



GRIT with Intention

2026–2027 Focus Areas at Mary M. Knight

Mary M. Knight School Board Presentation

August 24, 2026 · Josh Stoney, Principal

GRIT with Intention: Year 3

Master the craft — the same words, practiced deeper and on purpose.

THE WORDS WE KEEP • GRIT × OWLS

Growth → **Ownership**

“I take responsibility for my learning and my growth.”

Resilience → **Willingness**

“I lean into hard things instead of avoiding them.”

Intensity → **Leadership**

“I bring focus, and I lift the people around me.”

Tenacity → **Success**

“I finish what I start — and I finish strong.”

THREE YEARS, ONE DIRECTION

-  **2024–25** Name the Language
-  **2025–26** Build the Systems
-  **2026–27** Master the Craft



ADULTS GO FIRST

Staff model intentional excellence before students are asked to own it more deeply. Not a sixth boulder — deeper, not more.



Teacher Clarity

BOULDER 1 OF 5

WHAT IT IS

Learning intentions & success criteria visible in every classroom.

WHY IT MATTERS

Students can name what they're learning and how they'll know they've got it.

IN ACTION

“I can” statements built with students; exit tickets that close the loop.



GLOW

Staff said Teacher Clarity is driving more intentional instruction — and the practices are transferring down to elementary too.

— June 2026 staff reflection



GROW

Staff's most-reinforced ask was student buy-in. 26-27 is framed publicly as a proficiency year — no new layers added.

— June 2026 staff reflection





Advisory

BOULDER 2 OF 5

WHAT IT IS

Daily connection time — HSBP planning, CharacterStrong, buddy classrooms.

WHY IT MATTERS

Every student has a relationship and a plan for their future.

IN ACTION

K-12 buddy classroom pairings; advisors loop with their grade group.



GLOW

Staff pointed to buddy classrooms and protected SEL time as this year's clearest relational win.

— June 2026 staff reflection



GROW

Staff flagged a sharp drop in senior engagement — grade 11-12 content is the top redesign priority.

— June 2026 staff reflection





Belonging

BOULDER 3 OF 5

WHAT IT IS

Every student Welcomed, Invited, and Heard.

WHY IT MATTERS

Connection is the foundation for engagement and achievement.

IN ACTION

Morning greetings, music at the curb, restorative circles.



GLOW

Staff called out morning greetings and music at the curb as simple, high-impact practices worth keeping.

— June 2026 staff reflection



GROW

Staff's central concern: reaching students who are reserved, apathetic, or frequently absent.

— June 2026 staff reflection



PLCs

BOULDER 4 OF 5

WHAT IT IS

Teacher teams using data to plan next instructional steps.

WHY IT MATTERS

Strong collaboration plus real data use drives better outcomes for kids.

IN ACTION

Grade-band team time; rotating roles — Activator, Data, Timekeeper.



GLOW

Staff said PLC time feels more focused and directionally clear than in past years.

— June 2026 staff reflection



GROW

Staff's top-reinforced ask: split time by Primary/Secondary/SpEd and teach data use, not just data collection.

— June 2026 staff reflection





Systems & Culture of Work

BOULDER 5 OF 5

WHAT IT IS

Consistent building-wide systems — Securly, hall pass, bell-to-bell.

WHY IT MATTERS

Predictable systems build a safe, positive learning environment.

IN ACTION

Proactive Chromebook monitoring; a unified digital hall pass.



GLOW

Staff's most positive feedback of any boulder — the shift to proactive systems, not reactive ones.

— June 2026 staff reflection



GROW

Staff asked us to build reliability into what we already have, including one unified cell phone policy.

— June 2026 staff reflection



How We'll Know It Worked

What we're watching for between now and June 2027.



More Recognition

Staff and students catching each other living the theme.



Real Reflection

Built-in check-ins for staff and students, all year long.



Felt at Secondary

The growth edge — adults model it, students own it.



One Shared Direction

Three years, one direction: name it, build it, master it.

Same GRIT. Same OWLS. Practiced on purpose.

