

Grass Lake School
Grass Lake School District #36
www.gls36.org



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Dear Eighth Grade Parents and Guardians,

October 27, 2023

On September 29, GLS Administration, Teachers, and Students gathered to discuss end-of-year activities. One of the main topics of discussion was whether the 8th-grade dance should be held or if the students would prefer an overnight trip. The students had the opportunity to voice their opinions and cast their votes. Surprisingly, every single eighth-grade student voted in favor of an overnight trip.

The administration and teachers were pleased to see such unanimous support for the overnight trip at the meeting. As a result, plans were immediately set in motion for the event to determine how we could support their decision. I am pleased to share that as a result, we have secured an overnight trip on Monday, May 20, and Tuesday, May 21 at Camp Duncan in Ingleside, Illinois. Students will be accommodated in cozy cabins and provided with meals throughout their stay at Camp Duncan. Camp Duncan stood out as the preferred choice due to its reputation for providing a wide range of activities and amenities suitable for 8th-grade students. They offer various outdoor adventure activities, such as hiking, canoeing, and zip-lining, which not only promote teamwork and bonding among the students but also provide them with a memorable and enriching experience.

This exciting opportunity will not only allow the 8th graders to celebrate the end of the school year but also create lasting memories in a fun-filled and comfortable environment. The decision to shift from a dinner dance to an overnight trip reflects our commitment to providing enriching experiences for our 8th-grade students. By opting for an overnight trip, we are giving them the opportunity to explore new places, bond with their classmates, and create lasting memories. Unlike a dinner dance, which is confined to a few hours of festivities, an overnight trip offers a more immersive and all-encompassing experience over the course of two days. It allows students to step out of their comfort zones, engage in team-building activities, and develop important life skills. Additionally, an overnight trip encourages independence and self-sufficiency as students navigate their way through unfamiliar settings. Moreover, this change is not permanent. By trying out the overnight trip this year, we can gather valuable feedback from both students and parents and assess its impact on overall student experience and learning outcomes. This feedback will guide us in making informed decisions about future events for our 8th-grade students. We recognize the importance of continuously improving our offerings and ensuring that they align with the evolving needs and preferences of our students. This shift from a dinner dance to an overnight trip has the potential to be a transformative experience for our 8th-grade students, fueling their personal growth and creating lasting memories.

At this time, we are still working through logistics and fundraising opportunities to help offset the cost of the trip. More information will be forthcoming in the next few months and we look forward to sharing this wonderful opportunity with our 8th-grade students! If you have any questions, please visit the Camp Duncan website by following this [link](#) or email me directly.

We also wanted to take this opportunity to hear from our families and their preference for our graduation ceremony. Our students have shared their thoughts in terms of moving graduation from Friday, May 31, 2024 to Thursday, May 30, 2024. As we know there is a great deal of planning and perhaps travel involved, we wanted to see what works best for our Eighth Grade parents. Please take a moment to provide your feedback in this short survey found [here](#). We will keep the window open through Friday, November 3 in order to garnish as much feedback as possible and we appreciate you providing your input. If a change is made to move Graduation from the original date of Friday, May 31, 2024 to Thursday, May 30, 2024, we will notify you as soon as a decision is made.

Thank you again for your help and we hope everyone has a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Ryan Wollberg, Principal

To Nurture and Empower Students to Explore, Achieve, and Excel!