

AUG/SEPT 2025

GARDEN VALLEY

SCHOOL DISTRICT



NEWSLETTER



Mr. Mark Kovisto (top) & a new leased bus (bottom)

NEW WHEELS

Have you noticed some shiny, new buses around town? We are saving lots of money by bringing busing in house and have better buses! With Mr. Mark Kovisto at the helm as our Transportation Director, GVSD students are in good hands. Mr. Mark is not only an excellent driver and bus mechanic, he also trains drivers.

Quick Facts

- Leasing four 2023 Thomas school buses equipped with: air conditioning, drop-down chains, and 4 cameras
- Saving the district \$ versus using Harlow's services (Offered services would see a 30% increase this year.)
- Fueling will be on site, saving more \$
- Will provide better opportunities for daily bus routes, field trips, and extra-curricular activities
- For questions, email mkovisto@gvdsd.net

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Ruby Chambers embodies the Wolverine Way. She treats others with kindness and respect. Ruby goes out of her way to make other students feel comfortable and included. She engages fully in classes and takes responsibility for her work. She challenges herself academically and is always eager to learn new things. We can always count on Ruby to have a positive attitude and a smile on her face in class and beyond!



Ruby Chambers (above) received multiple nominations for this first edition's Student Spotlight. The striking artwork behind Ruby was created by Senior Abigail Brown (not pictured).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9/11: School Picture Day
- 9/15 - 9/20: Homecoming Week
- 9/17: ASVAB Testing (10th Grade)
- 9/17: GVSD Board Meeting in Lowman
- 9/20: Homecoming Dance
- 9/26: Teacher In-Service

LOWMAN ELEMENTARY



Ms. Shannon Hugi (left) teaches local Lowman students at Lowman Elementary (right).

We're thrilled to announce that Lowman Elementary School is up and running! At our charming one-room schoolhouse, we serve students from kindergarten through 6th grade. As part of the Garden Valley School District, Lowman Elementary is the only public school in the greater Lowman area, playing a vital role in our community. There are typically fewer than 10 students enrolled, and the school offers a highly personalized learning experience. Ms. Shannon leads multiple grade levels using differentiated instruction tailored to each student's needs. Lowman Elementary is more than just a school; it is deeply rooted in traditions that are in the heart of Lowman.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

This year marks the launch of our new After-School Program. Elementary teachers offer structured activity and study time for K-5 students Monday - Wednesday. On Thursdays, GVSD Community School provides after-school programming for K-12 students, led by trusted school staff.

www.gvdsd.net

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SAFETY SOUNDBITE

As fall mornings grow darker, Deputy Gomez is urging parents to make their children more visible on the way to the bus stop.

Reflective clothing, bright backpacks, or even a small clip-on light can make a big difference for drivers who may struggle to see kids along rural roads or busy intersections.

A simple step like adding something reflective or brightly colored helps ensure children are seen, and safe, while waiting for the bus in low-light conditions.



Deputy Dave Gomez, GVSD School Resource Officer (SRO)

EDUCATOR EXCELLENCE



Ms. Bundy Stephens
Pre-K/Special Education Teacher

Bundy Stephens has excelled as Special Education and Early Childhood Development/Pre-K teacher. This is her fourth year at GVSD and second year as a teacher. Ms. Bundy's superpower is forming strong bonds with students, helping students of all ages achieve academic and behavioral success.

Ms. Bundy enjoys the strong sense of community at GVSD. Outside of school, Ms. Bundy enjoys spending time with family and camping, fishing, hunting, and gardening with her husband.

Angela Mascall is excited to serve as the Vice Principal and first-grade teacher this year. She helped students achieve exemplary IRI (reading) scores as the 2nd/3rd-grade teacher last year and has 14 years of global teaching experience. Ms. Mascall completed her administrative program and internship last year with us. Passionate about fostering a safe, supportive classroom, she values continuous professional growth and community service.



Ms. Angela Mascall
Vice Principal & 1st Grade Teacher

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Welcome back! The new school year is off to a strong start, and I'm excited to continue learning and growing with the Garden Valley community. As we refocus our efforts, we remain committed to learning, adapting, and connecting with students, staff, and community members.

You may notice some necessary changes across the district in response to updated state and federal regulations (e.g., scheduling). Other efforts, such as bringing busing in-house, are to ensure long-term financial sustainability and responsible use of taxpayer funds. While change can bring challenges, our top priority remains the safety and academic success of every student.

So much good is happening in our district on a daily basis! Some quick examples: 1. K-12 students all have the opportunity to take in-person electives, such as P.E., Art, and Performing Arts. 2. Our K-3 students achieved the third-highest Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) scores for traditional public school districts in Idaho in 2025, thanks to the efforts of our K-3 team. 3. We have a record number of students dual-

enrolling this year, and are offering even more college courses because of our dedicated high-school staff members.

With our shared commitment to doing what's best for students, this year is going to be great!



Ms. Hannah Spafford, Superintendent (top right) reading to kindergarten students (center, bottom)