



# The HOWL

*Grass Valley Charter  
An EL Education Mentor  
School*



9/20/21

“We are Crew, Not Passengers.”



## Not Just Skin Deep

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders were getting deep into their Science Expedition this past week. Focused on Life Science NGSS standards, students are exploring plant and animal cells, as well as building their understanding of body systems.

Students practiced their dissection skills on chicken wings on Friday!

Students identified the structure and function of skin, ligament and fat – all while becoming familiar with the tools they will use in future labs.

There are future surgeons in this crew!



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## Into the Woods!

While navigating the challenges of the year, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders have already been demonstrating Perseverance in order to head out on their annual trip to Grouse Ridge.

With the air clear and forests back open, Ms. Lindsey's Crew heads out this week to build Crew, get firsthand experiences with Responsibility and continue building Perseverance.

Each of these Habits of Work and Learning and Habits of Character, aka: HOWLs/ HOCs are built while in the field through intentional practices of journaling, solitude and reflection times, and facing authentic challenges. These challenges can take many forms, be it navigating with



a map and compass, sleeping out under the stars, or planning and making their own meals for four days.

Then upon return to campus, we leverage these experiences to build a strong classroom culture that support strong student outcomes through embracing the success & failure that is innate to deep and meaningful learning.

A huge thank you to Ms. Beth, our Adventure Teacher extraordinaire, to Ms. Lindsey one of our wonderful 8<sup>th</sup> grade Teachers, and to all the parent chaperones for their flexibility and support in making this trip happen.

Happy hiking crew!

## Sports

Mountain Bike Club is planning to start the week of September 27<sup>th</sup> with weekly rides on Tuesdays. First “ride” will be Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> and will primarily focus on bike checks, skills clinics, meeting coaches and making sure paperwork is in order.

Coaches are finalizing details and will be sharing more information with students this week. The Mountain Bike Club is open to 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders without a parent, and to 4<sup>th</sup> graders with a parent present at all rides.

For more information please contact Coach Tanya at [redwood\\_coast@sbcglobal.net](mailto:redwood_coast@sbcglobal.net) or Mr. E at [aezzell@gvsd.us](mailto:aezzell@gvsd.us)

X-C Is still looking for a little additional support in the form of an **assistant coach**, (practices Tuesday – Thursday from 3:00 – 4:00pm), please contact Coach Amanda at [aprentice@gvsd.us](mailto:aprentice@gvsd.us) if you are interested.

### Sports for the Year!

Cross Country (4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade): 8/23 – 10/1

Girls Basketball (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade): 10/11 – 12/16

Boys Basketball (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade): 1/3 – 2/25

Girls Volleyball (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade): 2/28 – 4/29

Track (4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>): 3/28 – 5/27

- In alignment with NCAL requirements, athletes competing indoors from 8/23 – 10/15 will need to wear masks at all times.
- Covid precautions will be updated and announced for each sport based on current guidance.
- Coaches will need to provide proof of vaccination, or weekly negative covid tests in alignment with recent laws regarding school employees.

## Be In The Know

9/30 – Picture Day!

10/18 – 10/22 – Fall Break

# 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