

GRAND ISLAND LUTHERAN HIGH LIGHTNING

"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:5-6

December 2025

Grand Island Lutheran High School

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GRAND ISLAND
LUTHERAN HIGH

It's hard to believe that we have reached the end of the first semester. There has been so much to be proud of throughout the first semester. Our students have accomplished many great things both in the classroom and in their extracurricular activities. It's inspiring to see the way in which our students give glory to Him in everything they accomplish. As Philippians 4:13 (ESV) reminds us, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

I am thankful for our staff and the commitment they show to our students and ministry here at GILH every day. I would also like to give a special thanks to Mrs. Bolin for all of her contributions to Heartland Lutheran and Grand Island Lutheran High over the years. Her work has created a successful and sustainable music department that is grounded in the Word. We wish her the very best as she steps into the next chapter of life and are grateful for the large impact she made here!

As we turn the page on the first semester, I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and pray that you take time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, the gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have a blessed holiday season, and I can't wait to see what's in store for us here at GILH next year!

-Jeremiah Slough

Lightning SPOTLIGHT

Meet Our TEACHERS

Mrs. Jackie Zehendner serves as our Math teacher at GILH. Jackie lives near Pleasanton and was the first called teacher at Heartland Lutheran. Her favorite part about teaching is building relationships with each of her students. After 26 years of teaching at HLHS/GILH, she is now beginning to build relationships with the children of her past students. Mrs. Zehendner said that each day God provides her with moments that bring joy and a smile to her face. Whether it is sharing Jesus with a student or helping another student finally master a complex math problem, the best part is knowing that God works through her daily in ways both big and small. Mrs. Zehendner's piece of advice for her students comes from Micah 6:8, *"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."*



Student VOICE

Colton is a Junior at GILH this year. His favorite experiences so far this year include attending Manufacturing Day and participating in the Homecoming festivities, especially the lip sync contest. Outside of school, Colton works as a Living History Apprentice at Stuhr Museum, where he can often be found in the Blacksmith, Tinsmith, and Planing Mill shops. When asked what he loves most about GILH, Colton shared it would have to be the friendly, small school atmosphere centered around Christ. Each and every day the teachers and coaches at GILH remind him and his classmates of God's unending love.



Notes from the Front Office:

Stay connected
and up to date by
visiting our new
website!
cnlutheran.org



Upcoming Events

- **December 22-Jan 2-** Christmas Break
- **January 5-** 3rd Quarter begins
- **January 12-** 5th/6th Grade Open House at GILH @ 7pm
- **January 16-** Visit Day
- **January 26-30-** National Lutheran Schools Week
- **January 29-** Blood Drive
- **January 30-** Winter Ball





A few music highlights from the semester have been the Concordia National Honor Choir and Concordia National Honor Band as well as the phenomenal concert that the students put on last week. Four students were selected for the national honor choir, Abby Van Bibber, Emma Strong, Madison Dack and Aidan Stewart. They described the experience as once in a lifetime and that they had goosebumps while they were performing. They also said that it was very uplifting for their faith. Rafe Mendyk was chosen for the national honor band and also enjoyed the experience. This was his fourth time attending. The concert last week highlighted all the students hard work from the semester. The audience really seemed to enjoy the bands rendition of Silent Night and especially the choir pieces where the middle school and high school performed together. Congratulations to all the music students for their dedication and great Christ-centered performance.



Music





Annalise Hauser was selected for two different honors at Hastings College. Two of her art pieces were selected for the Emerging Visions Juried Art Show, and she was also selected to participate in the Hastings College Community Leadership Challenge for high achieving high school seniors. Congratulations, Annalise!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the following Volleyball players for being chosen for the Grand Island Independent All-Heartland Volleyball team.

4th Team

Abby VanBibber

Honorable Mention:

Chloe Keasling, Lauren Smith, and Abigail Uden



Congratulations to the Junior High Boys Basketball team for placing 2nd place at the Christ Norfolk Tournament!





ATHLETICS





Picture Highlights



LIGHTNING CORE VALUES

A-Accountability

We take responsibility for our actions, words, and growth.

B-Belief

We trust in God-and in the abilities He's given us.

C-Consistency

We show up with integrity and do our best every day.

D-Discipline

We stay focused, work hard, and grow through challenges.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Taylor (Zehendner) Parker is a 2018 HLHS graduate. She is married to Tanner, who graduated from HLHS in 2017. They have a son, Maddox, who is 10 months old. Taylor and her family live in Omaha where she is an Elementary Art teacher. Her favorite class in High School was Art and her favorite memory was setting the school record for the girls 4x4.



May the joy of Jesus' birth fill your hearts with hope, peace, and blessings throughout this season and into the new year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Grand Island Lutheran