GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Transition to OneDrive:
What You Need to Know

Microsoft OneDrive is now the primary storage platform for all GVSU-managed Mac and Windows 11 computers. OneDrive replaces the legacy Private Network Drive (N: Drive) and offers a modern, secure, and accessible place to store your files. Explore more OneDrive features on Microsoft's website.
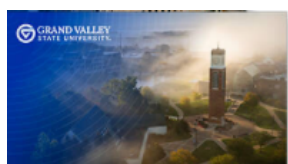
Why this matters:
OneDrive provides improved security and sharing, easier file access across devices, and better integration with the Microsoft 365 tools you use every day.

All data from the Private Network Drive has already been migrated to your OneDrive.
If you've already made the switch, access to the Private Network Drive has been removed.

The Private Network Drive will be fully phased out on February 2, 2026, and access will be discontinued at that time. In January, we'll send direct communication to anyone still using their N: Drive.

Getting Started:

- Mac users: Log in to the OneDrive client when prompted.
- Windows 11 users: No action needed; OneDrive is already connected.
- For additional support, visit the **OneDrive Knowledge Base**.

Show Laker Pride in Every Meeting
Introducing New Zoom Backgrounds

University Marketing is helping you show off Grand Valley's new brand with fresh Zoom backgrounds created just for our campus community. Several new GVSU-branded options have been added directly in Zoom and are now available to everyone through the Zoom settings.

To access the backgrounds, go to *Video Settings → Background & Effects* to browse the new GVSU options. If you don't see them right away, try restarting the Zoom application.

Quick tip: If your preview looks reversed, don't worry! You may have **"Mirror my video"** turned on. This only affects what *you* see—the background will display correctly to everyone else.

Bring the new brand to life and show your Laker pride in your next meeting!

Submit Your Software Lab or Classroom Install Requests Today

Now is the time to submit any lab or classroom software requests you'll need for Winter semester. Submitting early helps ensure software is installed, tested, and ready to go when classes begin. You can quickly submit your request through the Service Portal.

If you'd like to review what is currently installed, see Software List and Availbility in Computer Labs for where each package is available.

Help Shape GVSU's AI Strategy
Complete Survey & Share Input

Grand Valley is developing its first university-wide strategy for the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence in teaching, research, operations, and community impact. To ensure this work reflects campus needs, faculty and staff are invited to complete a short survey on current AI use and any opportunities or concerns.

Your input will directly guide the AI Steering Team as they chart GVSU's path forward. Take a few minutes to share your perspective and help shape this important work!

Start the AI Survey

Meet Samuel Nyarega
Academic Computing Specialist, IT Academic Research Computing

Samuel Nyarega has been part of GVSU IT's Academic Research Computing team for the past 1.5 years, where he supports Padnos College of Engineering students and faculty in achieving their academic and research goals through technology.

Samuel finds deep fulfillment in providing technology solutions that help bring engineering research to life. "There is always something new to learn every day," he shares. "I enjoy seeing students and faculty present the research we helped support behind the scenes—it's incredibly rewarding."

Samuel holds a bachelor's degree in Information Technology from Strathmore University (2015), a Master of Science in Cybersecurity from GVSU (2024), and is currently pursuing his MBA at GVSU.

Outside of work, Samuel enjoys traveling with his family, exploring new hiking trails, and spending time in nature. He also loves cooking and trying new recipes with his wife. Additionally, Samuel actively plays and coaches rugby with the Grand Rapids Gazelles and coaches the men's rugby club at GVSU.

Need IT Assistance?

Phone: (616) 331-2101   **Email:** it@gvsu.edu   **Service Portal:** services.gvsu.edu

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