



FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 8 - 12 & POST GRADUATE

# WE DEVELOP THE TOTAL YOUNG MAN

Academically, Emotionally, and Socially

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**GRAND RIVER ACADEMY** is a college preparatory boarding and day school that helps young men activate their academic, emotional, and social potential and prepares them for lifelong success.



## ACADEMICS AT GRAND RIVER ACADEMY

Grand River Academy was founded in 1831 and is located on over 150 acres in Austinburg, Ohio, less than one hour east of Cleveland. GRA is a close-knit and supportive community featuring a 360° approach to develop the total young man: academically, emotionally, and socially.

We not only prepare our students for college—proven by our 100 percent college placement rate—but, we also prepare them to be well-rounded people and contributing citizens for the rest of their lives.

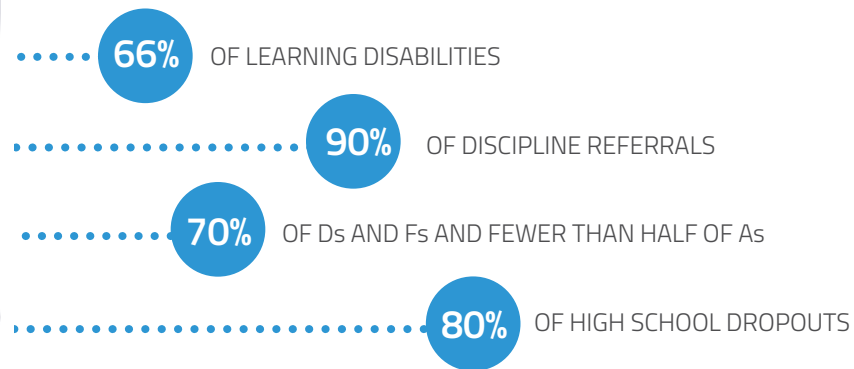
At GRA, we encourage students to be themselves and provide the structure and opportunities for them to become happier, more self-aware, and productive.

## Why an All-Boy's Education at GRA?



The male brain is designed with its own set of strengths and areas of growth. While traditional education is geared toward the female brain, male students can find success by catering to their specific makeup. Find out how GRA creates an optimal male learning environment.

### Boys in Traditional Education Account For:



## How an All-Male Classroom Helps:



PRESENT INFORMATION VISUALLY



ASSIGN HANDS-ON PROJECTS



USE PROPS IN THE CLASSROOM



ALLOW FOR PERIODS OF REST



MAINTAIN STRUCTURE TO CATER TO THE MALE BRAIN'S COMPARTMENTS



ROLE MODELS HOLD PREVIOUSLY STRUGGLING BOYS ACCOUNTABLE



## **SPECIALIZED SUPPORT.** Grand River Academy offers specialized support for each student based on his individual needs.

Grand River Academy offers specialized support for each student in the form of small class sizes, individualized attention, residential staff, extra help sessions, evening study times, special afternoon study halls, Saturday study sessions and monthly report cards.

### **Daily Advisor Communication**

We pair every student with a faculty advisor who remains with the him for his entire time at Grand River Academy. Each advisor group consists of four to six students to allow close relationships to form. Each group eats breakfast and lunch together during the week and the advisor communicates with the parents or guardians of each student, which allows for open discussion and creates a true sense of community.



## SUPPORT AT GRAND RIVER ACADEMY



### Foundations Learning Program

The Foundations Learning Program is a credited, elective course, which builds the foundation for academic success through comprehensive educational support.

Assisting a student in developing more effective learning strategies to reach his full potential as a self-directed learner, The Foundations Learning Program begins with a learning style inventory and assessment to address each participating student's style of learning. Daily sessions are designed to promote independent learning through individualized tutorials that emphasize organizational skills, time management, and self-advocacy.

#### The Foundations Learning Program assists with:

- Reading comprehension
- Study skills
- Organizational skills
- Note-taking strategies
- Test preparation, test-taking strategies, and testing accommodations
- Time management

### Active Learning Component

At Grand River Academy, we offer personalized learning support for students with ADHD and mild to moderate learning differences.

A fundamental component to the Foundations Learning Program is Educational Kinesiology. With this component, students practice intentional physical movement to enhance neurological pathways, which can assist with the learning process and help with focus.

Each class begins with physical exercises and combines various methodologies to predispose boys with ADHD and other learning difficulties to accept and better process information.

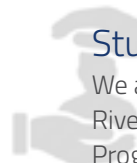


### Productive Growth Center

The Productive Growth Center provides not only a dedicated space for individual and group counseling, but also an interactive and recreational space featuring a hand tool wood workshop.

GRA firmly believes in providing programs that support healthy lifestyles and the enrichment of character through emotional awareness as part of our mission to prepare young men for lifelong success. The Productive Growth Center:

- Acclimates young men to focus their energy in a productive and positive manner
- Integrates skills learned into recreational and social activities
- Teaches the value of hands-on, project based activities directly within counseling sessions
- Empowers students to identify and work with issues to assist in their educational and personal growth



### Student Assistance Program

We are committed to personalized and customized student support at Grand River Academy. An essential part of everyday life is our Student Assistance Program (SAP), which is a service designed to help each student with his emotional or social needs.

Each student individually benefits from the SAP in their own unique way. Students transition to Grand River Academy from a variety of backgrounds, from large public school settings to various therapeutic, emotional growth and wilderness programs.

Our students are able to use the SAP to expand upon their growth made at past programs or to continue their emotional development. They begin their work at GRA with a strong support plan in place, which is personalized by the SAP coordinator.



**OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH.** We offer unique and individualized learning opportunities throughout the entire year.



## UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES EVERYDAY AND IN THE SUMMER

### Summer Academy

GRA's Summer Academy is a five-week program designed to strengthen a subject area, make up lost credits, improve a particular grade, or prepare for the SAT, ACT, or TOEFL exams. A report card with percentage grades will be provided for parents to summarize progress at the end of each week.

The Summer Academy is highly individualized and has an average class size of four students to each faculty member. Students receive personalized attention and benefit from a daily help session, as well as access to faculty living on campus. GRA's Summer Academy provides the structure and interest to create a successful experience for our students.

In addition to a structured academic setting, students are still able to enjoy their summer by participating in a variety of activities including recreational sports, art, swimming and other outdoor water activities. We offer field trips twice per week to places such as Cedar Point Amusement Park, major and minor league sporting events, beach trips, fishing on Lake Erie, Niagara Falls, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland Zoo and more.

### International Student Program

International students come to Grand River Academy to learn English and to prepare for and gain acceptance to an American university.

GRA supports international students of varying English proficiencies with two levels of English as a Second Language (ESL). Ultimately, international students matriculate into all mainstream courses.

The English Speaking Partner Program (ESP) pairs international students with a domestic peer. Together they participate in activities throughout the year. This program fosters friendship and camaraderie and is unique to GRA.

### Winter Term

GRA's Winter Term provides students with the opportunity to learn and collectively create experiential courses with GRA faculty.

During January (between first and second semester classes), students gain credit for two, two-week courses specifically designed for immersion into a given educational topic and experience(s).

Course examples include a culture study and foreign travel, psychology of sports, small business/entrepreneurship, and art/writing among others.



# PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE.

Our goal remains the same for every student — to prepare him for college and the rest of his life.

At Grand River Academy, young men experience an academic philosophy focused on learning how to learn. This process of learning is reflected in each class. Study skills, time management techniques, note-taking strategies, college prep curriculum, and test preparation methods are taught and reinforced in all aspects of our boarding and day school environment.

GRA has a tradition of a **100% college placement rate**. To graduate with a Grand River Academy diploma, our young men must have earned a college acceptance. Our goal is to find the “perfect match” for each student where his personality, academic abilities and learning style will be accentuated. Annually, GRA students collectively average more than \$300,000 in scholarship money to institutions of higher learning—an astounding amount that is a testament to how hard these young men work to overcome many challenges and are often recognized with scholarships for their potential—both academically and as leaders.

Once our students begin the college search and application process, our placement director helps guide each young man. The Dean of Academics, Guidance, and College Placement writes a personal letter about each student. We want the institution to know the student, including his strengths, the challenges he has overcome and how his attributes have made him a better individual. And most importantly, we want the schools to know why he should gain acceptance to his top choice.



## PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE AND BEYOND

### The Passage

Grand River Academy's Rite of Passage program engages each young man attending GRA in a series of life skill activities, public speaking opportunities, mentoring and leadership as a means of empowering each student to acquire the skills needed to be successful at GRA and beyond.

From budgeting and proper meal etiquette, to forming healthy relationships, leading a group and volunteering, eighth grade through post-graduate students are responsible for their personal growth in given areas each school year.

Grand River Academy students also have the opportunity to participate in the Kent State University Post Secondary Enrollment Option program. The program is designed to provide high school students with access to college level work. College courses taken under this program are not intended to replace high school course work, but rather to enhance the educational experience.

### The Transition

To bridge the transition between high school and college, each graduate of Grand River Academy is provided a booklet "Life After GRA: A How-To Guide for College Success," as well as maintained communication between the graduate and GRA.

During freshman year of college, each GRA graduate has the opportunity for assistance of GRA faculty and staff in navigating the university system. In addition to outreach by GRA's Alumni Office, impromptu correspondence from GRA advisors, coaches, and teachers will be evident throughout the year.



### Graduating Class Highlights (2011 - 2015)

#### On average, our students receive:

- Three college acceptances.
- A combined \$300,000 per year in college scholarships offered.

#### Out of 152 Graduates:

- 92% received acceptance in top college choice
- 8% received acceptance in second college choice

These successes reflect the highly individualized search process with each student and his family with the support from the Dean of Academics, Guidance, and College Placement.

At GRA, it's not just about getting your son into a college or university; it's about developing the attributes he needs to be a successful, ethical, and capable citizen.



**STUDENT LIFE.** With our dedicated mission and small student population, Grand River Academy has the opportunity to provide an engaging and meaningful residential life program.





## STUDENT LIFE AT GRAND RIVER ACADEMY

The campus includes five dormitories, each featuring double-occupancy rooms for the students, an apartment for the respective dorm parents and a community common area.

Students have access 24 hours a day and seven days a week to the dorm parents. **Together, they work collaboratively to foster a sense of community and family.** Game nights, movie nights, cookouts and birthday celebrations often contribute to the feeling of community.

During their free time each week, our boys have many options for activities. They can visit the Bud Field Student Center to enjoy snacks at Andy's Café, play ping-pong, billiards, cards, shuffle board or play an instrument in the music room, among other activities.

Students can use the gym, which includes a basketball court, indoor batting cage, weight room, and a fitness room. The dorm common areas are available to watch television, play games, and hang out with their dormmates, while the Knowledge Common at Gates Library is available to study, check email and do homework. Activities such as tennis, biking, frisbee, golf and bocce are also available for the boys during the week.

Weekend life is also an important aspect of Grand River Academy. Students are able to relax in their dorms and other areas at GRA, volunteer within the community, or participate in a variety of off-campus activities.



**SPORTS & CLUBS.** The goal for our athletic teams is to build sportsmanship, teamwork, and to facilitate friendship and camaraderie.



## SPORTS & ACTIVITIES AT GRAND RIVER ACADEMY

To further enhance development of the total young man, Grand River Academy requires each boy to choose a minimum of one extra-curricular activity, either a sport or a club, per season.

**GRA offers a no-cut policy for all of our sports teams, clubs, and activities.** This allows every student on campus the opportunity to get involved and explore new interests.

### Sports

Our sports teams participate in the Lake Effect Conference. However, what makes Grand River Academy special is our no-cut policy. We will find a spot for anyone who would like to participate.

#### FALL

Soccer  
Cross Country  
Golf

#### SPRING

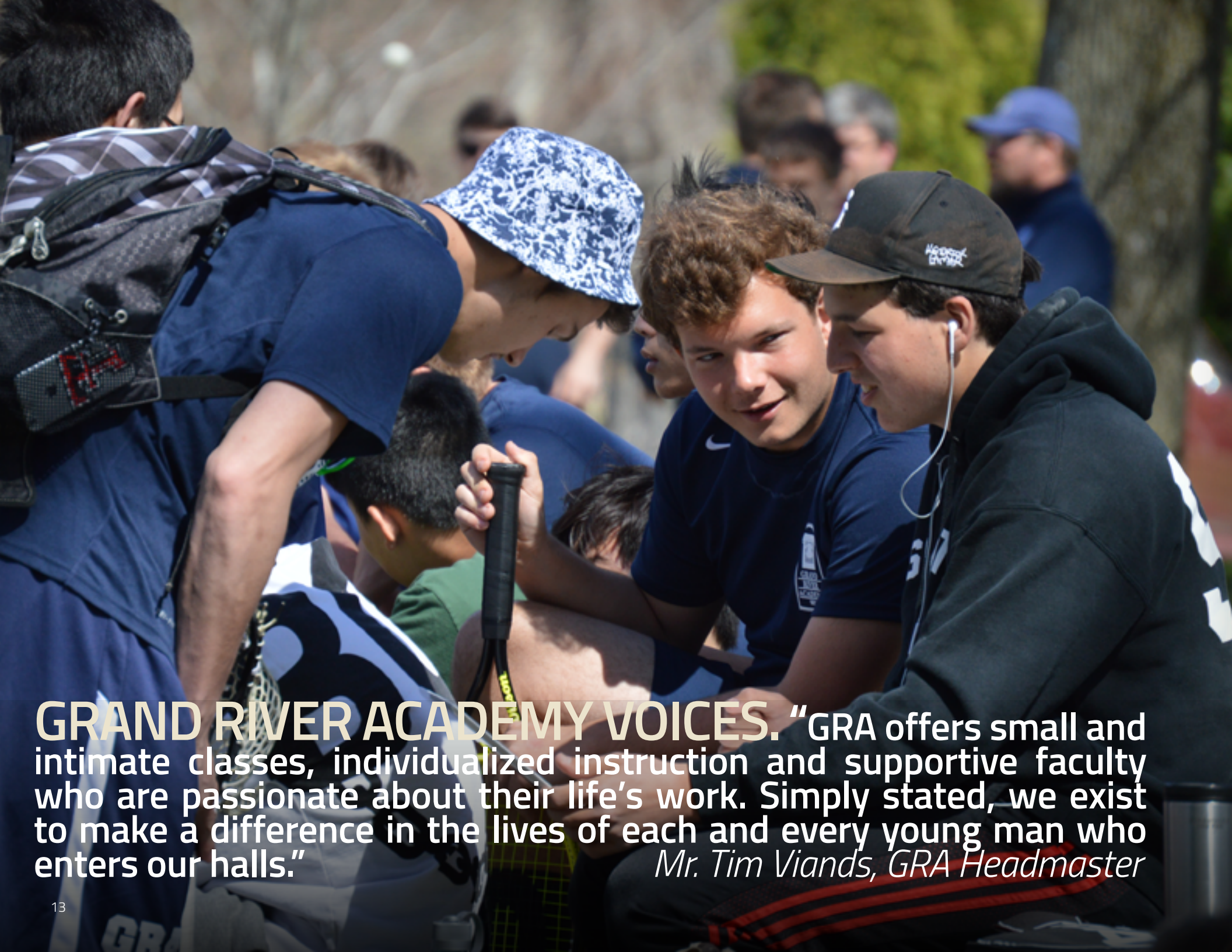
Baseball  
Lacrosse  
Tennis

#### WINTER

Basketball  
Wrestling  
Indoor Soccer  
Bowling

### Activities

Academic Challenge Team  
Anime Club  
Big Brothers, Big Sisters  
Botany & Tree ID Team  
Coffee Club  
Community Service Club  
English Speaking Partner Program  
Music Club  
National Honor Society  
Outdoors Club  
Peer Mentorship Program  
Recycling Club  
Robotics Team  
Ski/Snowboarding Club  
Student Council



**GRAND RIVER ACADEMY VOICES.** “GRA offers small and intimate classes, individualized instruction and supportive faculty who are passionate about their life’s work. Simply stated, we exist to make a difference in the lives of each and every young man who enters our halls.”  
*Mr. Tim Viands, GRA Headmaster*



## VOICES OF GRAND RIVER ACADEMY

"Education had finally led to happiness. Finally, I found myself in a place that was not stressful, was not filled with drama, and was not overwhelming. I have never found myself in an environment that I could truly thrive in. Grand River Academy was the provider of knowledge, and I was the receiver. Through all the hardships, I felt that I had found stable ground that I could trust myself to make decisions."

*GRA Student*

"GRA helped him rediscover his confidence and get back on track. He is now attending his first choice college."

*GRA Parent*

"GRA is and will always be my second family...It was easier for me to learn because I knew they cared and wanted to see their young men succeed. Prior to attending GRA I was at a point in life where I desperately needed a chance...I found myself at GRA around peers and staff who pushed me to be great, and now, I'm pursuing my dream."

*GRA Alumnus*

"Grand River Academy saved my son. He's wildly successful and happy now because of GRA."

*GRA Parent*

"Throughout high school, I have had many ups and downs but I have really been able to turn my life around. During these last two years, all of my immediate goals have been achieved and I have a newfound optimistic perspective on life. I am now ready to take my success and experiences to the next level and become a college student."

*GRA Student*

"The structured environment coupled with the caring faculty made a big difference in my life."

*GRA Alumnus*



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AT GRAND RIVER ACADEMY,

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To learn more or to schedule an on-campus visit, contact us  
today at 440.275.2811 or [admissions@grandriver.org](mailto:admissions@grandriver.org).

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