



# The HOWL

*Grass Valley Charter  
An EL Education Mentor  
School*

8/29/22



“We are Crew, Not Passengers.”

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Builds Crew & Community



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With the start of every year comes the building of community, and crew. Sixth grade has hit the ground running! With their annual adventure being focused on Rick Climbing, they have taken to the wall to learn the basics of bouldering. With an emphasis on communication and safety, in part provided by peers via spotting climbers – GVCS character traits such as Crew and Responsibility take on real meaning. Kudos to Ms. Adventure, Beth for her always stellar climbing instruction.

Building on this experience, students engaged in teambuilding games, and then developed class norms that will support the culture of the class all year.

With a side of Solitude and Reflection (Design Principles of EL) out in the school garden – these kiddos and teachers are poised for a great year!



## 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.

## Back to School Night

Thank you to all who attended Back to School Night Last week! It was a strong showing, and such an important piece of starting the school year strong!

There were eager parents ranging from TK all the way up to 8<sup>th</sup> grade!

The key message I would like to reinforce is that GVCS is a community, and that we are better off with your involvement. Don't know where to start? Ask your teacher, or come to the Crew 24 meeting this Tuesday, 8:30 am in the Staff Room.



# 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®

## Sports!

### **Boys Volleyball: Open to 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders, the season runs from 8/22 – 10/14.**

Congrats to all students for the strong showing at tryouts last week! We can't wait for the games to begin the week

Any questions can be directed to Coach Ben at [b-bmurphy@att.net](mailto:b-bmurphy@att.net)

### **Cross Country: Open to 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders, the season runs from 8/22 – 10/14**

**We are seeking a Cross County Coach! We have a parent willing to coach 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, but are looking for others willing to coach for 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>.** The season starts immediately and runs through 10/14. Cross County 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@gvcsd.us](mailto:aezell@gvcsd.us)

### **Mountain Biking: Open to 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders (younger with coach permission) season 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@gvcsd.us](mailto:aezell@gvcsd.us)

### **Girls Basketball: Open to 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> graders, the season runs from 10/10 – 12/16**

### **Boys Basketball: Open to 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders, the season runs from 1/2 - 2/24**

### **Girls Volleyball: Open to 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders, the season runs from 2/20 – 4/21**

### **Track: Open to 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders, the season runs from 3/27 – 5/26**

### **Spring Mountain Bike Season: Open to 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders (younger with coach permission) the season runs from 3/27 – 5/26 (NCAL).**

Questions about Sports at GVCS can be directed to Mr. E at [aezell@gvcsd.us](mailto:aezell@gvcsd.us)

## Parent Homework: Phones & Social Media

After nearly 20 years working in k-8 education, I can say that without a doubt, cellphones and social media are disruptive to the educational environment – and in addition can be a major source of stress, anxiety and a source of social emotional hurdles for kids. The good news, there is a lot that you can do as a parent. First, most kids do not need cellphones. The earliest that my own child might get a cellphone is in high school, I know many, many other school admin with the same perspective.

If you do decide to get your student a phone, I strongly encourage you to take some time and review the resources available at [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)

The resources here are straight forward and actionable. For example, step by step instructions on how to set up controls on the phone your child uses (notice I didn't say their phone, because it is not theirs, it is yours). This includes things like: allowing you to determine what apps they can have, or not have, what time of day they can access apps (errrr, so maybe not during the school day, or after bedtime), what type of content they can access, etc. For more on setting up a phone for your child in a way that feels appropriate for your family, follow this link.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/articles/step-by-step-tips-to-set-up-your-kids-iphone>

In addition, Common Sense Media offers great overviews of popular apps among teens. Does your child want to be on, or already is on: SnapChat, Instagram, TikTok, Twitch? Do you understand how they work? How or if you can monitor what your student is sending, or being sent to them? Common Sense Media is a great resource for all of this and more.

Please, take the time to review some of these resources so that you can actively engage with your kids as they access everything that is available on the internet (which is, you know – Everything!).

Top Tips: AKA, Things All Parents Should Know.

- You do not actually need a cellphone carrier to access the web, apps, etc. You can have a phone with no carrier (or an iPad), that can access this content through WiFi. Kids know this, and now you do too.

## 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 530 273 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

8/30 – 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