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GMHS Fall Spirit Update



As the leaves show their colors our Granby Bears are showing theirs and are off to a great start to our school year in our classrooms, courts, courses and fields! At this mid-point of 1st quarter, in addition to our students demonstrating our Vision of the Learner skills in solving problems, communicating effectively and supporting arguments with evidence, outside the classroom the spirit is up through a first ever two pep rallies since the beginning of the year, including "Minute to Win It" class challenges, as well as our earliest ever Spirit Week, under the lights games and Homecoming Dance. Student leaders, including student government, team captains and club members, have worked hard to engage the participation of the GMHS student body in these events, and create a vibe of fun and frolic this fall, helping our students persevere through the challenges of their work. Our Bears are also enjoying one of our strongest athletic openings with an overall cumulative record at the time of this writing of an impressive 48 wins, 9 losses and 4 ties, and have also contributed to fundraisers for the Dolly Parton Book Collection to wearing hats to support SRO DuFresne's upcoming NYC Marathon Run for the Race for Chase! Each morning our student leaders encourage us in our morning announcements to "have and make a great day, GMHS," and they have taken it a step further as our Bears are having and making a great fall!





Community Educational Supplement — Fall 2026

National and State Recognized Schools

VISION



GRANBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CONNECT. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.

VISION OF A GRADUATE

All members of the Granby Public Schools community learn with purpose, lead with compassion, and succeed together. We connect through authentic relationships, believe in the limitless potential of every individual, and achieve through a shared commitment to growth and excellence.

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Q&A blog: AskGPS@granbyschools.org

Granby Bond Referendum - Important Information for Residents



Cheri P. Burke
Superintendent

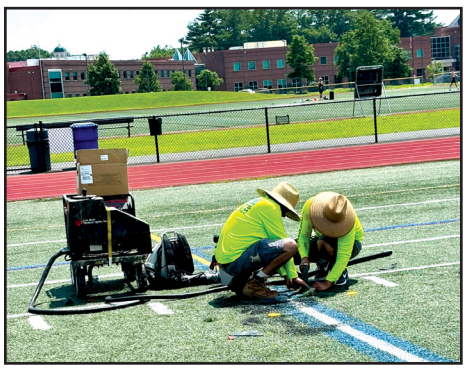
Granby residents will have an opportunity to vote on important capital improvements to our schools during the December 8, 2026 bond referendum. Two school-related questions will appear on the ballot: improvements to athletic fields and critical repairs and future renovation planning for Granby Memorial Middle School.

Understanding the Financial Impact

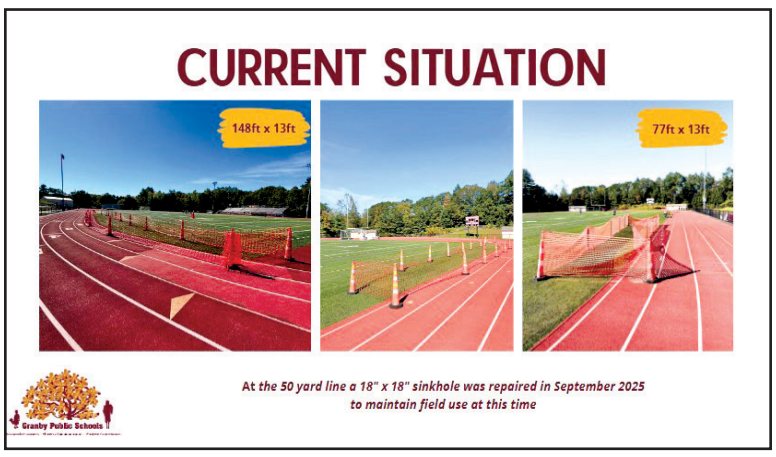
One of the most important facts for taxpayers to understand is that the proposed bonding is not expected to require additional tax revenue for the next seven years. New debt service for the bonding is being offset by both expiring debt service and resources intentionally set aside to buffer any impact of the new bonding thru that timeframe, at which point we project a net mill rate increase impact of less than 1% attributable to this bonding. Residents are encouraged to review the town's financial information to understand the longer-term implications

Athletic Fields: $10.4 Million

Stadium Field and track have experienced structural deterioration for nearly five years. Sinkholes and depressions continue to develop, and the facilities have exceeded their expected useful life. While repairs have allowed us to continue using the field, its long-term reliability remains uncertain. Granby has not hosted a home track meet in three years because of the track's condition.



The proposed project includes reconstructing Stadium Field and the track to address underlying soil conditions. Improvements may also include new synthetic turf, drainage, fencing, and energy-efficient lighting.



The proposal additionally includes improvements to Field Two and construction of a multipurpose field supporting baseball, softball, soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse to replace the current baseball field.

Middle School Repairs and Design: $3 Million

Granby Memorial Middle School was constructed in 1992, and many of its mechanical systems have exceeded their useful life.

This funding would address immediate HVAC, plumbing, and electrical needs while supporting architectural and engineering design for a future comprehensive renovation. The goal is to maintain a safe, functional learning environment while preparing for the school's long-term needs.

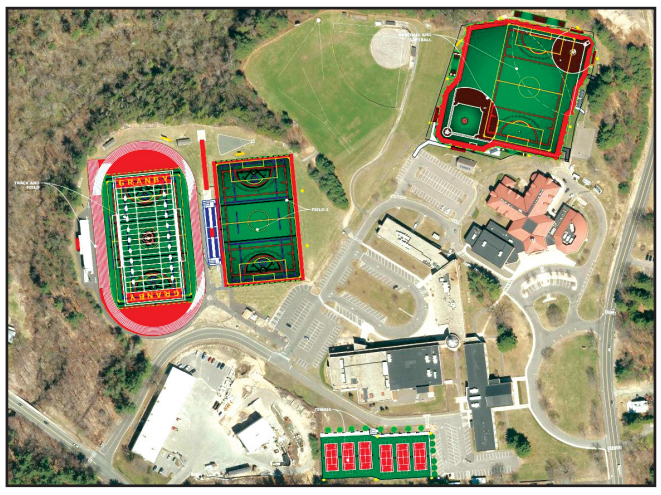
Important Dates for Residents

- Saturday, November 14, 2026: 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Community Open House, Senior Center Community Room. Learn about the projects and ask questions.
- Tuesday, December 1, 2026: 7 p.m. Public Hearing, Senior Center Community Room. Residents may ask questions and share their perspectives.
- Tuesday, December 8, 2026: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. Bond Referendum, Granby Town Hall.

Learn More

Detailed project information is available on the Granby Public Schools website and the Town of Granby website.

I encourage all residents to review the information, attend an informational session, and participate in the December 8 referendum.



LAFD Visits Kelly Lane School

A huge Kelly Lane Primary School thank you to our amazing Lost Acres Volunteer Fire Department for visiting our students and delivering an unforgettable lesson on fire safety! Firefighters Jeremiah Piescik, Pete Morizio, Brady Wimble, and Jason Platti did an incredible job teaching the children what to do during a fire emergency.



LAFD Firefighters (L to R):Jason Platti, Brady Wimble, Pete Morizio, Jeremiah Piescik

Excitement filled the air as the kids got to explore the fire truck inside and out. They were thrilled to try out a real thermal imaging camera, see essential fire tools like an axe and a Halligan bar up close, and climb right through the truck. Friendly rivalry took center stage when Brady Wimble and Jason Platti competed in a suit-up race, demonstrating how quickly firefighters can jump into their gear. Hearing the unique sounds of the oxygen equipment helped demystify the suit so students wouldn't feel afraid during a real rescue.



Along with the excitement, crucial life lessons were learned. Students discovered where fire detectors belong, why having them throughout the house and testing them regularly is essential, and the importance of knowing multiple exits and establishing a family meeting place outside.





We are so grateful to these local heroes for sharing their time, gear, and wisdom with our school!

Wells Road Fifth Graders Bring *Shrek* Back to the Stage

This year, Wells Road fifth graders are bringing a little extra magic to the stage with their production of *Shrek*!

The musical has a special connection to Granby history. *Shrek* was scheduled to be performed by almost 70 Wells Road fifth graders in April of 2020, but the production never made it to the stage when schools closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those fifth graders are now seniors at Granby Memorial High School.



2020 Cast of *Shrek*

Almost seven years later, this fifth-grade class of 2026 is excited to finally bring the production to life, and to connect with the high school seniors who never had the opportunity to perform it themselves. The connection between the two classes makes this year's production especially meaningful and provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the students who were part of the original show.

The production is directed by Dr. Heidi MacDonald, who was also the director in 2020, with Kianna Lozada Pagan serving as assistant director. Together, they are helping the fifth-grade cast prepare to take audiences on a fun-filled trip to the land of Far Far Away.

At the time of the nation's shutdown, schools did not know the extent of the closures. Initially, the drama production was believed to just be "on hold" until the students' return. At what ended up being their final Drama Club meeting in March of 2020, Dr. MacDonald told the students that she would do what she could to bring their show to the stage. Now, almost 7 years later, she is trying to keep that promise.

For Wells Road, *Shrek* is more than this year's fifth-grade play. It is a chance to revisit a moment interrupted nearly seven years ago, connect two generations of Granby students, and finally give this story its well-deserved moment on stage. Perhaps most importantly, it is an opportunity to fulfill a promise made to a group of fifth graders who never imagined that their final fifth-grade Drama Club meeting would actually be their last.



Current Wells Road Drama Club members in their latest production, *Madagascar, A Musical Adventure, Jr.*

This year, a new group of Wells Road fifth graders will take the stage, while the students who were supposed to perform *Shrek* in 2020 prepare to graduate from Granby Memorial High School. It is a fitting full-circle moment, and one that makes this year's production about much more than putting on a show.

Granby Public Schools Adopts 2nd Generation Strategic Plan 2026-2031

On October 7, the Granby Board of Education adopted a new five-year Strategic Plan for Granby Public Schools. The plan represents more than a set of goals—it is our roadmap for strategic growth and establishes a clear direction for the decisions we make on behalf of Granby students over the next five years.

At the center of the plan is a shared vision for our schools:

All members of the Granby Public Schools community learn with purpose, lead with compassion, and succeed together. We connect through authentic relationships, believe in the limitless potential of every individual, and achieve through a shared commitment to growth and excellence.

This vision reflects what we want students, staff and families to experience throughout Granby Public Schools. It is supported by an important belief that has guided our work: What we believe changes what students experience. When we believe in the potential of every student—and back that belief with action—we create schools where students feel connected, challenged, supported and empowered to grow.

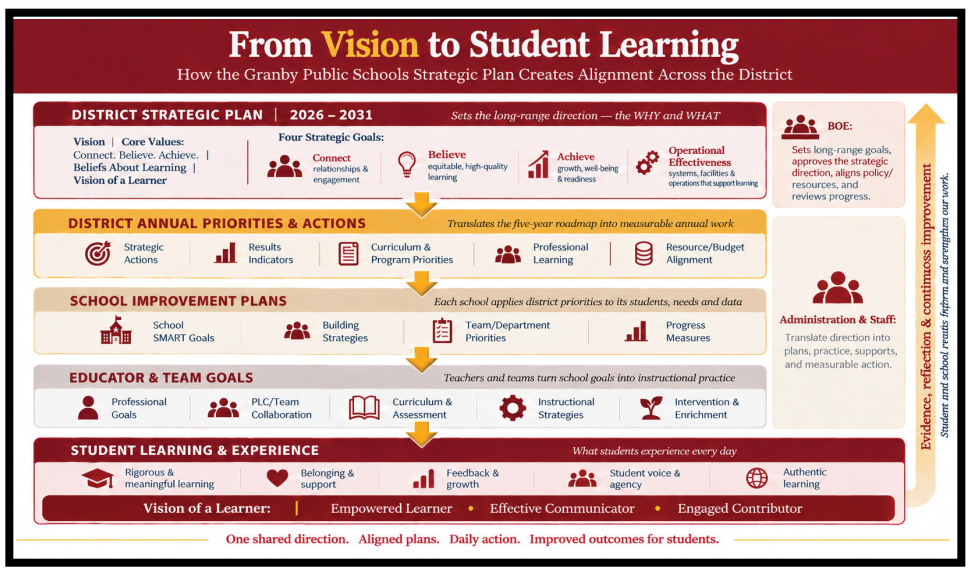
Our Strategic Plan organizes this work around four overarching goals:

CONNECT — Strengthen relationships and engagement across the district.

BELIEVE — Ensure equitable, high-quality learning experiences for every student.

ACHIEVE —Promote growth, well-being, and readiness for life beyond graduation.

OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS — Ensure that the district's facilities and operations fully support the delivery of high-quality curriculum, programs, and services.

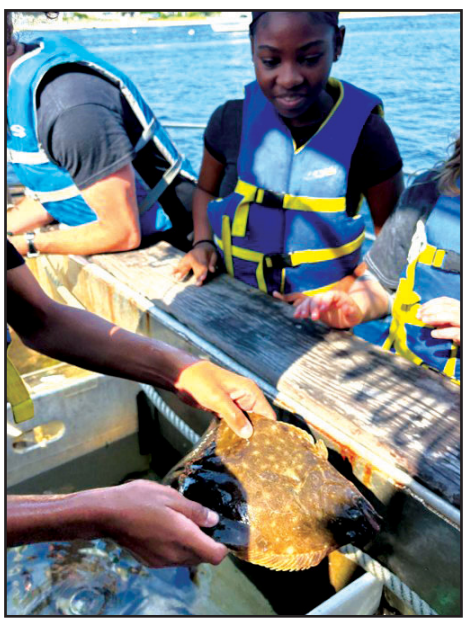


Adoption of the plan is not the end of the process—it is the beginning of the next phase. Over the next five years, school and district improvement efforts, programs, resources and measurable outcomes will be increasingly aligned with these priorities. We will regularly share progress with the Board of Education and the community so our goals remain visible and our work remains accountable.

Our Strategic Plan provides a clear roadmap for where Granby Public Schools is headed while remaining grounded in what our community values most: relationships, opportunity, growth and excellence. Please visit our District Webpage to view the full plan.

Connect. Believe. Achieve. Together, these commitments will guide our work and our continued growth for the next five years.

Granby Memorial Middle School Seventh Graders Explore Marine Science at Project Oceanology



This past September, seventh-grade students from Granby Memorial Middle School embarked on an exciting educational field trip to Project Oceanology in Groton, where they participated in hands-on marine biology and oceanography experiences. This unique opportunity allowed students to become marine scientists for the day while exploring the diverse ecosystems of Long Island Sound.

One of the highlights was a midday cruise aboard the Enviro-Lab, a research vessel where students worked alongside marine science educators to investigate marine life and ocean conditions. Students deployed and retrieved trawl and plankton nets to collect, identify, and examine a variety of marine organisms, gaining firsthand knowledge of marine biodiversity and food webs.

Students also became oceanographers as they investigated the physical and chemical properties of Long Island Sound. Using scientific equipment, including a Secchi disk to measure water clarity and a hydrometer to determine salinity, students collected water quality data and explored how environmental factors influence marine ecosystems. These investigations helped students understand the unique characteristics of Long Island Sound as an estuary and the importance of maintaining healthy coastal environments.



Back on land, students continued their exploration in the classroom learning about lobsters, crabs, marine habitats, and the adaptations that help organisms survive in their environments.



Mr. Wik, 7th grade science teacher said, "We are so happy to provide this experience for our students! It teaches them that science is real. Water in the ocean has things dissolved in it just like we learn and experiment with in class. Mr. Wik and Mr. Freeze aren't making it up!"

Take aways from the day included knowing that everything we do in Granby, CT, whether it be fertilizers or car runoff, eventually makes its way into the Salmon Brook, which makes its way to the Farmington River, which makes its way to the Connecticut River, which makes its way to the Long Island Sound. Even an hour away in Granby, we still have an impact on the ocean!



GMHS Class of 2026 Was Accepted at the Following Institutions

Albertus Magnus College
Alfred University
Allegheny College
American University
Arizona State University-Tempe
Assumption University
Auburn University
Bates College
Bay Path University
Baylor University
Bentley University
Boston University
Bowling Green State University-Main Campus
Brandeis University
Brigham Young University - Idaho
Bryant University
Butler University
Castleton University
Catholic University of America
Centenary College
Central Connecticut State University
Champlain College
Clark University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
Colby-Sawyer College
Colgate University
College of Charleston
Colorado State University - Fort Collins
Connecticut College
Connecticut State Community College
Daytona State College
Dean College
DePaul University
Drexel University
Eastern Connecticut State University
Elon University
Emerson College
Emmanuel College
Emory & Henry College
Endicott College
Fisher College
Five Towns College
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida Southern College
Fordham University
Framingham State University
Franklin Pierce University
Gateway Community & Technical College
George Mason University
Gordon College
Goucher College
Hamilton College
Hartwick College
High Point University
Hillsdale College
Hofstra University
Holyoke Community College
Ithaca College
James Madison University
Johnson & Wales University - Providence
Keene State College
Keiser University
Kent State University at Kent
Lafayette College
Lasell University
Lehigh University
Liberty University
Lincoln Technical Institute - Shelton
Louisiana State University
Lynn University
Maine Maritime Academy
Manhattan School of Music
Manhattan University
Manhattanville University
Marist University
Marymount
Manhattan College
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sci.
Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Mercyhurst University
Merrimack College
Miami Dade College
Miami University - Oxford
Middlebury College
Midway University
Molloy University
Monmouth University
Montana State University
Morrisville State College
Mount Holyoke College
Muhlenberg College
Nazareth University
New England Institute of Technology
Niagara University
Nichols College
North Carolina State University
Northeastern University
Northern Michigan University
Ohio University - Main Campus
Oklahoma City University
Pace University
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Pennsylvania State University - Main Campus
Plymouth State University
Providence College
Purdue University - Main Campus
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island College
Rider University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roger Williams University
Rollins College
Rutgers University - New Brunswick
Sacred Heart University
Saint Leo University
Saint Michael's College
Salem State University
Salve Regina University
Seton Hill University
Siena University
Simmons University
Skidmore College
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
Smith College
Southeastern University
Southern Connecticut State University
Springfield College
St. Lawrence University
St. John's University (NY)
Stetson University
Stonehill College
Stony Brook University
Suffolk University
SUNY at Binghamton
SUNY at Fredonia
SUNY at Purchase College
SUNY Buffalo State
SUNY College at Geneseo
SUNY College of Agriculture & Techn at Cobleskill
SUNY Maritime College
Syracuse University
Temple University
The Norwalk Conservatory of the Arts
The University of Alabama
The University of Findlay
The University of Montana
The University of Tampa
Towson University
Union College (NY)
United States Military Academy
University at Albany (SUNY)
University at Buffalo
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Connecticut - Hartford
University of Connecticut - Stamford
University of Connecticut Storrs
University of Delaware
University of Denver
University of Hartford
University of Maine
University of Maryland - College Park
University of Massachusetts - Amherst
University of Massachusetts - Boston
University of Massachusetts - Lowell
University of Michigan - Dearborn
University of Mississippi
University of Nevada - Reno
University of New England
University of New Hampshire - Main Campus
University of New Haven
University of North Carolina at Asheville
University of North Dakota
University of Northern Colorado
University of Oklahoma - Norman Campus
University of Oregon
University of Redlands
University of Rhode Island
University of Rochester
University of Saint Joseph
University of South Carolina - Columbia
University of South Caorlina - Upstate
University of Southern Maine
University of Utah
University of Vermont
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Utah State University
Utah Valley University
Villanova Uniersity
Virginia Tech
Wake Forest University
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Wesleyan University
West Virginia University
Western Connecticut State University
Western Michigan University
Western New England University
Westfield State University
Westmont College
Wilkes University
Wingate University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester State University
York College Pennsylvania

Granby Schools Rally Behind SRO Chris Dufresne Ahead of NYC Marathon

Granby Public Schools students and staff came together on October 9 to celebrate School Resource Officer Chris Dufresne as he prepares to run the New York City Marathon on November 1 in support of the CMAK Foundation's Race 4 Chase program.

Throughout the district, students and staff wore hats in honor of Officer Dufresne — who is rarely seen without one — and filled the day with signs, cards, encouragement, and good-luck wishes. Officer Dufresne visited schools across





the district, giving students an opportunity to cheer him on and recognize his commitment to a cause that directly supports children and families.

Officer Dufresne will run the 26.2-mile New York City Marathon as a member of the Race 4 Chase Team. His marathon entry was donated, allowing the funds he raises to directly support the CMAK Foundation and its youth programming.

The CMAK Foundation was established in memory of Chase Michael Anthony Kowalski, one of the 20 children who lost their lives at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012. Chase loved swimming, biking, running, and competition. His family created the Foundation to honor his spirit by helping children develop healthy lifestyles, confidence, and perseverance.

One of the Foundation's signature programs, Race 4 Chase, is a six-week youth triathlon program for children ages 6–12. Participants learn to swim, bike, and run while building teamwork, resilience, goal-setting skills, and self-confidence. The Farmington Valley YMCA proudly offers the program in Granby each summer.



The October 9 celebration was an opportunity not only to support Officer Dufresne, but also to recognize the positive relationships he has built with students throughout Granby Public Schools. From handmade signs and cards to a district full of hats, the message was clear: Granby is behind him every step of the 26.2 miles.

We are proud of Officer Dufresne for representing our schools and community while supporting such a meaningful cause, and we look forward to cheering him on in New York City on November 1.