



# The HOWL

*Grass Valley Charter  
An EL Education Mentor  
School*



8/22/22

“We are Crew, Not Passengers.”



Welcome Back!

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Welcome back GVCS!!! It has been a wonderful week full of smiles, stories of Summer, first days of school, and building community in classrooms, and school wide!

The school has been abuzz with classes engaging in team building games, a return to the routines that help things run smoothly, community meetings and more!

We are looking forward to keeping the kick off of the school year going with **Back to School Night this Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**. TK through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is from 5:30 – 6:15, the whole school will meet in the MPR from 6:15 – 6:30 for a welcome from

Principal Duchene, and 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> is from 6:30 – 7:15.

We are so happy to have you as part of our Crew, and we look forward to seeing you at BTSN '22!







## Back to School BBQ!

Thank you to all the families who came out to kick off the school year in style this past Friday! We were so excited to return to our annual Back to School BBQ! Our school motto of, "We are Crew, not passengers!" illustrates the importance of community here at GVCS. And what better way to kick off the year than all sharing a meal together!

A huge amount of appreciation to all those that made this event happen – from teachers at the end of the first week back, to retired GVCS staff, to the lineage of GVCS principals (past and present), to the incredible front office staff.





## Parent Group = Crew 24

Are you interested in getting involved in GVCS? Would you like to learn how you can support your kids, and their teachers? Do you have wonderful ideas, and the drive to make them happen? At GVCS, we want your involvement, voice, and energy! Crew 24 is our parent group! It is the place to build lifelong friendships, and to bring amazing opportunities to every student at GVCS.

It is our goal, that every class have a Crew 24 parent representative! Interested? The first Crew 24 meeting is Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am in the Staff Room. Have questions? Contact Cameron H at [cameron969@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cameron969@sbcglobal.net) Come join the Crew!

## We Believe in Learning! Parenting Classes!

We are excited to collaborate with the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, and the Family Resource Center to support a series of parenting classes.

Classes are offered in a variety of formats to make it accessible to all families. From morning or evening series to monthly gatherings, there is an option for you.

Please see the flyer for more Information including topics, registration, etc.

Cost is \$35 for an 8 week series, and scholarships are available.

## Expedition Donations

Dear GVCS Families,  
Grass Valley Charter School plans to resume normal expedition and fieldwork experiences for the 2022/23 school year. To make this possible the foundation will once again be collecting Expedition Donations from each family for each child. Scholarships are available for families in need, but they must be requested. See Val in the office to formally request a scholarship.



# Nurturing Parenting

## Fall 2022 Class Series





**8 Week Evening Series:**  
Tues 5:30-7:30pm  
Sept 6-Nov 1 (no class Oct 18)  
Grass Valley Charter School Staff Rm 225 S. Auburn St.  
Pizza & childcare provided for evening class!

**8 Week Morning Series:**  
Wed 10am-12:00pm  
Sept 14-Nov 9 (no class Oct 19)  
Nevada County Superintendent's Ofc Training Rm  
380 Crown Point Circle, Grass Valley

Cost per series: \$35 Scholarships available!

Take the stress out of parenting with Nurturing Parenting's evidence-based, interactive approach. For 35 years, this program has helped parents to deepen and strengthen their family relationships in all types of situations. Topics include:

- Communicating with Respect
- Discipline and Consequences
- Building Self-Worth
- Brain Development
- Dealing with Stress
- And much more!

Parents say...  
"I am calmer in the chaos."  
"I am much more empathetic to my children."  
"We are getting along much better, all around."

**Scan QR Code to Register Online:**



**Or email or call**

Jinnae: 530-238-5608  
[janderson@nevco.org](mailto:janderson@nevco.org)

**Presenter: Jinnae Anderson, Parenting Specialist**





**Introduction to Nurturing Parenting (Monthly Gathering)**  
**2nd Monday every month @ 11:30am**

This is an opportunity to explore how your life experiences impact your parenting. Discuss your challenges, learn about upcoming workshops, meet staff and connect with other parents. We can also work together to provide one-on-one support to help meet your needs as a parent or guardian.

**Registration Info**  
530-273-4059 | [vdoris@nevco.org](mailto:vdoris@nevco.org)



Nurturing Parenting®  
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**(Continued Expedition Donations)**

GVCS's model incorporates expeditions, fieldwork and adventure to support and enhance the learning done through expeditions, and the implementation of our character benchmarks. These experiences go way beyond a traditional school's field trips. The purpose of Expedition Donations is to keep you, the families, from being asked to pay for expedition/fieldwork/adventure experiences constantly throughout the school year. They're estimated to cover the costs of the grade level experiences for the whole year. You will notice we've increased the expected donation this year. This is to try to offset the increased costs of everything right now. This is actually the first time we've raised the amount per student in 15 years. The increase equates to \$25 per student. Our hope is that this increase will cover increased costs.

A few caveats exist to what these funds cover. Sixth grade science camp is not covered. Sixth graders will be fundraising on their own to cover these costs. Also, gas money for drivers driving students on fieldwork will be collected separately as each experience takes place. This amount may vary throughout the school year as gas prices fluctuate. Finally, middle school Intensives are not covered by expedition donations.

Here's the breakdown of the expected family donations by grade levels:

Transitional Kindergarten through 2nd grade – \$125/year per student

3rd through 5th grade – \$225/year per student

6th through 8th grade – \$425/year per student

Expedition Donations may be paid all at once using the link directly below or by paying in the school office with cash, check, or credit/debit card.

**Click below to submit your donation:**

<https://grassvalleycharter.org/expedition-donations-2/>

Your donation may also be **spread out over 3 equal payments** (August, December and April), or **spread out over 10 months**, beginning in August. **The 10 month option goes away after August 31st** since payments would be received beyond the current school year.

Both the 3 payment option and the 10 month option may be set up online, or through your own bank's online Bill Pay feature. Choosing your own bank's Bill Pay feature will require you to set this up yourself on your bank's website or app.

Thank you for your support and commitment to making incredible experiences for kids, part of our reality.

## Sports!

### Boys Volleyball: 8/22 – 10/14

**Boys Volleyball tryouts are Monday and Tuesday, Aug 22nd & 23rd** at the Scotten Gym (10821 Squirrel Creek Rd, GV) from 6- 8 pm. Please wear comfortable clothes, sneakers and bring a water bottle.

Coach Ben Murphy will be leading the team. All sports paperwork will be available Monday and Tuesday evening. I typically suggest that families consider sports a 4-5 night a week commitment between practices and games. Practices will be from 6-8pm. The season runs through 10/14, with game schedule TBD. The cost for participation is \$40.

Any questions can be directed to Coach Ben at [b-bmurphy@att.net](mailto:b-bmurphy@att.net), and /or myself. I can be reached at [aezell@gvsd.us](mailto:aezzell@gvsd.us) or 530 273 8723.

### Cross Country: 8/22 – 10/14

**We are seeking a Cross County Coach!** The season starts immediately and runs through 10/14. Cross Country is open to 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Practices typically occur from 3:00 – 4:00 on the GVCS Field, and there are typically 2-4 competitions during the season. There is a stipend for coaching, and we welcome co-coaches to take on this responsibility. If you are interested, please reach out to Mr. E at [aezell@gvsd.us](mailto:aezzell@gvsd.us)

### Mountain Biking: 8/30

The Mountain Biking Club will kick off the Fall Season on Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 3pm, please meet in the amphitheater. This will be the annual parent meeting, bike check, and time to turn in paperwork. Rides this year are planned for Tuesdays and Fridays. Tuesday rides will be from GVCS, into Empire Mine, and Friday rides will meet offsite at local trails.

Students grade 5 and up permitted to ride without a parent. Fourth grade and below requires a parent, and permission from the Coaches.

More information is forthcoming after the Coaches Meeting this Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you are interested in supporting the club as a coach, snack parent, etc contact Mr. E at [aezell@gvsd.us](mailto:aezzell@gvsd.us)

### Girls Basketball: 10/10 – 12/16

### Boys Basketball: 1/2 - 2/24

### Girls Volleyball: 2/20 – 4/21

### Track: 3/27 – 5/26

### Spring Mountain Bike Season: 3/27 – 5/26 (NCAL)

## Parent Square For School Communication

We are in process of adopting Parent Square as a great method of communication with our parent community. The majority of communications from the front office are coming via Parent Square, and teachers are phasing in this method as well. Our goal is clear and consistent communication ranging from informational, to signing up to volunteer, to the ... wait for it... golden goose of digital permission slips! If you have not already accepted the invitation to use Parent Square, I encourage you to do so. If you have any questions, you can contact the front office at 530 27 8723.

### A few reminders ...

As we get back in to the groove of things, a few reminders that will help things run smoothly.

- **Early Drop Off:** We love your kiddos, but please do not drop them off before 8:15am. We do not have staff supervision before that time. Students who arrive before 8:15am will be sent to before care which will incur a cost.
- **TK/1 Pick Up:** Thank you for using the placards with the name of your student, their grade and teacher. These help expedite pick up. For parents who are walking in for pick up, please have your placards too. Thank you ;o)
- **Pick up for 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade:** A reminder to please turn right when exiting pick up. This prevents cars from getting gridlocked. Thank you ;o)
- **Lost & Found:** Now is a great time to make sure that names are on anything that your student might shed throughout the day. If you find that something has been lost, you are always welcome to come in, check in with the office, and look through the lost and found located kitty corner from the front office.
- **Student Handbook:** Please review the student handbook with your children and return the signed page indicating that you have done so. This helps establish consistent expectations from the start of the school year.
- **Phones:** Students do not need cell phones on campus. We are happy to relay any message to your student from the front office (530 273 – 8723) and students are always welcome to call home from the office too. It is our school policy that if students do bring phones to school, they are to remain off and away during school hours, which includes lunch, recess, passing periods, etc. If students do have their phones out, they will be collected by an adult, and parents will be contacted. We also encourage parents to monitor usage, and apps that your kiddos might be using. A great resource is Common Sense Media. Check the “Parenting Tips and FAQ”, then “Cellphones”, for great info on everything from setting up parental controls, to learning about current apps used by teens.

Thank you so much for your support in a smooth start to the school year.

### Be In The Know

8/22 & 23 – Boys Volleyball Tryouts, 6-8 pm Scotten Gym

8/25 – Back to School Night

8/30 – Crew 24 Parent Group Meeting, 8:30 in the Staff Room

8/30 – Mountain Bike Club parent meeting, 3:00, amphitheater on the playground

9/5 – Labor Day, no School

9/29 – Picture Day

10/7 – Walk a thon: School wide fundraiser



## An Expanded View of Student Achievement

At GVCS we have an expanded vision of student achievement. We believe that when a student graduates from our school, that they should be well on their way to becoming an effective and productive citizen, who not only envisions a better world, but possesses the tools to help create that world.

As students culminate their education, be it after college or vocational school, we know that their success is not solely dependent upon their test scores, but on the quality of their work and the quality of their character.

As such, at GVCS we consider student achievement to have three dimensions: Mastery of Academic Skills and Content, High – Quality Work, and Character.

We hope that you have found evidence of our commitment to these dimensions of student achievement in the previous pages.



## Grass Valley Charter School

225 South Auburn Street  
Grass Valley , Ca95945

[www.grassvalleycharter.org](http://www.grassvalleycharter.org)



## Our Design Principles

The Primacy of Self – Discovery  
The Having of Wonderful Ideas  
The Responsibility for Learning  
Empathy and Caring  
Success and Failure  
Collaboration and Competition  
Diversity and Inclusion  
The Natural World  
Solitude and Reflection  
Service and Compassion