



# Tiger Tracks

Be Respectful, Be Ready, Be Safe



Gurrie Middle School  
1001 S. Spring Avenue  
La Grange, IL 60525  
708-482-2720

Summer, 2017

Summer Issue

www.d105.net

School Closing Hotline: 708-482-2722

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## CALENDAR



### August

- 1 Walk In Registration  
4-7p.m., Seventh Avenue School
- 15 **7th grade** schedule pick up,  
10-12 noon, 4-6p.m.
- 16 **8th grade** schedule pick up  
5-7p.m.
- 24 First Day of School
- 31 Student Picture Day

### September

- 4 Labor Day- No School

## Gurrie PTO Seeks Volunteers

The Gurrie PTO is an active organization that relies on parent volunteers to meet its goals of service to the students and the school. Please join the PTO during the start of the school year and consider becoming an active member. Meetings are held in the evenings approximately once a month and all are welcome to attend.

You can sign up for membership at Gurrie's Curriculum night, at Walk-In registration on August 1 from 4-7 at Seventh Avenue School, or contact our PTO president, Susan Dixon, at [cincodix@gmail.com](mailto:cincodix@gmail.com)

## Student/Parent Handbook

A handbook for students and parents will be distributed this fall as a part of the student planner. This publication will be of significant value to you. Look for it during the first week of school and used it as a ready reference. You will be asked to sign and return a form indicating that you have received and read the Student/Parent Handbook. It can also be accessed on the Gurrie website under the Parent/Guardian tab.



## Summer Information



Please remember to consult the Gurrie page on the District 105 website for information regarding summer office hours and other important information that might answer any questions you might have.

## Bus Information

Bus applications with information about bus stops and schedules are available in the Gurrie office. They also came home in the registration packets. Buses will run on August 24th, picking up students at the usual time to get students here before the start of the school day. Bus schedules and routes rarely change. Older neighborhood students are a good source of information about bus stops and times.

## **Gurrie Middle School**

Ed Hood, Principal

1001 South Spring Avenue  
LaGrange, IL 60525-2798  
(708) 482-2720  
[www.d105.net](http://www.d105.net)

*Gurrie Middle School: Empowering students to pursue their interests, talents, and dreams.*

July 2017

Dear Parent:

My name is Ed Hood and I am the principal of Gurrie Middle School. Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year. The staff and I are looking forward to building positive and rewarding relationships with all of our students, whether they are new to Gurrie or returning for their eighth grade year. Whether this is your first middle schooler, or a sibling of one who has gone through middle school before, this developmental stage has many unique and dramatic characteristics. Changes that occur in children between ten and fourteen—changes that are physical, emotional, intellectual—are particularly dramatic. Our staff will work hard to address those changes and provide the appropriate support for your child's needs within our middle school.

Gurrie offers a strong core academic program in the areas of math, science, reading, language arts, and social studies. Gurrie places appropriate emphasis on these core subjects but we also want students to explore other curricular areas, including world language, and fine and practical arts. With the specialization that takes in high school, middle school may be the last time students are exposed to some of these subjects.

Advising and counseling middle-school-age children is an important task for the middle school. Young adolescents experience many changes. They need and want to have significant adults outside the family provide them with a sense of consistency and security. At Gurrie, we have an established advisory program that allow all students in our school to meet regularly with a cohesive group led by two teachers who serve as advisors. Advisory allows students an opportunity to form close, positive relationships with staff and other students while building trust and cooperation.

Good health and physical fitness are important for all students. Students at Gurrie participate in physical education each school day and are encouraged to take advantage of our intramural and interscholastic sports programs. Gurrie also offers a wide array of clubs and extracurricular opportunities.

Communication is very important to us and we will work hard to provide timely and appropriate communication to you regarding your child. Please visit our website for a full year calendar, upcoming events, and other important information. Our website is [www.d105.net](http://www.d105.net).

I ask that you become a member of our Gurrie Parent Teacher Organization and help support the many wonderful activities and programs they make possible. The results of research are very clear: When parents are actively involved in their children's education, they do better in school. WE NEED YOU! See our school website for more information about our PTO.

I feel a tremendous sense of pride being a member of the Gurrie Community and I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know you and your children throughout the upcoming school year. If you ever have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to call me here at school (708) 482-2720, email me at [ehood@d105.net](mailto:ehood@d105.net), or stop by the office.

Sincerely,  
Ed Hood

**Gurrie Middle School—Be Respectful, Be Ready, Be Safe!**

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Dear Parent:

Homework completion can be a concern for many students at the middle school level. Homework that is assigned to students contributes to student achievement and is an essential part of the educational process. Homework enhances learning by providing opportunities for practice, enrichment, and extension of classroom learning. Assigning homework helps reinforce skills and is used to assess student achievement. By completing homework, students develop mastery by applying what they've learned; develop organizational skills such as time management; take ownership in their learning; and develop a sense of personal responsibility.

If a student does not complete an assignment and there is not a reasonable excuse for this, we are continuing a program that we are confident has helped students complete their homework and develop a sense of personal responsibility. This program is called Homework Lab.

If a student comes to class and does not have the assignment due that day, or it is not done to the teacher's satisfaction, the teacher will assign that student to Homework Lab on that day (teachers will use discretion in assigning students who may not have completed assignments due to illness, family emergencies, or other issues). Homework Lab begins at 3:20 PM and ends at 4:00 PM and runs Monday through Friday. There will be a lab for each grade level and students will be aware of the supervisors and room number. When students are in the homework lab, they will be working on the missing or incomplete assignment.

If your son/daughter is asked to stay for homework lab, you will be notified by our office staff via our automated School Messenger service prior to the end of the day. School Messenger will attempt to contact you, and if unsuccessful, leave a message at your contact numbers and email. Bus riders will take the bus home at 4:00 PM.

Our goal is to provide the student an opportunity to complete the assignment in a timely fashion and in a time frame when the student can still connect the assignment to the content being covered. Any student consistently not completing homework and is regularly asked to stay to homework lab will be referred to our grade level problem solving teams.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact myself or your child's advisor.

Respectfully,

Ed Hood  
Principal, Gurrie Middle School

## **PBIS**

Positive Behavior Intervention Support is a program supported by the Illinois State Board of Education to promote and maximize academic achievement and behavioral competence. It is a school-wide strategy for helping all students achieve important social and learning goals. We know that when good behavior and good teaching come together, our students will excel in their learning. Gurrie is proud to be a part of this system.

As part of the PBIS program, we have established clear expectations for the behavior we expect in all areas of our school. We have explicitly taught those expectations to the students and will reward them frequently with positive notes and other recognitions for their great behavior. The expectations for all student behavior will be clear throughout our building, including such areas as the cafeteria, gymnasium, and classrooms. You will be able to ask your student, "What are the expectations in your school?" "How do you follow those expectations?" "What happens when a teacher sees you following Gurrie expectations?"

Our school expectations will help provide for a safer school environment and give more time for instruction. We will apply consistent consequences and positive reinforcement for all kids. By detailing every expected behavior and teaching to kids in a positive way, we will provide a common language for everyone in our building, including students, teachers, front office staff and our paraprofessionals.

We believe that by helping students practice good behavior, we will build a school community where all students have an environment where they can succeed and grow.

We would like your input and your involvement. Please contact us at school if you have any questions or need further information. Thank you for your support!

***Gurrie Middle School :***  
***"Be Respectful, Be Ready, Be Safe."***

## **STUDENT SCHEDULE PICK UP**

Prior to the first day of school, students (and a parent) will be able to pick up their schedule and get their locker assignment for the 2017-2018 school year. If a student is unable to come in during one of the scheduled times, they will receive their schedule and locker assignment on the first day of school from one of their advisors.

Seventh graders will be able to come in on August 15th between 10-12p.m. or 4-6 p.m. Any remaining 7th graders and incoming 8th graders will be able to come in on August 16th between 5-7p.m.

Students should come with a parent. Students will pick up schedules and locker information in the large gym and then be able to set up their locker, walk the building and find their classrooms. Our PTO will be here to distribute school supply packs (if you ordered one), selling spirit wear, and will also be available to sign up families for PTO membership.

## **CHROMEBOOKS AT GURRIE**

We are very excited to announce that continuing this year, all students at Gurrie will be issued a Chromebook which they will carry with them throughout the school day and bring home with them each night. There will be no additional costs to families for the devices except for a small technology fee of \$15.00.

There will be a mandatory parent and student meeting in August for all incoming 7th graders and new families on Tuesday, August 22nd at 6p.m. We anticipate the meeting will take approximately 45-60 minutes. At this meeting you will receive information regarding our policies and expectations related to the use and care of the Chromebook. Students will receive their Chromebook and case at the conclusion of that meeting. Students will not be issued a Chromebook unless they attend the meeting with a parent.



## Nurse's Notes

### Medication Procedures:

If your student requires any medication (prescription or over-the-counter) during school hours or at school-related activities, the following requirements must be met before medication can be brought to and used at school:

1. Completion of the District 105 Permit for Administration of Required Medications During School Hours Form (available at school or on the district website in student services-health services section) by the student's prescribing provider and parent/guardian.
2. Medication must be delivered to the school by an adult and in its original packaging with pharmacy label (for prescription medications). Over-the-counter medications must be in their original and unopened containers.
3. Self-Administration of Medication: A student may possess and self-administer an epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen®) and/or asthma medication with the prescriber additional notation and parent/guardian additional notation on the above otherwise completed Medication Form. We strongly recommend a backup supply of medication for storage in the nursing office.

### Casts, Crutches, Braces, Splints, PE excusals:

Please send in notes from the health care provider any time a student will require casts, braces, splints, crutches, excusal from PE activities, or other special health related accommodations.

### Food Allergies:

Please review the School District 105 Allergy Policy and Guidelines also available in the school office or at the district website in student services-health services section. Foods permitted in the classroom are limited to fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, NutriGrain bars, Rold Gold pretzels, Cheese Goldfish crackers, and fresh cheese sticks.

### Special Health Needs:

Please contact the school nurse's office if your student has any special health needs that we should be aware of or that you would like to discuss with the nursing staff.

## About *Tiger Tracks*

*Tiger Tracks* is one of our school's and our PTO's many communication lines with parents. It is emailed home about every four weeks along with the Wednesday envelope and other school communications. It is also available on the Gurrie website under the heading "Tiger Tracks."

Each issue contains important news, dates and information which will be helpful to you as a parent, so you will want to view your copy of the *Tiger Tracks* regularly.

In addition, the *Tiger Tracks* features a sports calendar which will let you see at a glance just what is happening with our athletics program. At the end of the sports page in the September issue is a list of the various schools (with their addresses and phone numbers) that participate in the Lyons Township Elementary School Athletic Conference. You will want to keep this information for reference throughout the school year.

## Gurrie Security

As you probably know, our security system allows entry only through the main doors and only after ringing our doorbell. We would like to remind everyone that the students and teachers are instructed to open the door for no one except known staff members. If a student who you know ignores your desire to enter, he or she is following correct procedure. We appreciate your understanding.

## Seventh Grade supply list by subject

### **LA:**

1 package post-it notes  
2 BLUE folder  
1 BLUE single subject notebook  
1 package 3-4 highlighters

### **Social Studies:**

2 RED folders  
Glue Stick  
1 package markers  
1 package colored pencils  
1 package colored pencils

### **Science:**

1 package colored pencils  
1 package markers  
1 GREEN folder  
1 package of 3x5 notecards  
Glue stick

### **Math:**

1" YELLOW pocket binder (with pockets)  
5 tab binder dividers  
1 YELLOW folder  
loose leaf paper  
Calculator, TI 30XIIS recommended

**\*binders, folders, notebooks and possible book cover should match for the given subject  
PLEASE TRY NOT TO PURCHASE ANY FOLDERS OR NOTEBOOKS FOR OTHER CLASSES IN RED, YELLOW, GREEN, OR BLUE**

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### **Exploratory Classes:**

2 folders  
Loose Leaf paper

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Foreign Language:**

3 packages of 3x5 notecards  
Folder

### **General Supplies: These will be used in most classes throughout the year.**

(4) 12 packs of pens  
(3) 12 packs of pencils  
(2) 4 packs of highlighters  
(3) 50 count packages of Post It notes  
4 boxes of Kleenex  
Pencil Bag  
Earbuds  
Mouse (optional)

### **Band/Orchestra**

1" 3-ring black binder  
1 package sheet protectors

**Gurrie Middle School Eighth Grade supply list for 2017-2018**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade General Supply List**

- (2) 12-packs of black pens
- (2) 12-pack red pens
- (2) 12-packs of pencils
- 4 boxes of Kleenex
- 2 packages of 4x6 ruled spiral bound index cards
- 1 box of markers (washable)
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 8 Highlighters, any color
- Pencil case
- (2) Take home folder or ½” binder
- Computer Mouse-USB (optional)
- 1 multi pack of post-its
- Earbuds

**American History**

- 1½” red binder with clear outside pocket
- 5 dividers
- 1 package of 150 sheets of loose-leaf paper

**Math**

- 1 1/2” yellow binder with clear outside pocket
- 5 tab dividers
- (2) packages of 150 sheets of college rule loose leaf paper
- 1 package graph paper with 6 coordinate grids on each side (available to order through Geyer) or can be printed from website <http://www.printfreegraphpaper.com/gp/fc-i-4.pdf>
- TI 83 or 84 or 84 Silver calculator (for LT Algebra students) **OR**
- Scientific calculator, TI30X IIS (for all other students)

**Science**

- 1” green binder with pockets
- 5 dividers
- Spiral notebook—3 subject
- 1 box of 24 crayons

**Foreign Language**

- 1” binder, any color other than red, yellow, green, or blue
- Folder
- 3 packs 3x5 notecards

**Language Arts**

- 1 composition book, wide ruled
- 1 blue folder

**Exploratory**

- (2) 2-pocket plastic folder
- 1 package of loose leaf notebook paper

**Band/Orchestra**

- 1” 3-ring black binder
- 1 package sheet protectors

## Attendance Notes

Every morning during first period attendance is taken. When a student is absent the parent must phone the school during the morning of absence by 8:30 a.m. All absences must be covered by either a parent's phone call or a note. Please direct all notes to the Gurrie office. The office will notify the student's teachers and advisors. Students may not call in their own absences. "Missed the bus" will not be accepted as an excuse for an absence. After three consecutive days of absence, the principal may require a written excuse from a student's physician.

A student must be in attendance from 11:30 a.m. on in order to participate in any extracurricular activity after school. (This includes sports events, PTO Fun Nights and school dances.)

Any student arriving late to school must report to the office for a tardy slip before he or she may be admitted to class. Parents are requested to call the office if they know their student will be late. A student who is tardy for an unexcused reason, regardless of parent phone call, will be required to stay after school with the dean on the day of the tardy. Medical and dental appointments are examples of excused tardies. Anyone reporting late for a class within the school day will be disciplined by the teacher concerned. Repeated tardiness will be reported to the dean.



## Gurrie Middle School Dress Code



This is just a reminder that Gurrie Middle School does have a dress code. It is expected that students will be dressed in an appropriate manner while at school or attending a school or PTO activity. Appropriate school dress includes clothing, accessories, or hair styles which are not disruptive to the students and therefore will not interfere with the educational program. Personal attire must be clean and safe so as not to be a hazard to the health and welfare of the student and other students in the school. Gurrie hopes that parents will take an active part in assisting their children in making intelligent decisions about their appearance in school.

Important items to consider when purchasing school clothing are:

- A. Clothing that is considered too revealing or suggestive in any way is prohibited.
- B. All clothing must cover from shoulder to mid thigh. (No bare midriff allowed.)
- C. Transparent items, spaghetti strapped tops, strapped shirts, strapless tops, single strapped tops, nightwear, or items normally worn as undergarments, but displayed as outerwear, are prohibited.
- D. Wearing of jewelry or clothing which displays obscene, profane, or vulgar language or pictures, tobacco, alcohol, firearms, illegal drugs, gang signs, colors or symbols is strictly prohibited.

Students who come to school in clothing which is not considered appropriate will be required to change. If necessary, parents may be called to bring appropriate attire to school for their student.

Additional information is found in the Student/Parent Handbook.





## Student ID Cards ... Hot Lunch Program ...Hot Lunch Pre-Pay



Gurrie students are issued student ID cards within the first day or two of school. These ID cards serve as school library cards, bus passes, and breakfast/lunch debit cards. Students are also issued a lanyard to attach their ID cards to so they can keep their ID cards readily available and safe. Students should carry their ID with them at all times. The replacement cost for a lost ID card is \$2.00, and students must have their ID cards replaced if they lose or break them. Breakage due to wear is considered on a case to case basis.

Gurrie students pay for their breakfast and/or hot lunches by swiping their ID card in the cafeteria. The breakfast is a “grab and go” breakfast (nothing is cooked/no hot breakfast is provided). The cost of the breakfast this year is \$2.00. Students can grab their breakfast starting at 7:55a.m. Only breakfast and/or hot lunches or milk may be paid for by swiping the ID card, and breakfast and/or hot lunches may only be paid for by using the ID card. Other lunch foods available in the cafeteria must be paid for using cash. Students on the free and reduced lunch program also swipe their ID cards when picking up their breakfast and/or hot lunches. If those students on the free and reduced lunch program choose to eat other food available in the cafeteria at lunch, or take an extra milk, they must pay cash. The free and reduced hot lunch program as determined by the state only covers one breakfast and/or hot lunch (which includes milk) each day. If a student on the free and reduced program only wishes milk or would like an extra milk, they must pay for it. This is according to the state program’s rules.

Parents are asked to prepay \$55.00 (20 hot lunches at \$2.85 each) if their student will be generally ordering a hot lunch or eating breakfast at school. A lesser amount can be prepaid if the student will only be purchasing milk (\$.30). Parents are asked to monitor their student’s lunch account throughout the year, and send money in to apply to the student’s card as funds run low. Parents can monitor their students’ accounts by logging in to their PowerSchool account. Parents who do not have computer access can call the school office for an update on their students’ lunch balances.

Parents whose students’ lunch balances fall in arrears by more than \$12.00 will receive automated phone calls from the District office weekly until the balance is paid. In addition, lunch balances appear on progress reports and report cards. Negative balances will be highlighted. Parents whose student’s lunch balances fall seriously in arrears will be contacted personally by the District office. Although the school will try to help parents keep on top of the students’ balances, *it is ultimately a parent’s responsibility to monitor their student’s lunch balance.*

Parents may send checks (made out to School District 105) or cash to the Gurrie office when their students’ lunch balances fall low. Parents may also pay online with a credit card. If parents send cash, their students will receive a receipt. Please check your student’s lunch account when you have sent in money to be sure that they have turned payment in to the office. As with so many things, lunch payments can be forgotten in lockers and back packs. When paying with cash, please send your student with the exact amount you wish applied to their lunch account. The office cannot make change. Please check your student’s lunch balance when you have sent in cash to be sure the amount turned in to the office matches the amount you sent.

## Gurrie Athletics

Parents, if your student has an interest in sports, inter-school athletics is an excellent activity to encourage your child to become involved with at Gurrie. It is a good way for your child to meet other students and quickly make new friends. It will involve him/her in a wholesome activity that will help your student feel part of the "Gurrie Tiger" spirit. It will also provide your child with valuable athletic training if they wish to pursue athletics in high school.

Gurrie is a member of the Lyons Township Elementary School Athletics Conference (LTESAC) which includes Highlands, Park, Pleasantdale, McClure, Westchester, Willow Springs, Washington. Sports included in inter-scholastic competition are cross-country, softball, basketball, volleyball and soccer for both boys and girls. In addition, Gurrie has established a very successful wrestling program.

The boys' softball season begins immediately at the opening of the school year with tryouts for the 7th and the 8th grade during the first full week of school

Girls' basketball season will also begin early with tryouts for both 7th and 8th grade teams held during the second week of school in September. Specific dates are announced at the start of school. The cheerleading season will begin in the late fall with several cheerleading workshops followed by tryouts.

We encourage all interested students to try out. We hope students will practice on their own before tryouts so they will be able to make the best possible showing for their coaches at that time. There are numerous sports camps and programs available and we strongly recommend interested students participate in such summer programs.

Students must have turned in a sports physical **signed by a parent and the doctor BEFORE** their participation in the sport begins.

## Athletic Permit Forms (Sports Physical Exams)

Athletic permit forms will be available from the school office all year. A student who wishes to participate in inter-school sports must have turned in this form before he or she may attend the first practice. This form must be signed by the athlete's doctor in the top portion, and the bottom emergency information portion must be completely filled out and signed by the athlete's parent or guardian.

**All student athletes must have a sports physical dated within the school calendar year in which they are participating. For the 2017-2018 school year the sports physical must be dated between June, 2017 and May, 2018.**

## P.E. Uniforms

Every student is required to have a gym uniform for physical education classes. This year parents will again pre-order uniforms at the time of registration. Samples will be available at registration and then at school for sizing purposes. Generally, a set (shorts and shirt) is \$15.00.

The T-shirt is a light gray 50/50 shirt with a two color chest imprint and a place for the student to write his/her name. The shorts are a royal blue Dri Fit 100% polyester with elastic drawstring waistband with a gold imprint on the left leg, including a place for the student to write his/her name.

Pricing this year will be as follows:

Shirts:

Extra small—2XL	\$6.50
3XL	\$8.50

Shorts:

Extra small—2XL	\$8.50
3XL	\$11.50