

THE GRANDVIEW

Connection

October 2021

Where We Are with What We Have

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Building Community

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Best In Class

Palm Beach
Illustrated's Teacher of
the Year Finalists

Student Advocates


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Dignity Bill

An Eye for Lines

Student Showcase:
Photography Lab

Cover photo:
21-22 SGA President,
Steven B-J





Grandview is investing in spaces (inside and out)! Stay tuned for more information about sponsoring classroom and facility upgrades.



Where We Are with What We Have

Jackie Westerfield
Head of School

Many of us are still adjusting to the fact that the game of life seems to have changed during our time on the field. The way information works, the way institutions work, even the way we think about the air we breathe, has drastically shifted.

Schools carry the important task of preparing young people for their future, but the pace of change and the predictability of what the Class of 2036 will face

seems beyond the typical analysis. Does the old playbook need to be updated or re-written from scratch? More importantly, what do students truly need right now to ensure their victory long after we are back on the bench?

Over the last 18 months, Grandview has examined itself in a series of focus groups and studies inspired, in part, by a framework created by the Big Questions Institute. With 'timeless ethics' as a key component of our mission, students, staff, and families have helped us refine what aspects of character matter most within our community.

"With 'timeless ethics' as a key component of our mission, students, staff, and families have helped us refine what aspects of character matter most within our community."

What seems clear is that the parts of our Grandview playbook related to character and values should stay the

same, especially during a time where the world around us is in flux.

Our community has the ability to call an 'audible' during the changing game because we trust ourselves to adapt and advance. Playing fair never changes.

"Playing fair never changes."

One of the recent articles discussed in the educational community was, *Who Do You Choose To Be? An Invitation To The Nobility Of Leadership*, by Margaret Wheatley. The following excerpt jumped out from Wheatley's article:

"...the global problems of this time ...cannot be solved globally. Even though the solutions have long been available- the conditions for implementation are not: ...We need to turn our attention away from issues beyond our control and work with the people around us who are yearning for good leadership. We need to engage them in work that is within reach, that matters to them. We need to use our influence

and power to create islands of sanity in the midst of a destructive sea. We can use our sphere of influence, however large or small, to do as Theodore Roosevelt enjoined us: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

Our own little island of sanity at Grandview has met this moment with a surprising amount of joy. Delta variant and political unrest aside, we have students in the building who are smiling, being kind to each other, and learning. We have adult parents, teachers, and leaders who may disagree on some things, but agree on the most important things first. We are finding our way through the global thicket in our school community sphere of influence, one sure-footed step at a time.

One of my greatest learnings over the past few years has been the recognition that we all hold competing polarities in our daily experiences. Our values, actions, and emotions are circulating constantly, trying to balance equally important

principles; both safety and freedom, both individual and team, both stability and change, both forgiveness and boundaries, both data and emotions. The balancing act is to know when to prioritize which value in a particular situation. I am personally coming to terms with the fact that joy does not live simply where difficulty ends. Joy is not waiting ahead of us like the proverbial peak at the end of a long climb. Joy lives right where we are, with what we have.

"Joy is not waiting ahead of us like the proverbial peak at the end of a long climb. Joy lives right where we are, with what we have."

Our children are the best teachers in this lesson. They capture the whole in each piece of the day. A few weeks ago, I watched our youngest students greet each other at our Family playground event, running with open arms and hugging, completely swept up in elation even though they had seen each other

just hours before. All of life played out for them during this evening recess- the frightful discovery of a bug, the celebration that the treehouse was open, the tears over a fall, the laughter during a dance, and the anxiety about being included. I watched them balance competing values in a changing game and took great comfort in knowing that they insisted on playing fair. Our future is safe with them.

Carpe Diem

Building Community

Grandview hosted its first series of "Playground Nights" for our Early Childhood and Kindergarten families. Over 50 families joined us (over two days) on the Lower School playground to connect with fellow families.



Parents; Elif, Jesse, Colleen, Connie, Tiffany, and Director of Admission, Stephanie Wood, connecting during Kindergarten Playground Night.



Parents, Lori and Evan during Early Childhood Playground Night.

Kayla, Marie and Maya posing for a photo during Kindergarten Playground Night.



Juliet, Aden, Charlie and Hannah couldn't believe the playground was open after school for Early Childhood Playground Night!



What is SGA?

SGA is the Student Government Association at Grandview.

What does SGA do?

Helps the community lead various service projects and plans various events for the entire school.

\$2 Dress Down?

That money goes directly to Student Government to assist in planning events for the community.

Get Involved!

Our goal is for all students and families to be as involved as possible! Our next event is Trunk or Treat on Oct. 26.

Welcome from the Student Government Association

President: Steven B-J '22
Vice President: Lily R. '23
Secretary: Aiden B. '23
Treasurer: Stella D. '22



Standing (L to R): Stella D., Jenny G., Steven B-J., Skylar W., Sam D., Adam K., Aiden B., Lily R. Seated (L to R): TJ P., Lila W., Zoey C., Kate L.



Grandview hosted over 120 community members at our first Community Breakfast this year! We can't wait to see you on October 27th for our next one.

The Learning with Dignity Bill



Pictured L to R: Ellen L. '23, Kate L. '25, Representative Kelly Skidmore, Dominique B-I. '22, Skylar W. '23, and Megan E. '22.

Grandview was well represented on September 2nd, 2021 at the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation session held at Florida Atlantic University. Grandview students, who are members of the Coalition Against Period Poverty (CAPP), spoke to the state senators and representatives in search of their support of the Learning with Dignity Bill, which requires Florida school districts to provide period products in school restrooms, free of charge.

We continue to be inspired by the advocacy and leadership of these students and look forward to seeing them positively impact the community.

Our future is safe with them.



Pictured L to R:
Kate L. '25,
Megan E. '22., and
Dominique B-I. '22

Student Showcase: Photography Lab

Mrs. Stephanie Held

The first quarter of Photography we concentrated on the basic fundamentals of taking extraordinary pictures. Fundamentals like; looking for lines, contrasting colors, various textures, and using different camera angles. Ideally, students will develop the skills needed to tell a story through photos. All pictures were taken on campus.

Mia V.



Faith S.



Waverly F.



Nayeli E.



Laila W.



Isabel R.

Grandview at Evert

Grandview's Evert campus has eclipsed 70 total students and has proven to be an extraordinary addition to our broader community. We look forward to having these students on the main campus through the year!



PALM BEACH ILLUSTRATED®

THE EDUCATION ISSUE

BEST IN CLASS

Meet the finalists for
PBI's Educator of the Year Award

CREATED
EQUAL
Educational
initiatives for the
benefit of all

The ABCs
of NFTs
Art in the
metaverse

Sandra Algarin

MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL TEACHER,
GRANDVIEW PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Sandra Algarin's math students at Grandview Preparatory School don't wonder how the concepts she teaches apply to the real world; they see it firsthand in her inquiry-based classroom.

For Algarin, math's lessons go beyond the sum line. In her thirty-second year of teaching, she aims to help students master math and build the "soft skills" they'll need as problem-solvers in the classroom and beyond. "I'm teaching them how to solve a math problem," she says, "but I'm also teaching them about communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and character."

Students in Algarin's class harness those skills—both hard and soft—when they start their own business for her capstone class project. "They pick a business they want to create and learn all about what goes into it, including a financial plan," she explains. "They start to see how math is central to everything."

The project is eye-opening to many of Algarin's students. "They're always like, 'Wow, this is expensive,'" she says, recalling a student whose initial business plan included opening a warehouse. "When he started working on the math, he realized the money didn't add up. He said to me, 'Maybe I need to start in my garage.' When they have those moments where they see how numbers matter, that is really special for me."

She knows she's made a difference
when: A student mentions some advice I gave them, and they still remember it years later. **Something students would be surprised to know about her:** I played the clarinet in the school band for seven years. **Actor who would play her in a biopic:** Rita Moreno. **Advice to new teachers:** Find a mentor. Veteran teachers are always willing to share their experiences.

Ms. Algarin, Grandview's
2020-21 Teacher of the Year,
was celebrated as a finalist in
the 2021 Palm Beach Illustrated
Education Awards.

Community Reminders

OCT

- 13** PSAT & SAT
- 15** Remote Learning Day
- 18-19** Auditions: *Newsies*
- 25-27** Student Showcase Week
- 26** Trunk or Treat
- 27** Community Breakfast
- 27** MS Halloween Festival
- 28-29** Remote Learning Days

NOV

- 11** Grandview "Night Carnival"
[BUY YOUR TICKETS HERE](#)
- 12** Remote Learning Day
- 18** Fall Family Feast

Preparing students for college and life beyond...



Brooke S. '22
University of Alabama



Caroline (Brooke) B. '22
Gonzaga University



Jeremiah E. '22
Lynn University

CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS



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!