



Grapeland ISD

Home of the Fightin' Sandies and Sandiettes



Superintendent Address

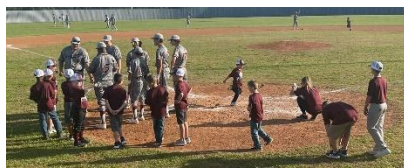
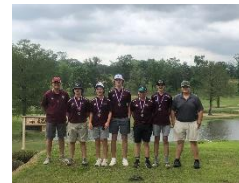
Superintendent Monthly Update May 2023

GISD Family,

I would like to thank everyone in the Grapeland community for a great first month. I began my adventure as Grapeland ISD Superintendent on April 3rd. It has been very busy but a very enjoyable first month. I have met and talked to a lot of people at the school and within the community as a whole. Here are some of the observations that I have made in my short-time in Grapeland ...

- Trees – real trees. I love the tall trees, that aren't just big bushes (mesquites and cedars).
- Baseball games - where the pitchers can actually throw strikes, infielders can actually field a ground ball, and outfielders can actually catch a fly ball.
- Trains – I am glad I will be living on the side of tracks where I don't get stuck at the crossing.
- Principals – One at each campus, Grapeland is blessed to have three very capable Principals who care about kids.
- Band – Attended my first Band Concert at Grapeland ISD (April 21st). It is great to be at a school with a band. If you have ever been at a school without a band you would understand.

Lastly, I would like to commend the Grapeland students for their accomplishments during the month of April. Macie Watson was named Houston County Fair Queen, Ms. Watson is a Sophomore at GHS. Cole Goolsby signed a letter of intent to play Baseball at Hendrix College in Arkansas. Grapeland Band and boosters hosted the community for a night of entertainment on April 21. It was an excellent performance and a successful fundraiser. Grapeland Boy's Golf finished 2nd at the Regional Tournament and will advance to the State Tournament on May 22nd. Our elementary students also had their opportunity to shine this month. Elementary students performed their Easter program, Funny Bunny, for the community on April 4th. The Little Sluggers of Grapeland Little League got their chance to show their speed running the bases before the varsity game on April 19th. Looking forward to May and the 2023-2024 School Year



Sincerely,

It's great to be a Sandie!

- May 6: School Board Election
- May 8: School Board Meeting 6:00pm
- May 8-12: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 9: Elementary Choir Performance
- May 25: 8th Grade Graduation
- May 26: High School Graduation

Speaking of 2023 – 2024 (Calendar)



The Grapeland ISD School Board has approved a hybrid school Calendar for 2023-2024. The Calendar features 17 - 4 day weeks starting in November and the end of the school year on May 17th. Calendars for schools across the state have become more flexible due to the “School of Innovation” and the state requirement of students attending school based on the number of minutes instead of number of days. Students are required to attend school a total of 75,600 minutes per school year. Districts across the state are using the new flexibility to attract qualified teachers, create more efficient budgets, and build in breaks while saving minutes in case of pandemics (please, never again) or weather factors. [2023-2024 School Calendar](#)

Facilities Update

Things are improving at Grapeland ISD in regards to technology safety and facilities. Over Spring Break (March 13-17th) Mr. Norman and his crew worked to install interactive boards in classrooms throughout the district. When teachers returned from the break they had fully operational interactive boards in the classrooms. Mrs. Bell is already looking at the curriculum for next school year to fully take advantage of this valuable instructional tool.

In regards to security measures, Mr. Norman has again come through by managing the installation of electronic door access to the Junior High and High School Campuses and the Early Learning Center. Instead of fumbling for keys to get to work, teachers now have the ease and convenience of using an access card similar to that of the existing elementary school system. Officer Ham and Maintenance are currently working on a rekeying and key inventory system for each campus.

Some of you have probably noticed work being done at the football field. After looking at the Pros and Cons and long deliberations of replacing the football field surface (grass or turf), the School Board voted to install synthetic turf on the field and resurface the track for the 2023-2024 school year. “Field-Turf” was the chosen contractor, and they began work on April 17th. “Field-Turf” said that once they began work they would complete the project in approximately 8-10 weeks, from the looks of things they are ahead of schedule.



Elections - update

The Grapeland Independent School District will conduct a Board of Trustee election on *Saturday, May 6, 2023* to elect *three* full-term (3 years) Board of Trustee members.

Positions Up For Election:

Candidates are:

- Place 1: Brad Spisak (I), Travis Brown
- Place 2: Twila Ibarra, T.C. Howard
- Place 3: Josh Goolsby, Cannon Vickers



For more election information, please go to: <https://www.grapelandisd.net/Page/180>

Importance of Attendance



Question: What is the difference in the district achieving a 93% attendance rate versus a 95% attendance rate?

Answer: The truth is that student attendance is extremely important. I could tell you that the difference of a 2% rate is \$200,000, but then parents would say that we only care about the money and not the kid.

The truth is... we care about kids. We care about being able to afford to hire great teachers for kids. We care about creating and building upon great programs for kids. We care about providing awesome facilities for kids. We care about our students experiencing amazing field trips. We care about them reaching their maximum potential!

Think about all that we could do with that extra revenue. *The Mission of Grapeland ISD is to ensure that every student achieves maximum potential. **Attendance matters!***

The truth is..... we cannot provide all of these things if we don't have kids in school. Here is an understanding of attendance:

- "Official attendance" is taken every day by 10am that we report to the state for payment, which factors into school funding. Please do not schedule activities that would have your child miss school during this specific time. Your child's campus should communicate the exact attendance reporting time. Students who arrive to school after the official reporting time (extremely late/tardy) negatively impact our district funding.
- In order for students to earn credit, they must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. All absences, whether excused or unexcused, must be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days.
- If your child attends a medical appointment, it is extremely important that they still attend school for some portion of the day. A doctor's note alone does not fund schools. Also, whether or not a student goes to the doctor, unless they attend school for a portion of the day, the absence CANNOT be listed as MEDICAL absence.

Thank you for partnering with Grapeland ISD. We need to work together to keep GISD at the top of its game.!

Stay Tuned for June #SPND