



Budget Cuts

Decreased funding in Guilford County Schools affects all of its students, teachers, and families. pages 6-7

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Grimsley High School

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the high LIFE

“With great power, however, comes great ridicule. Since the Obama family has moved into the White House, one needless issue after another has been publicized.”



AKIRAH JUSTICE,
Reporter p. 5

News

Changes at school include reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and school motto to help unify the student body. page #2

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Media saturation leads to newscast overkill, or sensational journalism, forcing audiences to search for truth. page #5

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Fashions from Marc Jacobs may look elite and pricey, but they don't necessarily carry expensive price tags. page #9

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Eligibility issues within the Northern High community filter down to all athletics throughout local sports page #10

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GHS family members greet students, parents in local communities through Whirlie Walks

BY KATHERINE PHILLIPS
Editor-In-Chief

Faculty and administrators held a series of three hour-long “meet and greets” in various gymnasiums located within the school district on August 11, 12, and 13 to reach out to parents and students before the start of the academic year. Open gyms were available to encourage interaction between students, parents, and faculty.

Instead of asking parents to come to school for important information, Grimsley faculty brought information to them. Selected locations included Gillespie Park Elementary School, Lindley Recreation Center, and Warnersville Recreation Center, where after-school tutoring also occurred last year. While the first Walks were held closest to school, administrators plan to hold future ones further away in order to involve more of the Greensboro community.

“The purpose of Whirlie Walks was to welcome back new and old members of the school family and to reach out to them in their own neighborhoods, where students and their parents live and work,” said counselor Suzanne Weaver, who attended all three sessions.

Principal Anna Brady also used the opportunities to answer questions from parents and students and share a PowerPoint presentation



Principal Anna Brady oils up her skills in basketball with junior India Mateir. Brady visited various communities to connect with local youth. *Internet graphic*

about expectations for the school year. She also explained plans for the newly scheduled Whirlie Wednesday.

Academia was not the only subject of presentations or questions. Students enjoyed engaging and bonding over one of Brady's stated passions—basketball.

“She played horse with any student interested,” said Weaver.

Meeting with members of the student body and their families is an integral part of Brady's intention to create and strengthen a school culture shared by all. She intends to lead Grimsley ahead into the future, emphasizing to the student body that the troubles of past years have no place on campus anymore. Such a process involves understanding where her students come from and what kinds of obstacles they face in everyday life.

“Meeting and greeting our families in their neighborhoods, seeing where they live, communicating with families outside of the school setting were the greatest benefits,” Brady said. “It is important to me to know where our students live.”

Brady had hoped to hold community involvement meetings last year, but she primarily focused on transforming the atmosphere on campus. This year, interaction with the community is one of Brady's highest priorities, as is forming relationships with anyone who has Grimsley ties.

“Grimsley has a tradition of strong community support. The Whirlie Walks represent an effort by Ms. Brady and our school to strengthen these bonds and build on these relationships,” said Career Development Coordinator Jim Smith.

Community reception of Whirlie Walks was reported to be largely positive with those in attendance grateful for the effort made. Faculty members who attended hold high hopes for future Whirlie Walks as well as other events to improve school-community interaction, several of which have been planned for upcoming months.

“We are planning to hold some of our PTSA meetings in area churches and community centers to connect more families to Grimsley,” in addition to having more Walks, said Brady.

Participation at the While Walks averaged approximately 20 faculty members and 30 students and parents, with attendance progressively growing each session. Attendance at later Whirlie Walks is expected to improve.

“This is the first year we've tried this,” Smith said. “I think the numbers will increase next year.”

As not much notice was provided to the selected communities before the sessions, administrators plan to better advertise in the future and put forth a stronger effort to gather attendees.

“I knew I had to do a better job,” Brady said of alerting community members of the meetings. “I would not give up but would prepare more for future meetings. I also learned what I need to do in future community meetings.”

Whirlie Wednesday Schedule

Whirlie Wednesdays provide time for teachers to collaborate and for students to meet with clubs or study. This alternate schedule helps create a stronger school community. Most Whirlie Wednesdays will serve as study halls, but on some occasions, pep rallies, assemblies, or other school events will take place.

Schedule:

1. First period will begin at 9:06, allowing teachers a time to plan between 8:15 and 9:00.
2. After fifth period, students will report to their homerooms for 42 minutes, during which the aforementioned activities will take place.
3. Buses will run on a normal schedule.
4. Zero periods will meet but will dismiss at 8:15.
5. All classes will meet on Wednesdays, but they will each last only 45 minutes.

October Whirlie Wednesday Schedule:

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- Oct. 9 – Grimsley/Page Pep Rally
- Oct. 14 – Study Hall
- Oct. 21 – Grade/End of Quarter/Attendance
- Oct. 28 – Study Hall