

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

January 2026

Grand Island Lutheran High School

3900 W. Husker Hwy
Grand Island, NE 68803
308-385-3900
cnlutheran.org



As we begin a new semester at GILH, it is important to recognize the great work that our students did during first semester. We had 63 students achieve the honor roll. This is a testament to the values that our students hold, as well as to the incredible teachers who are not only educating our students, but also instilling in them characteristics they will carry forever. Our teachers also faithfully integrate the Gospel into our curriculum, reminding us that “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men” (Colossians 3:23, ESV).

Great things are happening each and every day at Grand Island Lutheran High, and as we celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week, it was a great reminder of the blessing that having a Lutheran education in our community truly is.

-Jeremiah Slough

Lightning SPOTLIGHT

Meet Our
TEACHERS



Mrs. Chelsey Liess is our English teacher. She and her husband Kevin live in Grand Island and have 3 children. She loves all things water-related; sun, beaches, summer, and the smell of sunscreen! Mrs. Liess's favorite part of teaching at Lutheran High is the students. She said the students are like bonus kids in a big school family. One piece of advice that Mrs. Liess likes to give students is that you don't have to be perfect. It is great to have high expectations of yourself, but one bad grade doesn't ruin the whole year, and one bad day doesn't usually change your whole life. Embrace the fun parts of school too while still achieving great things. The memories will be the part you take with you into adulthood. Work hard and be nice!

Student VOICE

Ema Koch is a Senior this year at GILH. Her favorite part of school so far this year has been the basketball season. She said that not only is it her favorite sport, but she loves how her teammates all get along so well and have fun together. Ema loves the environment at school and the culture here. When asked what she would tell a student who is thinking about coming to GILH, Ema said it's amazing here. It feels like one big family. The teachers are understanding, and it's so easy to get involved in so many things!



Notes from the Front Office:

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



JUL
17

Upcoming Events

- **January 30-** No School/
Winterball
- **February 19-** PT Conferences
- **February 20-** No School/
State Cheer
- **March 9-13-** Spring Break
- **March 21-** Red/Blue Gala
- **March 28-** Prom

If you know anyone that would
like to receive our monthly
newsletter, please contact the
school office at
hsoffice@cnlutheran.org
and we will be happy to add
them to our mailing list!

HONOR ROLL

FIRST SEMESTER

JUNIOR HIGH

- Chloe Baker
- Colin Driewer*
- Graham Laurent*
- Keaton Malmstrom
- Ariela Meier-Juarez
- Oliva Salmon*
- Caleb Strong
- Harper Bennett*
- Autumn Clement
- Simon Gustafson*
- Xavier Hauser
- Abigail Meyer*
- Jacob Theisen

*denotes all As

HIGH SCHOOL

- Neveah Bucknell
- Olivia Lassonde
- Jordan Liess*
- Claire Manchester
- Annika Morris*
- Katelyn Sandoval*
- Daniel Bader*
- Micah Captain
- Madden Culler
- Zane Harvey
- Ellie Keasling
- Maeve Nott
- Alex Augustin
- Lauren Johnsen*
- Noah Krueger
- Skyler Liess
- Maximus Mora*
- Joshua Olson*
- Caden Hauser
- Kassidy Kennard
- Lauren Smith
- Daisy Canady*
- Katelyn Hoins*
- Colton Krueger*
- Grace Salmon*
- Abigail Uden
- Brooke Adams
- Atley Hadenfeldt
- Chloe Keasling
- Ryloe Nielsen
- Chad Rostvet
- Grace Bader*
- Taylor Kelm
- Holley Lassonde
- Elise Meyer
- Maxwell Murdoch*
- Darius Uden
- Morgan Holliday*
- Luke Olson
- Aiden Stewart
- Madison Dack
- Caden Kelm
- Aubrey Reynolds*
- Emma Strong
- Aubrey VanBibber*
- Darrin Bexten
- Annalise Hauser*
- Ema Koch
- Ramsey Rathjen*
- Colton Zehendner*

*denotes 4.0

Congrats!



8TH GRADER,
JACKSON BOEHLER
AND 7TH GRADER,
GAVRIEL ELLISON
REPRESENTED GI
LUTHERAN AT THE
HALL COUNTY
SPELLING BEE!
CONGRATULATIONS!



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

THE SPEECH TEAM HAD A
GREAT FIRST MEET AT
THE HIGH PLAINS INVITE.

GRACE BADER PLACED
3RD IN NOVICE HUMOROUS
INTERPRETATION.

TAYLOR KELM AND
LAUREN JOHNSON
PLACED 4TH IN
NOVICE DUET ACTING.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR QUIZ BOWL TEAM
FOR PLACING 2ND OUT OF 32 TEAMS AT THE
NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN INVITE!

CONGRATULATIONS TO
GRACE BADER ON
PLACING 3RD IN NOVICE
HUMOROUS
INTERPRETATION AT THE
DONIPHAN-TRUMBELL
INVITE!





**CONGRATULATIONS TO EMA KOCH
FOR BREAKING THE CAREER 3
POINT SCHOOL RECORD!**

ATHLETICS



**HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT
RUNNER-UPS!**



**3RD PLACE FINISH AT THE
COLUMBUS JH TOURNAMENT**



**ABIGAIL UDEN BROKE THE
SCHOOL RECORD FOR
SINGLE GAME ASSISTS!
CONGRATULATIONS!**



VISIT DAY



ON JANUARY 16TH, 2026 AREA 5TH-8TH GRADERS JOINED US FOR VISIT DAY! WE ENJOYED MEETING THESE STUDENTS AND SHOWING THEM ALL THAT WE HAVE TO OFFER! WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING MANY OF THEM AS FULL-TIME STUDENTS IN THE FUTURE!



Psalm 145:4



Christ-Centered



Psalm 34:1

National LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK



Joy



Matthew 5:9



Serving Others



Psalm 100:1

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

Ethan Reynolds is a 2023 HLHS graduate. He is currently attending Concordia Seward where he is majoring in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Middle Level Math and getting his Lutheran Teaching Diploma. Ethan was recently engaged to his fiancé, Tayley! In high school, Ethan really enjoyed Art Class with Mr. Barnes and Theology with Mr. Krall. When asked what advice he would give to current students, he said, “don’t sweat the small stuff. Sometimes you just have to figure things out as you go!”

