscores critical thinking gains with Socratic principles that require students to think, analyze, rethink, observe, listen, and hypothesize - all while remaining curious about the world around them. The **science** of thinking, metacognition, requires an awareness of HOW to think, strategies to apply, and continuous reflection. The **art** of thinking, wisdom, requires openness to doubt, to being wrong, and accepting failure as a part of a successful process.

Our hope here at Grandview is to inspire students, to allow them to be curious, and to help them understand how to approach their own learning. As adults in a rapidly-changing and unpredictable world, we have a tremendous power to meet the moment with a renewed call to unlearning what may no longer serve us. Author and social psychologist, Adam Grant, has published a new book on this topic with many insights into why rethinking is so challenging.

"Part of the problem is cognitive laziness. Some psychologists point out that we're mental misers: we often prefer the ease of hanging on to old views over the difficulty of grappling with new ones. Yet there are also deeper forces behind our resistance to rethinking. Questioning ourselves makes the world more unpredictable. It requires us to admit that the facts may have changed, that what was once right may now be wrong. Reconsidering something we believe deeply can threaten our identities, making it feel as if we're losing a part of ourselves." - Adam M. Grant, [Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know](#)

Despite these known challenges, we look ahead with optimism and purpose regarding what is next, remembering that we are the craftsmen of our collective destiny, not defined simply by our time, our tools, our past, or our circumstance. We know there is a science to our creative capacity, an art to our willingness to understand, and a

commitment in our creed to wisdom above ignorance.

*"We are not afraid to step out of the comfort of our convictions to explore whatever light lies beyond our proverbial cave."*

We are not afraid to step out of the comfort of our convictions to explore whatever light lies beyond our proverbial cave. - Carpe Diem ■



# A&P Lab Experiences

Students in Anatomy and Physiology participated in two dissections during the second semester.

In February, A&P students participated in a sheep heart dissection as a culminating lab experience for the circulatory systems unit. Students investigated the structures and functions of the heart and used the heart to model systemic and pulmonary circulation pathways.

In April, A&P students dissected sheep brains to investigate the major structures and functions of the brain. This was the culminating lab experience for the nervous system unit.



Stephanie Leech  
Middle School/Upper School Teacher



Students, Jenny G., Taylor S.,  
and Tori K. dissecting a brain.



# Community-Wide Focus Groups

Grandview is preparing for its upcoming accreditation visit during the Spring of 2022. The accreditation process includes an in-depth self-study that encourages participation from the entire community. The self-study serves as an opportunity for Grandview to further define its vision and strategic planning for the years to come.

**Focus Group: Grades 3-5**  
Wednesday, April 14

**Focus Group: Faculty and Staff**  
Wednesday, April 14

**Focus Group: Evert Tennis Academy**  
Friday, April 23

**Focus Group: Grades 6-12**  
Wednesday, April 21

**Focus Group: The Board of Trustees**  
Thursday, April 29

**Focus Group: Parents**  
Wednesday, May 5



Lower School student, Mackenzie W. listening to Head of School, Jackie Westerfield introduce the focus group rotation.





**GRANDVIEW**  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Spring swim was off to an exciting start!  
Coach Prindle and Coach Cassidy are jumping  
for joy for the largest team in many years!



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

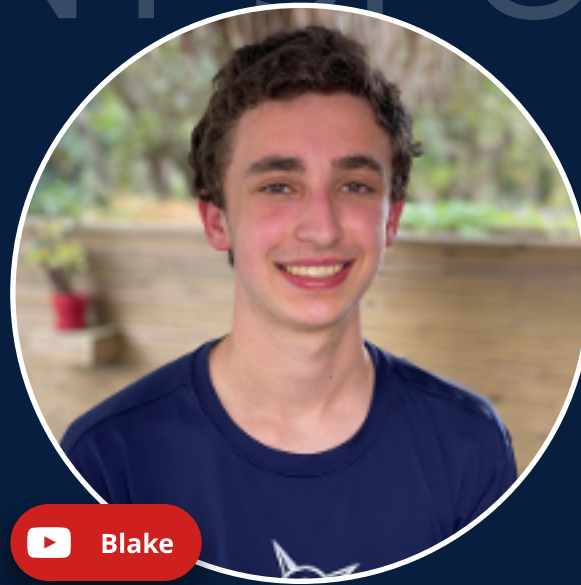


**Dominique I. '22**

In 2018, Dominique and her family moved from her home country of Nicaragua and began her journey as a student at Grandview (8th Grade). That same year she started learning the piano, which has now blossomed into a life-long passion. Grandview has provided her with a home away from home to help nurture lasting friendships and further broaden her perspectives on the world.

## **What are you most proud of?**

"I'm most proud of my development as a person. Someone who's kind. Grandview has given me the opportunity to stand out both academically and artistically. Artistically, Grandview has given me a stage and an audience which has helped me grow as a pianist. I never feel like I have to question my ability here."



 **Blake**

**Blake R. '21**

Blake created the website CoronaFinds.com with the intent of assisting families with locating essential supplies during the initial peak of the Coronavirus pandemic. Blake won a "PandEMMY" (Georgia's Pandemic Hero) for the service his site provided to the community. Blake has developed several websites and apps over the last several years.

## **Advice to younger students?**

"I recommend Middle School students take high school classes as it will help you find a mentor in a Upper School student."



 **Violet**

**Violet N. '27**

Violet is the owner and founder of Clay Monkey Designs focused on making unique and custom jewelry using polymer clay. Violet and Clay Monkey Designs donates 10% of all proceeds to the Center for Great Apes, a nonprofit sanctuary for Chimpanzees and Orangutans.

## **Most important thing you've learned at Grandview**

"The most important thing I have learned at Grandview is how to be confident. When I first started school I was very shy and now I am a very outgoing person."





# Spring Musical & Dance Concert Showcase

**Produced, Directed  
& Edited by:**  
Carrie Furman

**Director of Dance:**  
Stephanie Held

**Student Editor:**  
Alex Maciulewicz

**Premiering on Grandview's  
YouTube Channel  
Thursday, May 6 at 6:30pm**

Instead of a single Broadway show this year, enjoy many! Join us as we entertain you with songs, scenes, and dances from popular Broadway musicals performed by our very own, very talented Grandview students from EC3 through our senior class.

Pictured top to bottom:

Ms. Kenzi's Cohort (EC4)  
Ms. Michael's Cohort  
Ms. Mendez's Cohort  
Ms. Youngswick's Cohort  
Ms. Sheila's Cohort (EC3)



# Cultivating creativity through art



Digital Artworks  
Artist: Skylar W., 10th Grade

The artist developed the above series based on popular fashion magazines and the theme of "Consumption". She created several new "fashions" poking fun at how society is consumed with the influence of celebrities and will often wear pretty much anything regardless of how silly or bizarre it may look.



Nathan W., 6th Grade  
MS Art

Project theme: "About Me"  
Illuminated Letters



Polina G., 6th Grade  
MS Art

Project theme: "About Me" Illuminated Letters



Zoe C., 9th Grade  
2D/3D Design Class- Eveball  
Ceramic Dish | Project theme: Fear



Andrew W., 5th Grade

LS Art learned the technique of stippling and creating values with it.





Lower School student, Lincoln W.  
going up up and away in the  
Grandview gardens.

# Summer Sessions

Registration for Grandview Summer Sessions is now available for students **ages 3-6**.

Session 1: June 14-25

Session 2: June 28-July 9

Session 3: July 12-23

**8:00-11:00 morning session**  
\$450 per 2-week session

**11:00-3:00 afternoon session**  
\$300 per 2-week session

**3:00-5:00 extended day**  
\$20 per day

 **Register today!**

Questions: Desiree Tobin  
[dtobin@grandviewprep.net](mailto:dtobin@grandviewprep.net)



# Grandview @Evert

Head of School, Jackie Westerfield welcomed our Evert juniors to the main campus for the first time on May 5th. The Candle Lighting lunch provided opportunities for conversation, fun, and an introduction to the main campus.

We are looking forward to many more shared experiences with both main campus and Evert students as the year comes to a close. As next year's enrollment continues to increase, opportunities for collaboration across both campus will also become more vital to the experience of all Grandview students.



Evert student, Alex M. '22 meeting her fellow classmates during the Candle Lighting Lunch.



# Teacher Appreciation Week

GAP will be celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week this year from May 24-28. They have an exciting week of treats planned for Grandview staff including food each day, a yoga class, and more!

If you are interested in supporting this initiative, visit GAP's SignUp Genius and be on the lookout for a communication from your room parent. Thank you!



May 24-28  
teacher  
appreciation week

# Grandview Association of Parents (GAP)

MAY 11

NEXT MEETING

## Grandview Preparatory School Reviews ★★★★★ 60 reviews

★★★★★ Excellent	51
★★★★☆ Very Good	6
★★★☆☆ Average	2
★★☆☆☆ Poor	0

★★★★★

Our school is an authentic community serving students in grades PK3-12. The mission centers on personalized learning, where each student is valued for who they are and what they hope to accomplish. Values are a vital component of Grandview's culture, with specific curriculum designed to promote student wellness, engagement, and achievement. The academic program focus is on essential skills that will serve students for college and life beyond.

We need your Grandview review!

One of the ways that GPS is able to attract more visibility and recognition online is by increasing its "grades and rankings" score which consists of a few data driven factors, but especially school reviews from parents and students.

We were thrilled when GAP offered to reach out to our school community to request parents' assistance in filling out Niche.com's review survey. It even came with a special bonus- a chance to win \$1,000!

We appreciate everyone who has taken the time so far to help grow Grandview's visibility on that platform.

**Complete your own school review by clicking below!**

NICHE 





# Looking ahead

MAY 6	Appreciation Breakfast
MAY 6	Virtual Spring Musical & Dance Concert
MAY 7	Prom
MAY 18	Candle Lighting (Juniors & Seniors)
MAY 18	5th Grade Moving Up
MAY 19	Senior Commencement
MAY 20	2020 & 2021 Kindergarten Graduations
MAY 20	8th Grade Graduation
MAY 24-28	Teacher Appreciation Week

 **GPS YouTube**



## Candle Lighting & Senior Commencement

Due to social distancing requirements, both Candle Lighting on May 18th and our Senior Commencement Ceremony on May 19th will be invitation-only this year.

Both ceremonies will be livestreamed on Grandview's YouTube Channel, so everyone can participate in these lifelong Grandview traditions!





# Excelsior Ad Augusta

"Ever Upward to Honor"

Together we build our future  
one thought,  
one act,  
one moment at a time.

We believe knowledge is freedom,  
freedom is choice, and  
choice is responsibility.  
We understand we must choose wisely.

We must choose  
compassion over apathy,  
wisdom above ignorance,  
sacrifice over selfishness, and  
dedication above indifference.

For we know our future rests in this moment,  
this place,  
this act,  
this thought.

It is our choice to give to one another this moment.  
In this gift,  
there is honor  
now and forever.

Carpe Diem!