Granby B.E.A.R. Transition Academy

Student & Parent Handbook

2023-2024 School Year

Granby Public Schools

Resourceful Learners • Effective Communicators • Positive Contributors

Granby B.E.A.R. Transition Academy

August 2023

Dear Students and Families!

We are excited to welcome you to the Granby B.E.A.R. Transition Academy, located at the Farmington Valley YMCA in Granby, CT! It is going to be a year filled with engaging opportunities for personal growth and independence and we greatly look forward to your partnership along the way.

Please carefully review the enclosed information, which includes essential program information as well as two forms to sign and return. Please retain a copy of this handbook for future reference.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Walsh	Jennifer Miller	Kathryn Weingartner
Special Education Teacher	Department Head	Director of Pupil Services

Granby B.E.A.R. Transition Academy

PROGRAM LOCATION

The Granby B.E.A.R. Transition Academy is located at the Farmington Valley YMCA at 97 Salmon Brook Street, Granby, CT. Phone is 860-653-5524. Our classroom space is located in the Community Room, which has an adjacent kitchen. Students will be accessing different areas of the YMCA for health & fitness as well as internship opportunities.

CALENDAR

The Granby B.E.A.R. Transition Academy will follow the Granby Public Schools 2023-2024 approved calendar (see last page). Please use this link to access the most up to date school calendar, which will be adjusted as the year progresses due to weather.

The first day of school is Tuesday, August 29th and is an early release day. Wednesday, August 30th is also an early release day. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 pm. Lunch does not need to be sent on early release days.

The Granby B.E.A.R. Transition Academy will follow the Granby Memorial High School schedule for early release dismissal dates due to parent-teacher conferences.

SCHOOL HOURS

Regular School Day:	8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Early Release:	8:00 am - 11:45 am (no lunch needed)
Delayed Opening:	10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Weather Related Early Release:	8:00 am - 10:30 am

CONTACT INFORMATION

Kathleen Walsh, Special Education Teacher
walshk@granbyschools.org
860-844-5257 (Pupil Services Office)
860-653-5524 x112 (Farmington Valley YMCA) / 860-929-0129 (work cell)

Jennifer Miller, Department Head
millerj@granbyschools.org
860-844-3014 (Granby Memorial High School)

Kathryn Weingartner, Director of Pupil Services
weingartnerk@granbyschools.org
860-844-5255 (Pupil Services Office)

Lisa Holm, Administrative Assistant ~ Pupil Services
holml@granbyschools.org
860-844-5257 (Pupil Services Office)

Granby B.E.A.R. Transition Academy

PARENT/GUARDIAN - TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Open communication is essential and welcomed. Please contact Ms. Walsh via email and she will gladly respond when able. Please know staff and students are engaged in learning and vocational activities throughout the day and will most likely be best able to respond before or after program hours.

Should you have a true emergency and need to contact your student immediately, please call the front desk at the Farmington Valley YMCA (860-653-5524).

ABSENCES, LATE ARRIVALS & EARLY DISMISSALS

Please email Kathleen Walsh walshk@granbyschools.org) and Lisa Holm (holml@granbyschools.org) to report an absence, late arrival or early dismissal before 8:00 am.

Should a situation arise within the day that affects your student's attendance, please contact Lisa Holm @ 860-844-5257 and she will communicate this information to the program and the bus company.

Please try to plan appointments and vacations after school hours or during school breaks.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Emergency contact and health information in Powerschool will be used by the program. Please be sure you have updated this information accordingly. Lisa Holm (holml@granbyschools.org) can be of assistance if needed.

Granby Public Schools nursing supervisor, Jodi French, is providing support to the program. Please note there is NOT a school nurse on site daily. Should your student become ill during the school day, Granby Public Schools nursing staff will be consulted and you may be required to pick your student up.

CPR and First Aid certified staff are available at the Farmington Valley YMCA and accessible to our program in case of emergency.

MATERIALS

Your student should bring a backpack and lunch daily.

More specific information will be provided by Ms. Walsh regarding additional items students may need.

In the future, students will be shopping, preparing and cooking some lunches. More information will be provided by Ms. Walsh when this will begin.

Granby B.E.A.R. Transition Academy

CELL PHONES

Students will be taught how best to manage cell phone use in the different settings they will participate in. Students will not be permitted to charge their cell phones in the classroom or on job sites so please be sure these are charged at home.

INTERNSHIPS

Student internship sites will be identified and initiated by the end of September. Student interest inventories and skills assessments will be conducted during the first month of school to support strong matches.

DRESS CODE

Students will be learning about appropriate dress given the different activities, experiences and internships they will be engaged in. Most internship sites require casual, yet professional attire. Specific information about dress code requirements will be shared by Ms. Walsh as appropriate.

COMMUNITY OUTINGS

Students will have the opportunity within the course of the school year to participate in a variety of community outings. These will be communicated in advance by Ms. Walsh.

BEST BUDDIES

Students are welcome to continue to participate in the Best Buddies program, located at Granby Memorial High School, and serve as role models for younger students. More information will be forthcoming.

PLANNING & PLACEMENT TEAM MEETINGS

Lisa Holm, Administrative Assistant ~ Pupil Services, will be scheduling PPT meetings for the transition academy. Should you wish to schedule a PPT, please inform Ms. Walsh, who will then contact Ms. Holm.

VISITING THE YMCA

Similar to our school buildings, if you need to come to the YMCA to bring your student any items, to pick him/her up early, etc., you will be required to present a driver's license to the YMCA staff at the front desk to be run through the Raptor system as part of their safety procedures.

Granby B.E.A.R. Transition Academy

Transportation for Internship & Community Outings Permission Form
2023-2024

Students, Teachers and Teaching Assistants/Job Coaches travel to internship sites and community outings via van/bus provided by CREC Transportation.

Information about internship and community outings will be provided to students and parents in advance.

Please complete the permission slip below and return to Ms. Kathleen Walsh, Special Education Teacher.

We, _____and_____, give permission to
(Student Name) (Parent/Guardian Name)
be transported by the Granby Public Schools to internship sites and community outings.

_____ _____
Student Signature Date

_____ _____
Parent Signature Date

Granby B.E.A.R. Transition Academy

Handbook Confirmation
2023-2024

Please check and sign to acknowledge:

☐ I have read and understand all the information in this handbook.

☐ I have completed all forms required in this handbook.

_____ _____
Student Signature Date

_____ _____
Parent Signature Date

Granby B.E.A.R. Transition Academy

Granby Public Schools
2023-2024 Calendar

AUGUST (3 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24^{PD}	25^{PD}
28^{PD}	~~29*~~	~~30~~	31◆	

SEPTEMBER (19 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4^{H}	5	6	7◆	8
11	12	13	14◆	15
18	19	20	21◆	22
25^{H}	26	~~27~~	28◆	29

OCTOBER (21 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5◆	6
9^{H}	10	11	12◆	13
16	17	18	19◆	20
23	24	25	26◆	27
30	31			

NOVEMBER (19 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2◆	3
6	7^{PD}	8	9◆	10
13	14	15	16^{ES}	17
20	21	~~22~~	23^{H}	24^{V}
27	28	29	30◆	

DECEMBER (16 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6^{EE}	7^{EE}◆	8^{EE}
11	12	13	14◆	15
18	19	20	21◆	~~22~~
25^{H}	26^{V}	27^{V}	28^{V}	29^{V}

JANUARY (21 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
1^{H}	2	3	4◆	5
8	9	~~10~~	11◆	12
15^{H}	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25◆	26
29	30	31		

FEBRUARY (19 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
			1◆	2
5	6	7	8◆	9
12	13	14	15◆	16
19^{H}	20^{V}	21	22◆	23
26	27	28	29◆	

MARCH (19 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7◆	8^{PD}
11	12	13	14◆	15
18	19^{ES}	20^{EE}	21◆^{EE}	22^{EE}
25	26	27	28◆	29^{H}

APRIL (17 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4◆	5
8^{V}	9^{V}	10^{V}	11^{V}	12^{V}
15	16	17	18◆	19
22	23	24	25◆	26
29	30			

MAY (21 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2◆	3
6	7	8	9◆	10
13	14	15	16◆	17
20	21	22	23◆	24^{PD}
27^{H}	28	29	30◆	31

JUNE (5 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	~~5~~	~~6~~	~~7*~~
10+	11+	12+	13+	14+
17	18	19^{H}	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

∗ First/Last Day of School

Holiday/Vacation/PD - No School

◆ HS PLC Late Arrival

/ Early Release All Schools

EE Early Dismissal Elementary Only

ES Early Dismissal Secondary Only

+ Emergency Days

School Breaks: Dec. 25, 2023-Jan. 1, 2024 ✦ February 19-20, 2024 ✦ April 8-12, 2024

Kelly Lane Primary School

Aug. 28 PK-Grade 2 Meet & Greet
Sept. 26 K & Grade 1 Curriculum Night
Sept. 28 PK & Grade 2 Curriculum Night
Sept. 27 Early Release (Prof. Dev.)
Dec. 6-8 Early Release (Conf.)
Dec. 6 Evening Conferences
Jan. 10 Early Release (Prof. Dev.)
Mar. 20-22 Early Release (Conf.)
Mar. 20 Evening Conferences
June 7 Last Day of School

Wells Road Intermediate School

Aug. 28 Grades 3-5 Meet & Greet
Sept. 19 Grade 3 Curriculum Night
Sept. 21 Grades 4-5 Curriculum Night
Sept. 27 Early Release (Prof. Dev.)
Dec. 6-8 Early Release (Conf.)
Dec. 7 Evening Conferences
Jan. 10 Early Release (Prof. Dev.)
Mar. 20-22 Early Release (Conf.)
Mar. 21 Evening Conferences
June 7 Last Day of School

Granby Memorial Middle School

Aug. 28 Grade 6 Meet & Greet
Sept. 14 Open House
Sept. 27 Early Release (Prof. Dev.)
Nov. 16 Early Release (Conf.)
Nov. 16 Afternoon/Evening Conf.
Jan. 10 Early Release (Prof. Dev.)
Mar. 19 Early Release (Conf.)
June 7 Last Day of School

Granby Memorial High School

Aug. 28 Freshman Orientation
Sept. 7 Open House
Sept. 27 Early Release (Prof. Dev.)
Nov. 16 Early Release (Conf.)
Nov. 16 Afternoon/Evening Conf.
Jan. 10 Early Release/Prof. Dev.
Mar. 19 Early Release (Conf.)
June 7 Last Day of School*

*** Please note that the date for graduation will be set at a later date.**

SCHOOL	STUDENT REGULAR HOURS	TEACHER REGULAR HOURS	EARLY RELEASE	DELAYED OPENING	WEATHER-RELATED EARLY RELEASE
Middle School/High School					
Wells Road Int. School	7:35-2:30	7:15-2:45	7:35-12:10	9:35-2:30	7:35-10:45
Kelly Lane Primary School	8:30-3:25	8:10-3:40	8:30-1:05	10:30-3:25	8:30-11:45
Pre-School (A.M.)	8:30-3:25	8:10-3:40	8:30-1:05	10:30-3:25	8:30-11:45
Pre-School (P.M.)	8:45-11:15	8:10-3:40	8:45-10:15	No Session*	8:45-10:15
*AM Pre-School will be cancelled if there is a 2-hour	12:30-3:00	8:10-3:40	11:00-12:30**	12:30-3:00	No Session**

**PM Pre-School will be cancelled if there is an unscheduled early release due to inclement weather.

BOE Approved 12-7-22