

# April Newsletter

April 14, 2023

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**We Love Our Schools Week took place March 20-24. Grimmer Staff have Rocked all year!**



**Mrs. Thompson's students left notes of encouragement for staff and students.**

- **Students pictured are Gabbi Short, Lauren Bruhn, Emily Dzado**

### **Fun Friday Themes!**

- April 21 - Group or Duo Day - Dress as your favorite group or duo
- April 28 - Blue and White Day
- May 4 (Thursday) Star Wars...May the fourth be with you!
- May 5 - Blue and White Day
- May 12 - Dress like a parent
- May 19 - Blue and White day with Sunglasses...Ready for summer vacation!

### **Other Important Dates**

- **April 24 - ILEARN Testing Starts**
- May 3 - Incoming 5th Grade Orientation at Grimmer 5:30 - 7:00 PM
- May 24 - 8th Grade Awards Ceremony at Grimmer's Gym 10:30 AM
- May 24 - 8th Grade Dance at Grimmer 7-9 PM

## Annual Grimmer Play

**Dorothy Meets Alice** - This year's play production features two of literature's most unforgettable young female characters who get mixed up together in a magical meeting that produces hilarious results! This fun-filled adventure follows Alice and Dorothy and their coteries as they try to unscramble their stories with the help of a contemporary middle school student, who started the whole thing to begin with, when he put off his book report until the last minute. Tickets are \$5 each, purchased at the door, and showtimes are as follows:

- Saturday, April 22, 1-2 pm (Cast A)
- Saturday, April 22, 3-4 pm (Cast B)
- Saturday, April 22, 5-6 pm (Cast A)
- Saturday, April 22, 7-8 pm (Cast B)



### Grimmer ILEARN Testing Schedule

Date	Test	Class	Schedule	Notes
Monday: 4/24	Math CAT (60 min)	Advisory	Test in Morning	All Grades
Tuesday: 4/25	Math CAT Finish	Advisory	Test in Morning	All Grades
Thursday: 4/27	Math PT	Advisory	Normal	All Grades

Date	Test	Class	Schedule	Notes
Monday: 5/1	ELA CAT (60 min)	Advisory	Test in Morning	All Grades
Tuesday: 5/2	ELA CAT Finish	Advisory	Test in Morning	All Grades
Thursday: 5/4	ELA PT	Advisory	Test in Morning	All Grades
Friday: 5/5	ELA PT	Advisory	Test in Morning	All Grades

Date	Test	Schedule	Notes
Monday: 5/8	Science / SS / Make Ups	Normal 7/8	
Wednesday: 5/10	Science PT (10-20 min)	Normal	6th only in Science Classes



## Our Next Early Release Day is May 9th

Early Release Day Schedule (no advisory)		
5th Grade	8:47AM - 9:50AM	Block A
	9:55AM - 10:56AM	Block B
	11:01AM - 11:29AM	Period 6
	11:34AM - 12:02PM	Lunch
	12:07PM - 12:35PM	Period 7
	12:40PM - 1:10PM	Period 8
6/7/8th Grade	8:47AM - 9:17AM	Period 2
	9:22AM - 9:50AM	Period 3
	9:55AM - 10:23AM	Lunch 6A
	10:28AM - 10:56AM	Period 4
	11:01AM - 11:29AM	Period 5
	9:55AM - 10:23AM	Period 4
	10:28AM - 10:56AM	Lunch 7B
	11:01AM - 11:29AM	Period 5
	9:55AM - 10:23AM	Period 4
	10:28AM - 10:56AM	Period 5
	11:01AM - 11:29AM	Lunch 8C
	11:34AM - 12:02PM	Period 6
	12:07PM - 12:35PM	Period 7
	12:40PM - 1:10PM	Period 8
Early Release Dates:		
September 13th	February 14th	No Early Release Days
October 11th	March 14th	in August or January
November 8th	April 11th	
December 13th	May 9th	

## Principal's Message: Standardized Testing

I am no longer a young man, but I am young enough to be considered a Millennial. I was born in 1982. Growing up, standardized testing became normal. I had to take ISTEP in high school. I also took the PSAT, SAT, and ACT all before heading off to college. In order to be a teacher, I had to take standardized assessments called the Praxis 1 and the Praxis 2 . The GRE was taken before Graduate School and then finally a Principal's Licensure Exam. That's one example of a career pathway influenced by standardized tests, but any career will involve skills based assessments. Our goal at Grimmer Middle School is to prepare our students to be successful in a world of testing.

We begin ILEARN testing on April 24. We have been conducting required practice tests to get students familiar with the testing platform. Our message to students is to simply give their best effort. We cannot control the test, but we can control our attitude towards the test. We have spread the testing out based on IDOE guidance and successful past experiences. It will take longer to complete the tests, but students shouldn't feel so maxed out each day.

We could really use your support with ILEARN. Please talk with and encourage your child to give their best effort. Remind them to charge their Chromebooks the night before. A good night's sleep usually leads to a good day at school. Breakfast is always important. We have breakfast in the cafeteria if kids need it. We also have granola bars, life-savers, and jolly ranchers if students need a snack during a long morning of testing. At Grimmer, we really try to focus on things we can control in order to be successful. You may hear your child talk about a 2 hour delay schedule on the mornings of testing. We are not on a 2 hour delay. We are testing in the morning so the rest of the classes run that schedule the remainder of the day.

We are planning an end of the year celebration for all students to celebrate how hard everyone worked on ILEARN along with the school year in general. We are tentatively planning a day at Stevens Park with a cookout and some fun events including a DJ. As we nail down specifics, I'll follow up with more details. We know our students are working hard, and we want to celebrate that. Hang in there! We are almost to the finish line of the 2022-23 school year. My door is open if you need anything.

Sincerely,

W. Ryan Bounds

[Check out Grimmer's Website](#)