

Smoke Signals

George Rogers Clark High School Student Media

February 2023



DESIGNED BY JOBY MITMESSER

Principal Keene is ready to finish the school year strong

The new semester is well underway, and Principal Keene is determined to finish the year with a bang. In this Q&A, Mr. Keene reflects on the year so far, and discusses his goal to make GRC the best it can be.

Q: What are you most looking forward in 2023?

A: Personally, just spending time with my family, especially my granddaughters. Watching them grow up. Having fun with them. Professionally, just excited to be getting back to a new normal. Excited to see all of the possibilities and opportunities that our students take advantage of.

Q: What are your goals for the rest of the year?

A: Just continuing to be better at everything we do. Continuing to put forth our best effort, and striving to be the best version of ourselves possible.

Q: How have your plans for this school year played out so far?

A: Pretty good. I think there was a general excitement at the beginning of the year by everyone. It's difficult to keep that level of excitement. There are some little things that we need to tighten up, but overall we have a great school.

Q: What do you want to see more of and less of as we finish out the year?

A: I would like to see more students in attendance every day. I'd like to see more of a commitment in making an

effort to make somebody else's day better every day. I want to see more relationship building across our school. I want to see even more school spirit. I want to see our expectations increase for ourselves as staff and also for students. I'd like to see less tardies and skipping, and all behavior incidents for that matter.

Q: Are there any rules you want to enforce more for the new year?

A: To me, it's what some consider the "little things" that we have to be better at. We have to do a better job of getting students to school on time, getting them in class on time, and keeping them in class the whole time.

Q: How can the students/staff improve in 2023?

A: I am a firm believer in having individual reflection. Each day, we should be reflecting to see how we can be better. Personally, how can I be a better principal, leader, servant, mentor, husband, father, grandfather, and friend? Each person should have that personal reflection every day. If we have true reflection and put forth an effort to be better today than yesterday, that's how we can improve.



PRINCIPAL KEENE IS 'ALL IN' AS HE FINISHES YEAR TWO LEADING GRC.

PHOTO BY DANIEL GRAVES

Q: How have your efforts to make a more positive school environment played out?

A: That's difficult to gauge. I hope that when people see me, they see someone that is positive, energetic, and really wants to be here. I really love what I do and I hope it shows. I hope that type of example is contagious. For us to be our best, we have to want to be here and it starts with making everyone feel appreciated, respected, and valued.

Q: What have you seen this year that is different from any other year?

A: When tragedy hits, like the flooding of Eastern Kentucky, we see the good in people. We see people helping, giving, sharing, and praying. We see people stepping up to make a

difference. We see people making an effort to make somebody else's day better.

Q: How has GRC prioritized all activities like you'd hoped in the beginning of the year?

A: I'm the type of person who believes even in our best efforts, we can be better. I do think we have placed priorities on all events and also advertised, attended, and recognized those. But we can always do just a little better. Every activity that every student participates in is important. We can show that by recognizing their efforts.

Q: What is your average day like as a principal?

A: A lot of times the day is long and busy. I'm usually at school by about 6:15 and those

couple of hour really give me an opportunity to get some things done. I create a to-do list every day and most days some other items take priority over what I had planned, but that's ok. Even when I go home, I'm always available for my staff and students. What I love to do doesn't stop at 3:35. There are times I just have to be at meetings, trainings, etc. but I have started this semester just blocking times on my calendar to be in hallways and classrooms more.

***Thank you,
Principal Keene!***

**COMPILED BY
ALLIE RANDALL**

CHECK OUT OUR SOCIALS!

Note: Some sites/apps are blocked on the school network.



Facebook:
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Student Media



Twitter:
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Vimeo:
<https://vimeo.com>



Instagram:
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Online:
grcsmokesignals.net



SmugMug:
grchs.smugmug.com



Student News Source:

The Student News Source app is a direct plug to our Student News Online (SNO) website. On our website, you can find stories, reviews, hype videos, and more! To stay connected with all things Smoke Signals, download the app in the app store or by using the QR code below, and search George Rogers Clark High School within the app.



'Dance Red' looks to continue growth in second year

ADDISON BABER
MULTIMEDIA STAFF

Lights, music, and most important, LOTS of dancing.

These are just a few of the activities you will experience at one of GRC's best March events, the one and only Dance Red.

On April 14 from 5 to 9 p.m., Dance Red will be held in the Aux Gym.

Dance Red is a mini marathon to support UK's Dance Blue. The money raised will help fund pediatric cancer research at UK.

English teacher Ms. Hynes is in charge of this event. During the time she was

working in Bourbon County she got to experience their Dance Maroon, and she just knew she had to bring an event like this to GRC for students to experience.

"The students had so much fun at Dance Maroon that I was eager to bring the experience to GRC as well," she says.

Tickets for Dance Red go on sale a month in advance. The tickets will be \$20 each and this includes a T-shirt. All money raised through ticket sales will be donated to Dance Blue's causes.

Dance Red is a very exciting event for students to attend, since it is not your

typical dance marathon.

Ms. Hynes and her committee keep the event as fun and upbeat as possible. In years past they have designed it to where every hour has a theme.

For example, last year included a recess, rave, and game hour. The addition of themes for each hour makes the event extremely fun with something new every hour.

"We keep it moving so students keep it moving!" says Ms. Hynes.

Participating in the actual dance marathon is not the only way students can be involved in Dance Red. Students can also participate



THE MAJORETTE TEAM PERFORMS AT LAST YEAR'S DANCE RED. PHOTO SUBMITTED

in fundraisers prior to the event such as the powderbuff or a corn hole tournament that will be held during lunch.

Ms. Hynes is also open to adding new events to the fundraisers. If any students have ideas please reach out

to her.

Dance Red is something you cannot miss. Students, bring your dancing shoes and be prepared to have the time of your life as you dance the night away and help a great cause.

Class of 2023 gearing up for Project Graduation

MACY DANIEL
MULTIMEDIA STAFF

Every year GRC hosts an event in the late hours after graduation called Project Graduation.

This nationwide program was formed to offer an alternative to students the night of graduation. Instead of attending events involving alcohol or drugs, students can spend that time participating in activities and giveaways.

For the class of 2023, you can't miss this event.

The all-night celebration is supervised by parents and teachers with a safe environment to have fun. The celebration begins at 11:30 p.m. and continues until morning.

For the entirety of the evening, students will be provided with games, food, and activities brought by the generosity and goodness of the community.

In addition, there will be sponsored contests and prizes for the seniors attending. GRC is asking for

donations from any organizations to be used for prizes. The prizes range from large items such as TVs, computers and microwaves, to gift certificates, cash donations, or a specialized gift sets.



DONATIONS FROM 2022'S PROJECT GRAD PHOTO BY SMOKE SIGNALS

Businesses and individuals can make cash donations!

Cardinal Sponsor (up to \$100)

Bronze Sponsor (\$100-\$499)

Silver Sponsor (\$500-\$999)

Gold Sponsor (\$1,000+).

Checks should be made payable to Winchester Drug Coalition.

Donations should be mailed to:

**GRC Project Graduation
Christi Jones**

**2745 Boonesboro Road
Winchester, KY 40391**

GRC advances several to state in ATC Skills competition

LIAM PARIDO
MULTIMEDIA STAFF

A battle of the skills, a true competition.

On Feb. 18, our very own ATC hosted several different programs in a class-wide challenge against other schools. Fayette County hosted part of the competition as well.

Four different wings of the ATC took on a myriad of other schools in various trials specific to their classes.

“We’ve always done very well here; everyone would be surprised what these kids are capable of,” says ATC Principal Coy Hall. “I was very pleased with how our students performed.”

Carpentry, Welding, Automotive, and Computer Science students competed against students from Scott, Harrison, and Fayette County.

Carpentry Senior Austin Martin finished first in the carpentry contest along with Brayden Lewis, who placed first in the Intro competition.

Both will head to the state competition held in Louisville in April.

Martin’s individual competition was to build a wall and stair stringer. “I’m just very proud of how I handled it,” he says. “I’m ready to go to Louisville, not

just for the competition but for the entire atmosphere of a state competition.”

The carpentry wing blew the competition out of the water this year.

Carpentry Teacher Austin Addison is proud of the way his students competed this year.

“This is the first year we have won both contests, my students went above and beyond,” he said. “They were invested in it and it showed in the way they competed, I believe it was why they won.”

Welding teacher Mr. Willoughby shares his experience on witnessing the annual Skills Competition. “Having students come together and develop a relationship with other students from other schools, and having some friendly competition is the best part,” he says.

Welding students had big goals for this year. Junior Ian Salas was able to snag a first place finish in the creed competition. He will represent GRC at state.

“I’m very excited to be able to represent GRC at state,” says Salas. “It was a great opportunity to compete and although I wish I placed higher in the welding section, I was happy that I did my best.”

Willoughby adds: “The welding competition is not only a rigorous test of skill but also knowledge, you have to know your stuff if you want to succeed.”

The automotive wing also competed well this weekend.

“We held our own,” says Automotive Teacher Mr. Warner. “I had three of my better students competing for me this year and they were able to place two in the top three.”

“Beat ‘em all.” Senior Grant McCoy had one clear goal for the competition McCoy placed third and Senior Nick Warren took home first this year.

With the first place finish, Warren will also be off to the state competition.

This year computer science had only one competitor, but the future looks promising for the program.

“The best has yet to come for this program, but I’m ready for the next few years,” says Computer Science teacher Mr. Keeton.

This weekend the ATC students put their skills to the test and showed what GRC is all about.

Congratulations to all competitors and good luck to all those competing at state.



JUNIOR CALEB HARRISON COMPETES IN THE WELDING COMPETITION.



CARPENTRY WINNERS: BRAYDEN LEWIS, LYDIA CHENAULT, AUSTIN MARTIN



**AUSTIN MARTIN BUILDS THE WINNING WALL.
PHOTOS BY LIAM PARIDO**

Staff Editorials

Showcase student talent, promote unity

High school is a crucial time in a student's life when they are still figuring out who they are and what they want to do in the future. It is a time for exploration, growth, and self-discovery

GRC needs to have an end-of-year talent show that will provide students with a unique opportunity to showcase their talents, build confidence, and develop public speaking skills.

A talent show would provide all of GRC's outstanding students the ability to perform and show a part of themselves they may not have shown before.

This can be a great way for students to express themselves and show their peers and teachers what they are capable of.

Additionally, talent shows can build confidence.

By performing in front of a live audience, students have to take a step outside of their comfort zones.

A talent show would be a new opportunity for GRC students to develop a stronger sense of self confidence and self esteem.

Not only is it beneficial for individual students, but also for the sense of community at GRC as

a whole. Every student, performing or not, comes together to share their skills and applaud their peers.

By sponsoring a talent show to give students a platform to express themselves, GRC would support growth and individuality, better prepare students for the future, and end the year with a better sense of unity and camaraderie.

Set graduation date sooner in the school year

"When is your graduation day?" asks all of your relatives. However, you won't have your answer until too late to get the best deals on flights, schedule party venues, or make advanced plans.

By not setting the graduation date until well into the second semester, the Board of Education makes it difficult for

seniors' families.

Many relatives will travel to see their family graduate, but without a set date this makes it incredibly more difficult. People need time in advance make plans for travel, and this is impossible under the Board's current procedure.

It isn't only inconvenient for families, but the seniors themselves. Not knowing

your own graduation date is stressful. You have no idea when the biggest day of your high school career is.

With graduation parties being common, scheduling in advance is a necessity.

It is a gamble on when your party is in relation to the graduation date.

Many surrounding schools have a set date for

graduation which is more convenient for everyone involved. The Clark County Board of Education should do the same.

Planning will be less rushed, families will be able to travel more inexpensively, and students will know exactly when they will throw that cap in the air.

Bring back Senior Decision Day

After countless hours spent studying, taking standardized tests, and participating in extracurriculars to prepare for their future, seniors need a day to recognize their future plans.

An official Decision Day is the perfect opportunity to showcase the hard work of seniors and surprise their peers with their choice.

In the past, GRC held a Decision Day with a senior assembly where each person was recognized for their future plans whether it be college or career.

Such recognition creates a sense of community as well as providing one of the last celebrations the class has together.

Seniors are able to reflect

on their high school accomplishments and look forward to their future.

For some students, a Senior Decision Day may be the first time they share their future plans with their peers. This event would be a memorable moment to acknowledge individual successes and set new goals for the future.

Moreover, a Senior Decision Day showcases GRC's commitment to student success. The school highlights how much it values academic and personal achievement of the students while also creating a special memory for all seniors.

GRC, please bring this back for the Class of 2023.

Smoke Signals

est. 1958

**To educate, entertain,
and engage.**

Smoke Signals began publication in 1958 at Winchester High School. its name originates from the school mascot, the Shawnees.

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Decorate the GRC Arena with the legacies of our basketball stars

As you walk into the gymnasium of an opposing school one of the first things you notice is the banners and pictures lining the walls.

Past athletes and their accomplishments, wins and championships. Banners listing the best players to ever play at those schools. The best of the best being honored timelessly.

It is a matter of honor, heritage, and tradition. Countless other schools across the state award the best of their respective programs with recognition in their gym. However, GRC is yet to honor some of our current and former athletes.

The 1000-point mark is a remarkable milestone for a handful of high school

players. It is an extremely impressive club to become a member of.

Hundreds of athletes have gone through the GRC basketball programs but very few have been able to accomplish this feat.

GRC recently inducted 19 Clark Countians, including several former athletes into our “Hall of Fame”. If these Winchester are being

recognized, it’s time to honor everyone.

However, a problem exists in that, for some years, boys basketball stats went

unrecorded, so there may be some members missing

from these banners due to the fact that we don’t have

statistical evidence to place them with the rest.

This does not change the number of former players who have made the list and have the stats to back it up. We should go ahead and make the banners for the players we know and correctly recognize our great athletes.

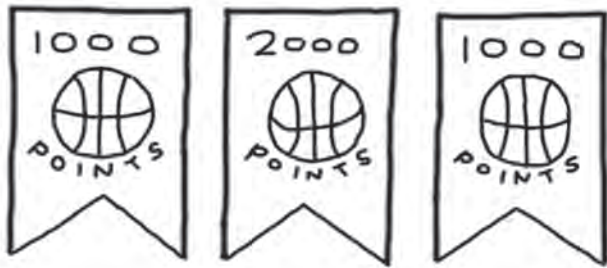
GRC currently has dozens of athletes and former athletes in the 1000+ point club. It is among the highest accolades one can obtain in high school basketball.

It is undeniable that all of



LIAM PARIDO
MULTIMEDIA STAFF

these athletes deserve to have their hard work and dedication commemorated and officially acknowledge at the school. With our new facility now is the time to fill the rafters with GRC’s history.



ILLUSTRATED BY EMMIE ROSE

The cold food pandemic has hit the GRC Cafe

The contents of the lunch box remain the same every day... chips, a banana, and the same soggy PB&J sandwich.

Wouldn’t lunch be so much more rewarding if we only had a microwave?

GRC Student Council is once again on the case to find a solution to the cold food pandemic.

Under the leadership of Council treasurer Ruthie Houston, the Voice Committee is working diligently to bring the heat.

The Cardinal Cafe serves many delicious, hot meals, yet not everyone goes

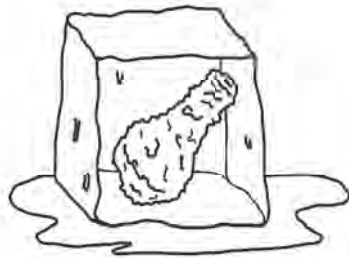


ILLUSTRATION: ELI ROACH

through the lunch line every day.

Many students who bring their lunch, due to either dietary restrictions or simply due to the fact that they are picky eaters, suffer from a cold lunch.

“The addition of microwaves will relieve the stress of students worried about eating a cold lunch

and allow them to have hot lunches from home,” says Student Council member Winston Jones.

Picking a location for the coveted microwave has proven to be quite the task.

The ideal spot is both a place that is easily accessible while also not being overcrowded throughout the lunch period. A staff member already on lunch duty could easily supervise student use of the microwave.

Student demand has been the main driving point for installing these microwaves. Moving up the academic totem pole, students have experienced the luxury of

microwaves along their journey through different schools.

“Student Council heard from various students requesting microwaves in the cafeteria because we had microwaves at Baker and RDC,” says Houston. “Instead of going to classrooms to heat up food, it would be much more convenient for students and teachers if we had one in the cafeteria.”

While the option for hot meals is always offered in the cafeteria, there is still a large student population that chooses to not take advantage of these lunches. Microwaves



ZACH ROSS
MULTIMEDIA STAFF

are the solution.

So, say goodbye to those pesky, boring lunches. The cure for the cold food pandemic is here, and it comes in the form of a simple microwave.

Give credit where credit is due: KDE needs to rework PE requirements

Juggling pathway classes, college credit classes, volunteer work, and extracurriculars all on top of sports is difficult, stressful work.

Many athletes have a crammed schedule, trying to fit all activities into one day.

It's important to take classes for your future career, but required credits can cause issues, becoming more time consuming rather than beneficial.

The state requires athletes in KHSAA-sanctioned sports to take a Physical Education class instead of allowing them to use this period for another opportunity.

In reality, the physical activity they engage in as part of their sport is already on par or more advanced than the required class.

The Kentucky Department of Education needs to follow other states in accepting an athletes' participation in rigorous, sanctioned sports as a PE credit.

The Tucson Unified School District in Arizona

approved athletes to receive credit for their sports, eliminating the PE requirement for athletes. Other states have done the same, including Idaho and Indiana.

Kentucky's Department of Education should seek inspiration from these states.

Many athletes are scholars, taking academic classes and leaving little room for electives.

Allowing certain sports to count as a PE credit would be monumental, and would welcome opportunities for even more college credits or electives for athletes with

this period clearing up in their favor.

A stipulation should be included that says an athlete must participate the entire season, from the first practice to the last event, in order to earn the credit. Passing a physical fitness test also could be required.

Sports take up a majority of an athlete's time, as they dedicate countless hours before and after school every day to their sport.

With practices and games, they spend much more time in their sport than a PE class, so it's safe to say they have necessary exercise

regimens.

Several athletes echo this. Junior Clay Turley, who plays varsity football, soccer, tennis, and golf expresses his opinion, saying, "I believe sports should count as a PE credit for student athletes because sports, which usually have practices multiple days a week if not all, are way more physically demanding than a one-hour PE class. You have to devote countless hours of your life to your sport, so why should we have to put more hours into a PE class?"

According to KRS rule 156.160, JROTC counts as a PE credit. JROTC is physically demanding, and deserves the right it has to count as a PE class.

The same is true for Marching Band and Winterguard. Students involved in these groups should also be exempt from the PE credit requirement.

If the coach of a sanctioned sport is certified to teach PE, the coach is able to submit their sport to count as a PE credit for



DANIEL GRAVES
MANAGING EDITOR

athletes involved, but it's an involved process.

This shouldn't have to happen, and sports should count as a credit regardless if the coach is certified to teach physical education.

While taking a PE course may seem simple, allowing athletes to count their sport as their credit would open many doors for them to explore school's academic opportunities, and take advantage of the variety of classes offered.

This should be brought to the state's attention, as many students and teachers agree that allowing sports, and even marching band and guard, as physical education credits would be extremely advantageous to athlete's education and overall strengthen their high school experience.



Editorial Policy

Smoke Signals is the official student-produced newspaper of George Rogers Clark High School. Letters to the editor are accepted and must be signed and verified to be considered for publication. *Smoke Signals'* content is determined by students and reflects only the views of the student staff and not school officials or the school itself.

No major isn't that major

“What do you want to major in? Which college? Have you applied yet?” The freedom of being able to choose your path in life is liberating at first but evolves into an overwhelming predicament.

A vast amount of high school seniors don't know what they want to do with their lives. Consequently, some parents and adults put stress on these students, telling them they should know before they go into college.

With this stress, students end up choosing a completely random career or end up flunking out. An estimated

20-50% of students enter college undecided.

Some students don't even want to go to college, which is completely fine. What's not fine is when parents and peers pressure them to think about going to college and getting that education they didn't want or need.

Furthermore, these parents and peers should be supportive and understanding of these students being in the unknown. The stress that they endure about making a decision is already hard enough, so adding this pressure to their plate won't help them make their decision any faster.

The predicament students are in should be normalized. Honestly, how is a 17/18 year old supposed to know what they want to do for the rest of their lives? Yes, lots of students know exactly where they want to be and where they want to go. But, for the ones who don't, they shouldn't be blasted with stress and anxiety.

Actually, some college graduates, even though equipped with their degree, have no clue what job they hope to pursue. They end up getting a random job until they find one that fits their degree. Additionally, about 75 percent of people change their

college majors at least once.

Of course, these students have alternatives. Students don't have to go to college right off the bat, or even at all. For example, students can take a gap year. Honestly, every student should explore the world around them before they choose a career. This would help them discover their strengths and hobbies, therefore aiding in their job decision.

There are so many good jobs that don't require any degree or previous education such as a receptionist, administrative assistant, sales representative, mechanic, etc.

Altogether, high school



MACY DANIELS
FEATURES EDITOR

students not knowing what career or major they want to pursue should be the standard.

Being in the unknown is stressful and scary, and more people should be understanding of that.

A decision that defines the rest of your life is not easy to make.

Students should have option to become fluent in ASL

While not mandatory for graduation, GRC offers both Spanish and French to students beginning their freshman year.

When participating in these classes, students are introduced to different cultures, foods, and experiences.



ILLUSTRATION: JOBY MITMESSER

If students take a foreign language all four years of high school, they may be speaking the language by the time they graduate.

One language, however, that is missing from the curriculum is sign language.

Approximately 1 in 20 people in the U.S. are deaf, and approximately 500,000 people use sign language as their native language.

American Sign Language (ASL) is the most widely used form of sign language and is the third most popular language in the United States, behind

English and Spanish.

During my 8th grade year at RDC, sign language was offered as a nine-week elective. It was my favorite elective class in middle school. Even though it was brief, I learned how to sign the alphabet, numbers, colors, my name, animals, foods, and even some phrases.

Unfortunately, the class ended too soon, so you can imagine my disappointment when I learned GRC did not offer sign language. I wanted the opportunity to become fluent in ASL.

I know I am not alone in my wish for ASL to be offered in some form at GRC, whether as a class or a club.

ASL would open the student body to new experiences and opportunities, introducing them to deaf culture and what it's like to live without hearing. It would also allow students to communicate with the deaf community and those who are hard of hearing.

And who knows? ASL could be a jumping off point for students searching for



OWEN RAINEY
MULTIMEDIA STAFF

their future career. Eastern Kentucky University offers a major in ASL & English Interpretation. Somebody's future might just be one class away.

10 Ways to avoid Senioritis

Graduation is quickly approaching and that means senioritis is quickly starting to set in! Claire Ginter has created a list of the Top 10 ways to avoid senioritis.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CLAIRE GINTER



1

Find a buddy to walk with in the halls!

Walking alone to class is boring! Meet up with a friend in the hall to have a moment of fun before you head to your next class. **Claire's Choice:** I avoid walking alone in the halls as much as I can. I find anyone I can to walk with to class!



2

Try to change something in your daily routine.

Having the same routine everyday can feel repetitive. Changing something small can provide enough change to keep things interesting. **Claire's Choice:** I like to switch up the ways that I drive to school to keep the days from blending together. Some days I take country roads; some days I do not.

3

Go to all home games!

Getting into sports gives you something to root for at school. Cheering for the home team is a great way to stay interested in school activities. **Claire's Choice:** As a cheerleader, I am at all of the home games. They are lots of fun when you get invested and cheer for the win!

4

Find something to look forward to every day!

Having a small goal is such an easy way to get you through the school day. Something small can always make a difference. **Claire's Choice:** Every day I look forward to things. The first is the sunrise on the way to school; the second is talking to all my friends!



5

Treat yourself some mornings!

Starting your day with a coffee or a donut is a sure-fire way to begin your day right. No one can have a bad day with a donut in their hand. **Claire's Choice:** Every so often I stop to get breakfast before school. It always puts me in a better mood before the day has even started!



6

Take mental pictures!

Senior year is something we are supposed to cherish. Throughout our remaining time together, take mental snapshots of the highlights of the year. **Claire's Choice:** Along with taking mental pictures, I take lots of actual pictures of my favorite moments. Looking back on memories is a great way to remember your final year of high school.



7

Make new friends!

Talking to new people is a simple way to stay interested in the school day. Meeting new people is easy, especially with the amount of people in our school. **Claire's Choice:** Talking to someone new in class is a simple way to switch up the people you talk to, or even talking to someone you haven't in a while. I love catching up with people in the halls.



8

Have a hallway crush!

A hallway crush is crucial to keeping you on your toes. Finding someone cute to look for in the hallway is definitely an incentive to come to school. **Claire's Choice:** Sorry, but I don't think I will be sharing my hallway crush in the school newspaper!



9

Use study hall/flight time to research colleges!

By using class time to research colleges/majors, you have access to teachers and counselors during the school day. They are here to help you succeed, and having as much information about college as you can is setting you up for success. **Claire's Choice:** I like to use flight time to apply for colleges and conduct research about my top choices.



10

Have a good lunch!

Lunch is a great way to stay interested in school. With the addition of Dominoes Thursdays, lunch is better than ever. And if school lunch doesn't satisfy you, bring a good lunch from home! **Claire's Choice:** I always bring my lunch from home, so it is easy to switch it up and make sure I enjoy it!



CARDINAL POLL




COMPILED BY
OWEN RAINEY AND
JOBY MITMESSER

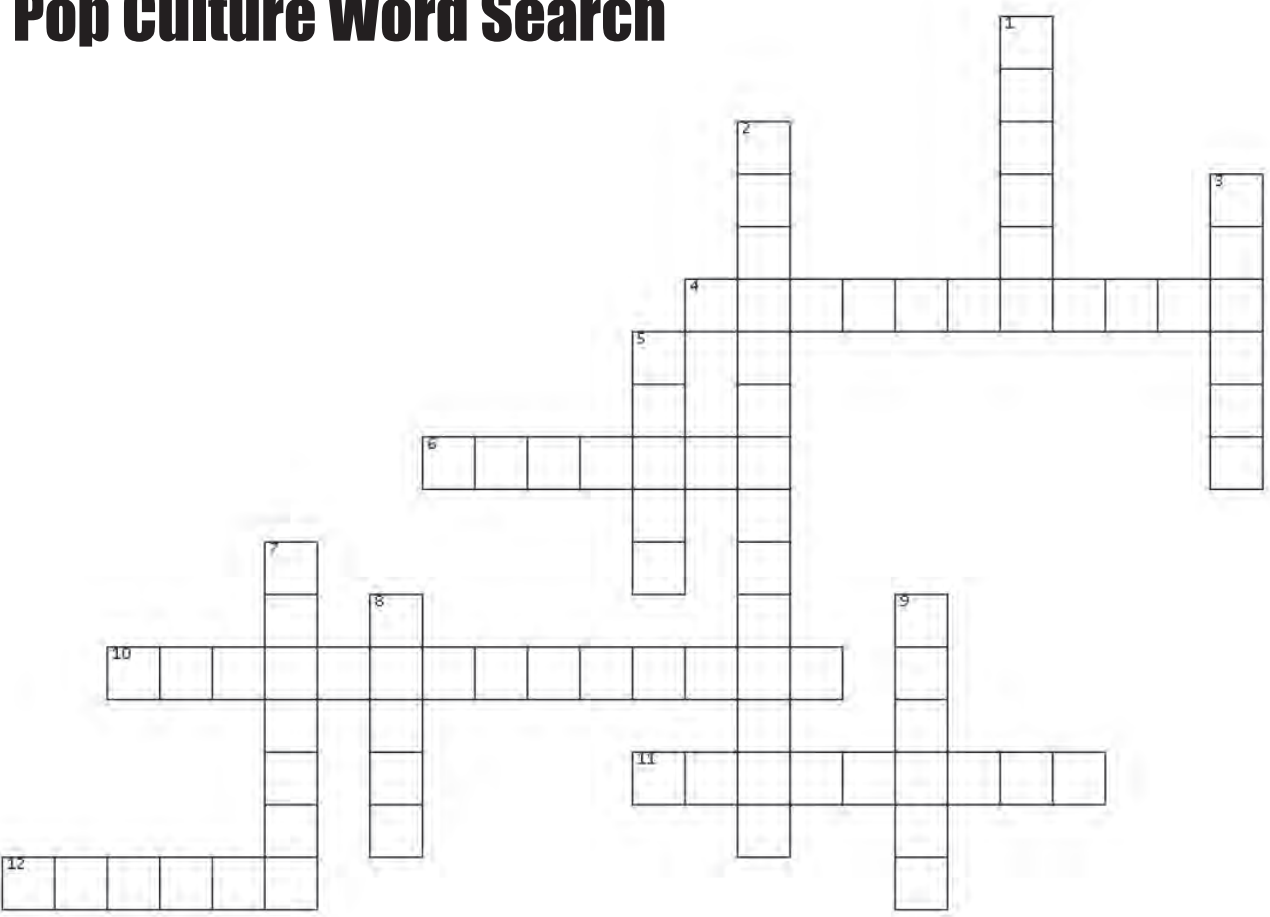
Is water wet?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>“Yes. Look at it.”
-Cady Johnson, 10th</p> <p>“Is life living?”
-Tennyson Prater, 12th</p> <p>“If I hear this question one more time, I’m going to evaporate all water.”
-Isaiah Epperson, 11th</p> | <p>“No, it’s sticky like glue.”
-Levi Ross, 9th</p> <p>“No, because my mommy said so.” -Yuri Lopez, 11th</p> <p>“Hypothetically yes, but no. Wait, it’s wet. Sometimes not.”
-David Wang, 12th</p> |
|--|--|

What came first, the chicken or the egg?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>“Egg, because how can the chicken come without hatching first?”
-Ella Maples, 11th</p> <p>“Chicken durrrrrrrrr. Without a chicken there wouldn’t be an egg to produce.”
-Annah Wilson, 10th</p> <p>“I did.” -Connor McCraith, 12th</p> | <p>“Neither. There should’ve been two chickens.”
-Camden Raney, 9th</p> <p>“Chicken, because they have to birth other eggs.”
-Gracie Cecil, 10th</p> <p>“Chickens lay eggs...to have more chickens”
-Zach Price, 9th</p> |
|---|--|

Pop Culture Word Search



ACROSS

- 4. this singer-songwriter dominated the top 10 chart with “Midnights”
- 6. this artist had a no-phone concert in Dubai, which was recorded and leaked anyways.
- 10. this ride is no longer available at Disney World, and will soon be replaced with “the princess and the frog”
- 11. this country won the world cup, their first win since 1986.
- 12. the Bengals’ go-to saying

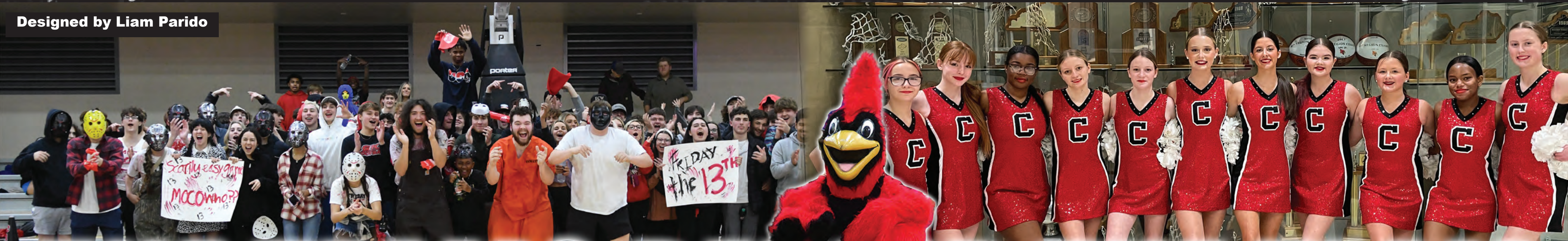
DOWN

- 1. the main character’s last name in the Tim Burton grim Netflix series.
- 2. this Netflix show has weird happenins in Indiana.
- 3. this tiny superhero had a movie released in theaters recently.
- 5. after sparking controversy, this rapper lost his contract with adidas.
- 7. this cup has taken over classrooms, dethroning the hydroflask
- 8. this online clothing platform boomed in recent years
- 9. the long-awaited sequel to its 2009 counterpart, taking place in Pandora.

9. Avatar
8. Shein
7. Stanley
5. Kanye
3. Ant-man
2. Stranger Things
1. Addams

12. Who Dey
11. Argentina
10. Splash Mountain
6. Beyonce
4. Taylor Swift

Designed by Liam Parido



THE TEAMS BEHIND THE TEAM



The real 'We' in 'We not me

PAIGE KLEYKAMP
FEATURES EDITOR

There are five main components to a basketball game: shooting, dribbling, defending, rebounding, and passing. However, there should be a sixth component: The fans.

When the lights go down and the team comes out on the court, nothing compares to the energy in a crowd of GRC fans. The passion, the excitement, and the identity that fans find in GRC sports is what sets our programs apart from others.

GRC super-fan Lindsay Bordas says, "I'm passionate about being a fan because I love our community and all of the teams! I feel it's important to support our local sports."

Bonding with community members at games is another great thing about GRC sports. When we enter that arena, we

are a family.

Life long GRC fan Susan Bishop says, "I've been a fan of Clark County sports my whole life. Growing up with three brothers I didn't have a choice but to love sports so it's in my blood! I love the passion that high school athletes play with. It's inspiring to watch them develop and grow as a team."

It's heartwarming to see different generations of GRC fans gather and cheer for the team they all love.

One of the younger fans, Cameron Anderson, says, "A major positive when it comes to GRC sports is the atmosphere. The camaraderie you feel from your entire town coming out to games and doing whatever it takes to support one team is just a feeling you can't get anywhere else especially having experienced it myself when

I was a student athlete."

There is something so exhilarating about being a part of a fandom. To identify as a GRC fan and support the same team with the rest of your community is truly a remarkable thing.

Anderson adds, "it's always been 'GRC sports till I die' with my whole family. It just makes you feel proud to be able to say you were a part of the GRC sports legacy and to now support it for the rest of your life. GRC sports are just special. The history is what makes it, and kids now are just continuing to grow that legendary history by the minute."

Many different factors set GRC's fan base apart from other high schools, but one of the main elements that makes our fans distinctive is how devoted they are to the team.

GRC fan Rebecca Craig says, "I believe our fan base has more school spirit and more supporters in general including little ones to the more seasoned fans. There are numerous individuals who don't have a current tie to whatever program is in season, yet they show up to every home game and even the away games. That is what you call a committed GRC fan base."

Being a fan for GRC is more than just showing out at the games; it's being a part of the team. Even though we fans aren't playing, we are still a tremendous part of the game.



GRC FANS SHOW OUT TO SUPPORT THE CARDINAL BASKETBALL TEAMS.

"I am passionate about being a fan because I know having dedicated supporters can change lives for students. We all like to be on a 'team' to contribute what we can and the friendships we forge will last a lifetime," says longtime GRC fan Jerry Cecil.

Our fans are passionate and excited about GRC sports. Being a fan for life takes dedication.

"The fan base is always aware of the first class facilities at GRC," Mr. Cecil adds. "This commitment to provide the best for our students has always been there, whether in the classroom or on the playing field. The fan base, whether students, parents, grandparents, or just friends always seem to show up to support our schools at all levels."

Not only are the fans involved, but even our athletes show out and cheer on other GRC teams.

GRC fan Kenny Gay says, "Being a smaller town, we come together to support and celebrate achievements as a community. I remember just last year we had a middle school that had a game in Montgomery County and to look and see some of the varsity students show up – that was epic. The middle school athletes took notice of that."

Our fandom will continue to grow and thrive over the years. Once you're a GRC fan, you never go back.

"To witness the individual player look beyond 'me' and become a true 'we' team player is always cool," Bishop says. "I love my hometown and can't imagine not attending the games. It's community at its best."

PHOTOS BY
MARISSA GILCHRIST



SAM PARRISH GOES UP FOR A THREE WITH THE STANDS PACKED OUT.

Mrs. Brinker lands at GRC

EMMIE ROSE
MULTIMEDIA STAFF

From Texas to Germany, and everywhere in between, Ashley Brinker's art is adorning hallways worldwide.

While we know she is great at what she does, most don't know her story of how she got to GRC. Mrs. Brinker has taught art around the world, and continues to make a difference every day in her students' lives.

Since adolescence, Mrs. Brinker has had a passion for art. She was inspired by her childhood art teacher.

"Art is something I have always enjoyed doing since I was a young child," she says. "I love the process, the creating, and the satisfaction of being able to say, 'I MADE THIS!'"

Mrs. Brinker's love for visual arts has influenced her in her college major, and now career.

"Being a part of the Edinboro University Swim Team, on top of all my Studio Art and education classes, was a lot to juggle," she explains. "So in my junior year I went the education route, but honestly, I love what I do."

After Mrs. Brinker's time at Edinboro University, her husband joined the United States Army.

Since then she has been growing her family throughout the world, and now has four children.

"All of my kids were born in different hospitals and in different states," she says. "Our youngest son, Beau, was actually born in Regensburg, Germany, where we were stationed for three years with the Army."

Since then, Mrs. Brinker has taught in Kansas, Texas and Germany. In all places she left her mark with her

mesmerizing murals that will never be forgotten by the school's students and staff.

"Everywhere I've gone, so far, I've created a mural," she says. "My first year of teaching was kinda hectic, just trying to figure out how to run a classroom. I had an amazing mentor teacher, and when she asked me to take over the art club, I was shocked."

The mural idea grew from there. "The kids decided that they wanted to be a mural club," she recalls. "We designed and painted four large-scale murals. We had an old school, so we really wanted to beautify it." She hopes to continue this mural tradition here at GRC.

Mrs. Brinker realizes the importance of a balanced education, so she tries to



MRS. BRINKER HERE AT GRC
PHOTO BY EMMIE ROSE

make her classroom a safe place for her students.

"The best part about my day is allowing kids to have a place where they can feel comfortable and just have some relief from their everyday life," she says. "Hearing kids say how much they love my class makes me so happy."

Her classroom becomes a place to relax.

"I've made it a mission of mine, to create a safe, exciting environment that allows my students to express themselves, be who they are, and to CREATE!" she says. "I truly hope this allows my students to build confidence, to build relationships, and to have a more positive outlook on things."

Mrs. Brinker's class also provides helpful skills for students in real-life situations. She explains the importance of brain patterns throughout the day.

"My class challenges a kid to problem solve," she explains. "If I give them an assignment, there could be 10 different ways they could complete it, but it makes them navigate their creativity. These kids are able to speak through their art without even noticing it."



MRS. BRINKER'S ELEMENTARY STUDENTS IN GERMANY PAINT THEIR PART ON HER MURAL.



MRS. BRINKER WORKING ALONGSIDE HER STUDENTS AT KILLEEN HIGH SCHOOL IN TEXAS.

Front Desk phenomenons

EMMIE ROSE
MULTIMEDIA STAFF

A hard worker knows how to stay calm under pressure, all while keeping a smile on their face.

Front desk secretaries Rita Watts and Whitney Dunn are true, living examples of this.

Through the smooth and chaotic times, these women go extremely unrecognized when it comes to the work they do for this school's staff, students, and community.

They represent GRC like no other by always being gracious to others. Students and families always feel at home when they walk through the front doors.

"People don't realize that you're the first person they see when they walk in, so you always have to be smiling and cheerful," says Mrs. Watts. "When people walk into the school you want to make sure the first thing they have is a positive impression."

Not only do Mrs. Watts and Mrs. Dunn do their job happily, they also love meeting students throughout the day. These women invest into the students' lives on a daily basis.

"I love meeting the kids and finding out their personalities," says Mrs. Dunn. "GRC has such mature, smart kids, and I know they will be such a great asset to the community as they grow up."

A majority of people don't

see all of the work that goes into being a high school secretary. The amount of patience and flexibility these two women have are like no other.

"A lot of people don't realize that this is a job that requires a lot of multitasking," says Mrs. Watts. "At times you can have 10 people in front of you, while you're also having to answer the phone and take a tardy; it's just a lot going on at the same time. This is a two-person job; it is so difficult with just one person to do all of this. It has to be teamwork."

These ladies exhibit their love for this school every day by all of the hard work they put into it. Their love for the



RITA WATTS AND WHITNEY DUNN
PHOTO BY BRYCE HOUCHEMS

staff and students is displayed through their constant reliability and optimism.

"I feel like we've got a really good atmosphere at this school," said Mrs. Dunn. "Teachers and all of the administrators work really

closely, which is nice. We all have each others' back, which is really nice. GRC is just a great place to be. We have really good kids and staff. Even though some days are really hectic here, I love my job."

New Advisory Board highlights student voice, input

ZACH ROSS
MULTIMEDIA STAFF

Since taking over as superintendent of Clark County Schools, Dustin Howard's leadership can only be described as electric.

One of his latest moves is to commission an all-student advisory board. Bringing together students from all areas of GRC, he has constructed an all-star team that brings to light student opinions.

I have had the pleasure of being selected for this board, along with members of the Student Council, basketball teams, JROTC, and everyday student leaders. The team is

truly a mixing pot that takes advantage of ideas and experiences.

As a board, we first acknowledged the great things that go on in our school. There was an extensive list on the amount of opportunities and valuable experiences the school has to offer.

However, we also shone a light on the things we believe student input could help amend.

While issues students believe are important aren't going to be solved overnight, that is the reason for the creation of this board.

As students, we have seen the issues that we wish would

change, and the superintendent has given us a safe place to address these concerns and come up with solutions.

Additionally, the student advisory board was able to give input on new menu items.

From mouth-watering three cheese macaroni to an all new white chicken chili, the Clark County Food Services served in more ways than one.

While the Food Services staff presented at our first meeting, the student board is set to meet with many more district officials.

Mayor JoEllen Reed, the city commissioners, and members of the Board of Education are on the roster for

our future gatherings.

The passion that Supt. Howard has for the students in Clark County is evident

after the instatement of this new student board. Once again, Mr. Howard brings the thunder.



SUPT. HOWARD RUNS THE FIRST STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.

PHOTO BY JOBY MITMESSER

GRC's Varsity Winterguard spins web of success

DANIEL GRAVES
MANAGING EDITOR

The infamous black widow spider is powerful and fierce. She spins her webs with flashes of black and red, intimidating everyone in her path.

The same is true for GRC's Winterguard, with their "The Web We Weave" show, representing the black widow.

GRC's Varsity Winterguard is in the middle of a demanding season that ends with WGI regionals. With more performances to come, they continue to prepare to rise through the ranks in competition.

Sophomore Co-Captain Lucy Kinney has been thrilled to join her sisters for this riveting season. "It's a very positive atmosphere," she says. "We have togetherness, and our team is so close because we're with each other all the time."

Practice makes perfect, and

GRC's Winterguard knows this. A lot of hours of the girls' lives are sacrificed for their dedication to the craft.

"The varsity practices four hours every Tuesday and Thursday and around two hours on Fridays if we have a competition that weekend," explains junior Lily Ballard. "Some weeks we also have homework to be completed and we are encouraged to listen to the soundtrack and think through our show often. All this work and practice pays off during the competition in seeing how much we improve every week and seeing where we started versus where we are."

All the hard work is well worth it when they see their determination turn into success at their various competitions.

"It's really rewarding because at practice there's a lot of hard times, and emotions get really high, but knowing our hard work pays off at

**PHOTOS COURTESY OF
KEVIN LEMERE
PHOTOGRAPHY
(USED WITH PERMISSION)**

awards," says Captain Isabelle McDonald. "It's really rewarding and the euphoria you get from it is just amazing."

Performing is what they all look forward to during the long hours of practice.

"Performing is really fun and the relationships you build with everybody is too," says McDonald. "I've made some lifelong friends that I'm sure I'll have for years after this."

With this success, the girls are not only proud of themselves, but have coaches cheering them on as well.

"I am most proud of the way the performers have grown and their ability to let this activity help grow their confidence and self esteem," says Rob Arnold, who coaches alongside Emily Cook, Robin Lassley, Robbie Reed, and Jimmy Cantenuti.

"It's difficult to perform and throw things in the air while showing a theme and mood on their face," Arnold continues. "They are growing a lot on that front. Also, they are becoming stronger teams and learning how to work together amazingly. Their skills are increasing and that is always exciting."



VARSITY WINTERGUARD PERFORMS IN KNOXVILLE.

The season has been incredible so far. The Winterguard has three teams competing with a total of 38 members from 5th grade through senior.

At a recent competition in Knoxville, the varsity made finals and placed 6th overall, GRC's highest placement in history at a national Winterguard event.

"My hopes for all three groups," says Arnold, "are for them to develop a love for the activity and continue to grow and develop into wonderful, powerful young women."

As the year continues, the varsity team puts on their black and red and embodies the Black Widow, their competitors being their prey.



THE WINTERGUARD PERFORMS "THE WEB WE WEAVE"



LILY BALLARD PERFORMS "THE WEB WE WEAVE"

Hoops, WinCity soar into 10th Region play this week

BRYCE HOUGHENS
SPORTS EDITOR

The end of February can only mean one thing – basketball post season play is here.

GRC Hoops and WinCity have each collected yet nother district title and are now rolling into regional play.

The boys won handily over Paris Independent for their sixth straight district title, and the girls secured their 10th straight with a win over Montgomery County.

With both teams starting region play this week (see match-ups on the next page), GRC is also the only school in the state that has both the boys and girls basketball teams ranked in the top 10. A stat that the school and county should be proud of.

GRC Hoops finished the regular season with a record of 21-7 and haven't lost since falling to No. 1 Sacred Heart Feb. 7 by a single point. The one-point loss proves the Cards can play with anyone in the state.

Coach Graham feels his team is ready for the post season.

"We always play a tough regular season schedule," he says. "The way we prepare our kids, basically the regular season is a glorified practice session with referees and fans. Basketball season officially starts at tournament time, so we always want to play a tough schedule to prepare for the tournament. We play a variety of different teams with different styles, so when we get to tournament time, nothing is a surprise for us."

The girls will be the favorite once again going into the 10th Region Tournament, finishing first in the region standings.

Graham likes how his team has progressed throughout the year.

"We've gotten better," he says. "There were some things we felt like we needed to work on before the season and we've improved in those areas. Our older kids have been tremendous leaders to help our young kids understand our system and culture. I feel like we've made a lot of progress since day one."

Even though Graham likes the progress, he still thinks his team can improve in certain areas.

"We can always improve defensively," he says. "We have to be in the right

position and the correct rotations. Our shooting is getting better, but we need to continue to strive to be better game-time shooters."

Hoops will be looking for their seventh region title. The next closest team will be the Montgomery County Indians who the Lady Cardinals have been able to handle this year.

If Coach Graham's team keeps their foot on the gas, they should be able to capture another region championship and head back to the state tournament to make yet another deep run.

"We're very excited," Graham says. "We have some veterans who have been through the wars and know what to expect. We have some young kids who are very excited for what's about to happen. You know we're

really looking forward to post-season play. We know it's not gonna be easy; it's gonna be tough. We're going to take it one game at a time, one opponent at a time, to help get through the post season."

The WinCity Cards enters region play with a target on their backs as the defending state champs.

The Cards finished the regular season at 22-5, and coasted through the district tournament games.

Head coach Josh Cook says his team is ready. "We're excited to get into it," he says. "We believe in our team and are just looking forward to doing something special."

SEE PAGE 19



TRENT EDWARDS THROWS DOWN A SLAM AGAINST PARIS.



TRINITY GAY DRILLS A SHOT AGAINST MONTGOMERY COUNTY.



JERONE MORTON SETS UP A PLAY.

•FROM PAGE 18

The Cardinals are a perfect 11-0 in regular season region play, but have yet to face one of the state's top ranked teams in the Mason County Royals.

It's only fitting that the region tournament this year will be played in that beautiful field house all the way in Maysville.

The Royals are 27-5 on the year and one of many teams who can make lots of noise this postseason. It's a rivalry that has lasted for decades and they will be the Cardinals' toughest competition in the tournament.

The Cards were in some unfamiliar territory after a few losses early in the year but Coach Cook likes where his team is now. "We've gotten a lot better at executing when we need to," he says. "We've more importantly figured out who we are as a team. I think our leadership has improved at the right moments and we have a better understanding of what we need to do as a team."

Mason County isn't the only team that could be a threat in the region.

Harrison County comes in with only four losses, but the Cards have already taken care of the Breds once this season.

With teams like Warren Central and Lexington Catholic in the state, the chance to repeat will be a tall task but it's nothing the Cards aren't used to. Cook says as long as the players trust one another, they can certainly make a deep run in the postseason.

"We've had to handle a lot of adversity so there's still moments where we have to trust each other and do some things and keep our emotions in check," he says. "With the type of team we have though and the expectations we have there are a lot of highs and lows with that, so most important I think our guys have figured out they have to trust their leadership and they have to do those things together."

**10th Region Tournament
Mason County High School**

- Tuesday 2/28**
Girls vs Nicholas Co. 6pm
- Thursday 3/2**
Boys vs Augusta 6pm
- Friday 3/3**
Girls Semifinals 7:45pm
- Saturday 3/4**
Girls Championship 7pm
- Monday 3/6**
Boys Semifinals 7:45pm
- Tuesday 3/7**
Boys Championship 7pm

**Good Luck to both
teams at Region!**

SMOKE SIGNALS PHOTOS



**40TH DISTRICT ALL DISTRICT & ALL TOURNAMENT PLAYERS
TRINITY GAY, CIARA BYARS, KENNEDY STAMPER, AND
BRIANNA BYARS**



**40TH DISTRICT ALL DISTRICT & ALL TOURNAMENT PLAYERS
JERONE MORTON, RESHAUN HAMPTON, SAM PARRISH,
TRENT EDWARDS, AND TYLEIK MAXWELL**



BRIANNA BYARS GOES UP FOR 2.

Coach Robbie Graham is GOATed in Hoops history

LIAM PARIDO
MULTIMEDIA STAFF

When you think of the greatest coaches to ever be involved with a program at GRC, Coach Robbie Graham is one of the first names that comes to mind.

Graham has been the head coach of the GRC Hoops program for 11 years. In that

short time he has brought a tremendous amount of success to GRC.

256 wins, 98 losses, 10 straight district championships, six 10th region championships, six Sweet Sixteen appearances, six Elite Eight appearances, two Final Four appearances. An impressive laundry list of accolades. And the list is still growing.

Coach Graham has big goals for this season. “The goal is always to make it to Rupp Arena, but we really want to win that last game,” he says.

Last season the GRC Hoops program finished their season in the Elite Eight. “Each year expectations are high, and this team we have wants to exceed those expectations,” says Graham.

“We want to ‘Win the Last One’ meaning becoming State Champs,” says senior forward and Cincinnati commit Brianna Byars. “Coach Graham’s extensive playoff knowledge goes a long way in our postseason play.”

Coach Graham’s tenure obviously has resulted in a legacy.

“From day one we were building a winning culture, a culture of success,” Graham says. “We want to constantly be playing, practicing, and living like one of the best programs in Kentucky.”

Every year Coach preaches hard work, believing it is a large part of why his teams are successful. “It goes without saying, you either work hard or you won’t play,” says Graham.

Byars adds: “He’s goal driven, has a winning mentality and he’s a very vocal coach.”

Coach Graham puts a roster of hard workers together every year. Former player Sydney Anderson says, “No matter what is going on in life you were always expected to show up and work hard, and Coach Graham made sure we did

every day.”

Graham not only coaches success on the court, but he prepares his players for life off the court as well.

Coach Graham has seen 14 of his players go on to play at the next level. “I’ll never ask for anything in return, but when the time comes to graduate, I want the invite,” Graham says.

Coach Graham teaches these young women to reach their full potential.

“The most valuable takeaway from playing and coaching for Coach G is that he coaches you in more than just basketball; he coaches you to be the best version of yourself,” says former player and coach Paige Taylor. “He is a mentor in all aspects of life and someone you can always depend on.”

GRC Principal and former Athletic director Jamie Keene worked closely alongside Coach Graham for years.

“Coach Graham is just an amazing leader, not only as basketball coach, but a leader in our building, and an advocate for our students.” Keene says. “The extent of Coach Graham’s influence goes far beyond the court.”

As he continues another postseason run, Coach Graham would like to give a special thank you to his family. “Some of my proudest moments coaching have been being blessed with the opportunity to coach my two daughters (Lexxus and Aaliyah), and

winning my first region championship with Lexxus. Also watching Lexxus and Jordan (my son) reach their dreams and goals of playing college basketball on full scholarships.”

Graham continues, “And a big THANK YOU to my amazing wife Deena for holding it down, allowing me to do what I do. She has been a true coach’s wife and the foundation of our family. I also want to give a shout out to all our former and current GRC Hoops players, coaches and support staff who have made coaching such an enjoyable experience. Much Love Always, Coach G!”

Coach Robbie Graham is one of the most successful and influential coaches that GRC has ever had the blessing of having, and the Cardinals look forward to the success that he is sure to bring in the future.

“Everyone knows Coach Graham is a tough coach, but he does it out of love,” says Anderson. “The reason that so many of his players continue with basketball at the next level and have successful pursuits in medicine, law, etc. is exactly because of that toughness. Knowing that someone sees the greatness inside of you and is simply motivating you to pull it out really makes you respect all that they do for you. Coach is a great leader and mentor and I know so many girls have been molded into the people they are today because of him.”



COACH ROBBIE GRAHAM HAS COACHED GRC HOOPS SINCE 2012.

PHOTO BY SMOKE SIGNALS

GRC swimmers advance to state competition

ELI ROACH
MULTIMEDIA STAFF

You get on the start line, and on your right, you see three of the best swimmers in the state. On your left, four more. This is the picture that all of the swimmers on the George Rogers Clark swim team work all season to get to.

The swim team performed well at their regional and state meets. Riley Williams, Harper Sebulsky, Cooper Moore, and Libby Taylor qualified in the girls 200 medley and 200 freestyle relays, and Taylor in the 200 individual medley.

The team has trained hard this season. Led by Coach

Ashleigh Richardson, they put in work in and out of the pool to reduce their times. They have practice two times a week for around three hours in total.

Some of the team had their fastest times ever at regionals.

“We did have some lifetime bests, which is always the goal in swimming, especially at the end of the season,” Richardson said. “It shows that all the hard work throughout the season has paid off.”

Senior Riley Williams reflects on her season and time as a part of the team saying, “I hope to leave a good impact on underclassmen,

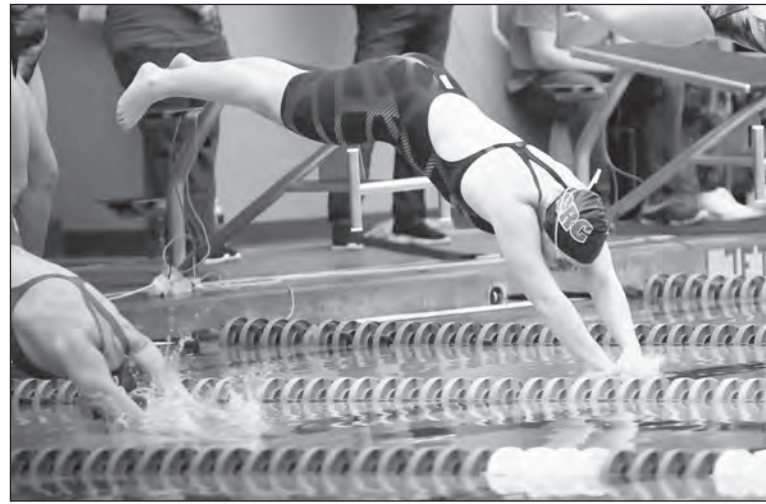
and know that I swam my best.”

The sport has grown to become a major part of the swimmers’ lives. “I’ve made a lot of great friendships, and learned a lot about a sport that I appreciate,” says Williams.

Taylor says, “It has made me understand what it’s like to be a leader on a sports team and see others around me improve.”

Those on the team say that they have learned important lessons from the sport, as well as how to be a leader and build friendships.

“We are a tight knit team and we treat each other like



SENIOR RILEY WILLIAMS DIVES OFF THE MARK. PHOTO COURTESY OF KASEY MOORE

family,” says freshman Jordan Pustelnik.

He credits his coach for his motivation this year saying she “puts all swimmers in positions where she knows

we will succeed.”

Because of their regionals performance, the qualifying relay team swam in the state competition at the University of Kentucky.

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GRC’S DANCE TEAM WON FIRST PLACE LYRICAL, THE STANDING OVATION AWARD, AND THE TOP SCORE AWARD IN THE RECENT TDA COMPETITION.

GRC Wrestling leaves it all out on the mat in second season

JOBY MITMESSER
MULTIMEDIA STAFF

In just our second year of the program, the GRC wrestling team has excelled through the season with a 11-8 dual meet record and many state qualifiers.

Head Coach Ethan Miller has completed another great season, preparing his team for the future of this program.

“The team did very well in our second season,” says Coach Miller. “Took some losses early on but also got a lot of good wins. This year’s team was really strong, dedicated and eager to learn.”

The boys tournament team competed well with Junior McCaden Skeens placing 4th in

his weight group to advance as a state qualifier. Cody Gibson, Jones Howard, Xavier Hollbrook, and Dylan Peck earned the alternate spots in state.

“It feels great to qualify; it was one of my goals from the start of the season,” says McCaden. “I quit football to wrestle and want to continue it next year. I have much more room to improve. I’m not done yet; I want to grow the name of wrestling.”

GRC’s wrestling team continued to push themselves and their teammates through the last moments.

“Practicing as a team is essential,” says McCaden. “You can’t get better by yourself. You

have to train with someone else, and you’re only as good as your partner. The closer your relationship is with the team the better.”

Fifth place sophomore state alternate Jones Howard has shown a way he improves as a wrestler.

“It’s a matter of repetition,” says Jones. “Hours of practice and continuing to master the same move over and over again instead of practicing new techniques with little mastery and control of those moves.”

The girls team had very good success in state as well with sophomore Aanyah Betancur placing 5th in the state in her first five months of wrestling.



THE GRC WRESTLING TEAM
PHOTO SUBMITTED

“I’m striving for 2nd or even 1st for next year,” she says. “I practice with the boys for a challenge to improve as much as I can.”

Besides Betancur’s 5th place finish, Linsey Bandedo placed in the top 10. McKenzie Bush and Sam Blose round out the girls team.

The wrestling team has accomplished so much this year and with such a young team we are only going to get better.

Coach Miller knows dedication is the key to improvement and success for the wrestling team. “As long as we’re improving daily, our goals of winning will take care of themselves.”

Cardinal Cheer finishes a magical season at Disney World

BRYCE HOUCHENS
SPORTS EDITOR

The GRC Cardinals Cheer team has returned from the most magical place on Earth, after competing in the national cheer competition.

For the first time since 2017, the cheerleaders traveled to Walt Disney World in Orlando for the UCA National Cheer Competition. They made it all the way to the semifinal round before coming up just short in their final routine.

The Cardinal cheer team started their road to nationals with a second place finish in the UCA regional competition at Heritage Hall in Lexington, earning them a trip to Disney.

The team outscored all Kentucky teams at this

competition with their best score of the year, an 85.5.

At Disney, the cheerleaders competed in early February and performed so well they were able to get past the first round of competition and advance to the semis.

The team also competed at the KHSAA state competition held at GRC in December where they finished fifth in the competitive medium division.

Senior Claire Ginter believes the team as a whole has come a long way since the start of their season.

“The team has come incredibly far this season,” she says. “Along with the growth in skills, I have seen our team’s passion and drive grow throughout the season. In the

end, we all wanted it so bad and put our all into our final performance.”

For some cheerleaders just getting to compete at such a high level was such a great experience.

“It was a great learning experience,” says senior Sydney Wilkins. “Getting to see all kinds of teams across the nation put their best out on the mat really makes you realize how hard you have to work to come out on top. As a senior, having my last performance be at nationals is a dream and I’m so thankful for the opportunity.”

Coach Emily Marquez says she is extremely happy with how the season went and loved getting to coach these girls.

“As coaches we are extremely proud of how far the team has come this year,” Marquez says.

She added that the seniors provided a great sense of leadership on the team and were a big reason why they were so successful this year.

“We knew this was going to be a special group of girls,” Marquez adds. “We have nine seniors on the team and knew they would be willing to lead and teach the younger girls. We were able to compete in skills we have never done before and excelled at them.”

The team will lose some key pieces but Marquez is still very excited for next season and the legacy her group of girls left on the program.

“We are very proud to coach

GRC cheerleading and watching them compete at the nationals level is something we have always wanted,” she says. “We cannot wait to see how they do on game day and look forward to next year!”

Senior Macy Daniel summed it up perfectly. “In my eight years of cheering, I have never had the chance to go to nationals. So, being able to have the opportunity to go my senior year was amazing,” she says. “I made unforgettable memories and I am very grateful for that opportunity. Even though we didn’t make it as far as I had hoped, I would not change anything and I’m extremely proud of my team.”

Caitlin Crump: GRC Athletics' secret weapon

EMMIE ROSE
MULTIMEDIA STAFF

Standing, watching, and waiting with anticipation of what will happen next.

GRC's athletic trainer Caitlin Crump is always on her toes due to her commitment to our athletes.

Without hesitation, Ms. Caitlin dedicates her time to our county by being the high school's athletic trainer.

When Ms. Caitlin started out, she always knew she wanted to come to our school. GRC was her "dream scenario" that one day would come true. She has been at GRC since September 2020.

"To be quite honest, I love it here," explained Ms. Caitlin. "I grew up here and we have a lot of great teams and the best facilities. This has been where I wanted to be since I decided to go into athletic training."

Being an alumni of GRC's

basketball team, Ms. Caitlin has had a passion for athletic training since her high school career. Due to an injury, she began to appreciate the work her athletic trainers did for her.

"I sprained my ankle in high school playing basketball and got the chance to work with my athletic trainer at the time," said Ms. Caitlin. "When I saw what they do, it got me interested. Once I started to think about it more, this field made perfect sense to me. It was the perfect combination of my love for sports and my desire to help people."

Former GRC girls basketball coach Scott True led Caitlin during her playing career as an athlete.

Coach True says he always loved what Caitlin brought to the program, knowing she was meant for this career.

"Caitlin was a tremendous teammate who always put those around her first," True says. "We never would have had the success we had as a team without Caitlin's dedication to our team and her teammates."

That kind of attitude as a player has translated into her career. "Our teams and athletes could not function without our trainers," adds True. "They are so important in making sure our athletes are healthy and performing at their peak."

While taking care of our current 23 athletic teams, Ms. Caitlin's skill is consistently growing for her athlete's well being. Putting in time after the clock, Ms. Caitlin will always do what is best for our students.

"It is not easy, and it takes a lot of knowledge and willingness to get better every day for your athletes," says Ms. Caitlin. "The learning

doesn't stop when you graduate. You have to continually learn to change with the medical field and perfect your techniques that you are taught."

Ms. Caitlin's unconditional care has impacted multiple athletes throughout the years.

GRC student athlete Tennyson Prater suffered from a torn ACL. While he was not directly Ms. Caitlin's patient, she still showed absolute care for him, and his recovery.

"She's actively involved in her students' lives, in and out of school," Prater says. "She's actively aware of what your body needs, even during off season. When I tore my ACL, she gave me options with my injury. She sent me articles on things I could do, and she just gave me small ways to rehab, on and off the court."

GRC Hoops Head Coach Robbie Graham has worked with Ms. Caitlin since she began her career at GRC.

"Caitlin's dedication is unmatched," he says. "She cares for Clark County student athletes



CAITLIN CRUMP
PHOTO BY MARISSA GILCHRIST

unconditionally. Caitlin constantly goes above and beyond for the kids."

Graham says Ms Caitlin does what she has to do, always with the athletes' best interests at heart.

"Don't mistake Caitlin's kindness for weakness," he says. "She has to stand up to coaches, and sometimes parents and players to protect our students. There is no back down when it comes to protecting her kiddos."



MS. CAITLIN FEELS AT HOME
AT GRC.

PHOTO BY EMMIE ROSE



CAITLIN CRUMP WRAPS BASKETBALL PLAYER BRIANNA BYARS
PHOTO BY EMMIE ROSE



40TH DISTRICT



CHAMPIONS