

Starting last school year, Grand Blanc Community Schools began using [Bark for Schools](#) to help us monitor school-issued student accounts for signs of digital dangers. When potential issues like cyberbullying, suicidal ideation, and threats of violence arise, Bark sends us a notification. Parents and guardians can benefit from receiving these alerts, as well.

All GBCS parents were sent an invitation to sign up for the Parent Portal in December 2020. If you have not already set up your account or are new to the district, please watch your email for an invitation to sign up for your free account* (make sure to check your junk/spam folder and your inbox)

Get Alerts With the Free Parent Portal

Kids use their school-issued accounts both at school and at home, and families are often in a better position to respond to urgent alerts after hours, on weekends, and during breaks. These are times when the administration may not be available in the event of an emergency.

As soon as you opt-in, you'll start receiving after-hours alerts** when Bark detects potentially time-sensitive issues (i.e. threats, cyberbullying, etc...). Alerts may also be sent during times when school is not in session and, therefore, administration would not be available (i.e. holiday breaks, summer break, etc...). Additionally, administrators may send alerts directly to parents from Bark if they feel that parents should be made aware of any additional flagged issues (profanity, explicit material, etc...).

For more information on how GBCS utilizes filtering on district devices, please visit <https://www.gbcs.org/filtering>. To learn more about Bark, [click here](#) for a short overview or view their [Parent Portal help guide](#) which will give you information on what to expect once you get your invitation. Thank you for your support as we strive to help keep our students safe both online and in real life.

**Invitations are automatically sent by Bark each Sunday to the email addresses listed in Synergy for any parent/guardian with the appropriate permissions. Log in to [Synergy ParentVue](#) to ensure the correct email address is listed in Synergy ([click here for more information](#)).*

***After-hours is defined as 3 p.m. to 8 a.m and holiday/school breaks; during Remote/Hybrid Learning periods, Bark alerts may be available to parents during school hours, as well.*

Grand Blanc Community Schools Technology Services