



GHS INTERIM HEADMASTER and PTA NEWS
Wednesday, September 5, 2018
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(203) 625-8000 [Click Here to go to GHS Website](#)

UPDATES FROM GHS INTERIM HEADMASTER:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the start of the 2018-2019 school year. We have completed our class assemblies with all grades-- the energy and excitement in the building are great.

Each month, the PTA and I send you news and updates from GHS in the form of this electronic newsletter. We are committing to sending this newsletter in both English and Spanish. Please allow a day or two for the Spanish translation (to be posted on the website). The newsletter will always be posted on our News and [Social Media](#) page found under the GHS Information tab on the GHS website.

Our goal is to keep you informed with the news that you need without burdening you with a lengthy publication. If there is timely news or emergency information, I will communicate that separately through email or a phone message. You can also stay abreast of news at GHS via our Twitter accounts ([@GHSHeadmaster](#); [@GHS CARDS](#); [@GHS MediaCenter](#)). Communication through Twitter does NOT replace other information (no need to worry if you don't have Twitter).

Thank you,
Richard Piotrkowski, GHS Interim Headmaster

UPCOMING EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR:

**Food Drive on 9/11:
One-for-One on Nine-One-One**

On Tuesday, September 11th, Greenwich High School students and staff will participate in the ninth annual **September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance** by aiding those less fortunate in the Greenwich community.

With the help of the **GHS Roots & Shoots Club and Heroes Club**, students and staff pledge to collect at least 2,977 non-perishable, non-expired food items, one in memory of each victim lost that fateful day seventeen years ago. All donations will be given to Neighbor-to-Neighbor, a nonprofit organization serving the Greenwich community.

Throughout the day on 9/11, club members and volunteers will accept donations from students, parents, and staff in a cordoned section in the middle of the Student Center, which will serve as a memorial throughout the day. Community support for this service and remembrance project is greatly appreciated.

Roots& Shoots/ Helping Hand Club

On Saturday, October 6th, **Roots & Shoots and GHS Helping Hand clubs** will be participating in the first charity walk around Tod's Point in Greenwich to benefit **Dana's Angels: DART To the Finish Charity Walk**. Register NOW at [DanasAngels.org](#). Follow the simple steps and register as an individual or as a team. Prizes given for the registrant with the most donations raised. Sign-in starts at 8am at the Clambake area and the walk begins at 9am. Join us for an invigorating walk around beautiful Tod's Point, and help us raise much needed funds to find a cure for Niemann-Pick type C disease. If any student would like to volunteer at the event and earn community service hours, please contact the GHS Roots & Shoots Club (kathleen_mendez@greenwich.k12.ct.us) or the GHS Helping Hand Club (erin_randall@greenwich.k12.ct.us).

From GHS Outreach Club, CODA Club and StressLess Club:

SAVE THE DATE: Monday, September 24th, 7:00 - 8:00 pm at ARCH STREET TEEN CENTER, Presentation for parents and teens focusing on healthy ways to deal with the stress and anxiety of starting a new school year and beyond. **From GHS Wellness Education Department:** ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH FAIR, to observe National Recovery Month, is scheduled for students and staff on Tuesday, September 25th, 10:25 - 12:25. Prevention is Key, and knowing where to go and who to talk to for help is empowering.

Join Unified Sports and Hand in Hand!

Unified Sports and Hand in Hand are two school-based programs designed to foster a positive and inclusive foundation among special and general education students. Unified Sports is held on Saturdays (schedule to be determined) and offers three sports throughout the year: indoor soccer, basketball, and track and field. Hand in Hand will be held on Mondays from 2:45-3:45 p.m. in room 623 starting on September 17. If you would like to receive more information about either program or be added to the email lists, please contact **Erin Randall** at erin_randall@greenwich.k12.ct.us

Headmaster Forums:

Headmaster Forums are relatively small gatherings (20-40 parents) with the GHS Headmaster. The topics for discussion are largely determined by the parents in attendance. All Headmaster Forums will be held in the evening starting at 7:00PM in the Media Center. The first Headmaster Forum this year will be on **Monday, September 24th**. That forum is intended **for parents who are new to GHS**, but is **open to all**. The next Headmaster Forum for all GHS parents is Monday, October 15th.

Guidance Department:

Parents and Students in all grade levels in the district are encouraged to attend the **College Funding Presentation in the GHS PAC on Monday, September 17th at 7:00pm**. The presentation is delivered by the Barnum financial Group and sponsored by GHS Guidance and the Greenwich Alliance for Education. For a list of dates of other programs and activities related to post high school planning, please check the GHS Guidance website.

On Monday, October 1st: College Admissions Speaker Panel Presentation (GHS PAC) 7:00pm . All parents and students are welcome and encouraged to attend.

On Tuesday, October 2nd: Hispanic Parent Meeting will take place in the media center at 7pm.

The **PSAT** is being given to GHS students in grades 9, 10 and 11 on Wednesday, October 10th. There is a \$20 fee for Juniors to take the PSAT. Registration takes place in the GHS Main Office from 8am-3:30pm daily from Sept. 11-Sept. 27.

An Opportunity to Join Innovation Lab for Grades 10 or 11!:

Innovation Lab is devoted to fostering creativity, curiosity, and purpose within an interdisciplinary and academically rigorous, college preparatory curriculum. Teachers blend core disciplines to create STEM (Science and Math) and Humanities (History and English) in a project-based approach. Students develop the skills and content knowledge they require by connecting the learning across disciplines and participating in public exhibitions of learning. Students would be able to take their academic courses in a new way.

We have recently opened the program to allow sophomores to take either STEM or Humanities (or both), and juniors would take both STEM and Humanities. If 10th or 11th graders are interested send an email to ghsinnovationlab@greenwich.k12.ct.us to confirm qualifications, and check out our [website](#) and brief [application](#) before September 20th.

Student Activities office:

School photos: for 9, 10 and 11 grade students will be taken Tuesday September 4, 2018 - Friday September 7, 2018 in the GHS Student Center. 9th and 10th grades students will be escorted to school photos by their English Teachers and 11th grade students by Social Studies Teachers. **Senior retakes** or if you missed your senior portrait appointment, will take place early October. More info to come. **Underclassmen retakes** will be November 1st.

Compass Yearbooks: The 2019 yearbook and Senior Ads may be purchased online at yearbookforever.com. The deadline for the "early bird" yearbook price is December 31, 2018. Senior Ads are due by December 14, 2018.

Student IDs: All students must carry their ID and schedules. Replacement IDs can be purchased in Student Activities for \$5.

School Store: School Store is opened every day from 7:15-2:30. Come to purchase your Cardinal gear and school supplies!

The Daily Bulletin: The Daily Bulletin is published every day in student activities and is located on the Student Activities website.

Intramurals: will begin Tuesday, Sept. 11th after school. Fitness Center only to begin.

Library Media Center:

Library Hours - Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 7:45 am to 4:45 pm; Wednesday and Friday, 7:45 am to 3:30 pm (The library will close at 1:30 pm on Early Release Days and will close at 3:30 pm on Midterm and Final Exam days.) Media Specialists Alexandra Stevens, Laura Jean Waters, Marie Shimchick, and Susan Morris are available to assist students with accessing appropriate research resources and technology tools for projects and papers, selecting materials for independent reading, logging into and using school systems (Google Apps, Schoology, Aspen, etc.), fixing some technology issues, and more.

Online research databases and additional information about the Library Media Center can be accessed by going to GHS Website > Teaching & Learning > Library.

Students utilize the library for school work or as a quiet space in these three main areas:

- The back part of the Library (extending from the Career Center to the Science area) where the study carrels are located is for silent study only.
- The front part contains larger white tables and couch/chair clusters for collaborative work and group study.
- Between these spaces are several high top bistro tables for quiet, small group study.

The help desk will still be staffed during school hours. IT support will be available before school from 8:00 am to 8:30 am and during lunch from 11:24 am to 12:49 pm

We have a number of parents who volunteer in the library each school year - if you are interested in helping out, please contact marie_shimchick@greenwich.k12.ct.us. Please follow us on Twitter - [@GHS_MediaCenter](https://twitter.com/GHS_MediaCenter).

GHS Dress Code

We ask parents to help students make wise decisions about the clothing they wear to school. As stated in our Parent Handbook: *Dress Code Students should dress within reasonable limits so that their dress does not jeopardize the health or safety of the wearers or others, or cause distraction or disruption of the educational process as determined by the administration. (Clothing which advertises drugs or alcohol is inappropriate for school wear.) GHS reserves the right to determine what constitutes dress that is disruptive to the educational climate or process. Footwear and shirts must be worn at all times. Clothing should be neat and clean. Teachers may ask students to remove their hats during class time.*

Anonymous Alerts

Anonymous Alerts allows students or parents to anonymously submit any sensitive or urgent student issues quickly to school officials. Students or parents can submit reports such as bullying, cyberbullying, depression, dating violence, drug or alcohol use, threats against the school, weapons on campus and more. All messages submitted remain completely anonymous. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

NEW: 2018-2019 Student Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures

Parent Drop Off - Following the same pattern as last year, parent drop off before school will be in the BACK of the school. Parents will be directed to enter GHS through the main entrance, drive behind the building and drop off students by the gym. Greenwich Police will assist us in directing traffic. For obvious safety reasons, parents should not drop students off in the street, in neighbors' driveways, or in other entrances to GHS. For your convenience, students may be dropped off at 7:15. They will be minimally supervised until security and other school personnel arrive at 8:00.

Parent Pick Up - Following the same pattern as last year, parent pick up after school will be in the BACK of the school. Parents will be directed to enter GHS through the main entrance, drive behind the building and pick up students by the gym. Greenwich Police will assist us in directing traffic.

UPDATES FROM THE GHS PTA:

Message from the Co-Presidents:

Dear GHS Families,

Welcome back! The GHS PTA is moving to an online directory this year so no more paper! Not only will this help the environment but it will also be more convenient for you. As a PTA Member you can have the student and staff directory conveniently located on your phone via the MySchoolAnywhere (MSA) App. The MSA App features membership, volunteer sign ups and other PTA related transactions throughout the year. If you haven't joined the GHS PTA yet this year, we invite you to do so now using this [MSA link](#). If you have joined the PTA, membership incentives will be available for pick up on both **Open House Nights: Thursday, September 13th for grades 9 & 12** and **Thursday, September 27th for grades 10 & 11**. Look for us at the tables in the middle of the Student Center.

Our member **volunteer power is essential** to the PTA and to GHS. There are many ways to become a part of the GHS community through the PTA, from a brief one to two hour event or weekly options. **Review the volunteer options through your MSA email link and sign up for something that works for you!**

Join us this **Thursday, September 6th at 9:00 am** in the **GHS Media Center** for our annual **GHS PTA Volunteer Fair**, followed by a **General PTA Meeting** from **9:30 to 10:30 pm**. Come to learn about volunteer opportunities, then hear **Rick Piotrkowski**, *Interim GHS Headmaster*, and **Ralph Mayo**, *Interim Superintendent Greenwich Public Schools*, speak about the new opportunity block and school year ahead. Refreshments will be served.

Mark your calendars for Friday, October 19 for Paint the Museum Red; the GHS PTA Benefit! Please join us from 6:30-9:30pm at the Bruce Museum to help raise money for our school. It will be a fun night and we hope to see all of you there. We are currently seeking items to be donated as auction and drawing prizes. If you would like to donate an item or join the committee to assist with the event in any way please contact Leila Horn and Leslee Spadone at Benefit@ghspta.org.

Student Employment Service

SES is located in the GHS Media Center and is available on regular school days from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm.

Save the Date for College Night

The GHS annual College Night is **Thursday, October 11th at 7:00 pm**. Last year, representatives from approximately 250 colleges attended this event which is geared towards our 10th, 11th and 12th grade parents and students. The purpose of this event is to help out with the college research and selection process. Please stay tuned for more information closer to the date of the event. If you are interested in hosting one to

four college admission representatives for an early dinner prior to the event, please click on [Volunteer](#) to sign up. For questions about the event, please contact **Anna Povinelli** at aspovin@aol.com.

Interested in Substitute Teaching?

The district is looking to increase the substitute teacher pool. The per diem rate is \$105 and candidates must have a Bachelor's Degree. Parents cannot substitute at a school that their child is enrolled in. Follow this [link to the online application site](#).

Looking Ahead

Mark your calendars with these important dates:

- **PTA Volunteer Fair & Meeting** – September 6th at 9:00am GHS Media Center
- **Rosh Hashanah** - Schools closed September 10th
- **Open House Grades 9 & 12** - September 13th at 7:00pm
- **Headmaster Forum** - September 18th at 7pm
- **Yom Kippur** - Schools closed September 19th
- **Teacher Meetings – Early Release 1:15pm** - September 26th [Class Schedule](#)
- **Open House Grades 10 & 11** - September 27th at 7:00pm
- **Spanish Speaking Open House** - October 2nd at 7:00pm Media Center
- **Columbus Day – SCHOOLS ARE OPEN** - October 8th
- **College Fair** - October 11th at 7pm Student Center
- **GHS PTA Benefit** - October 19th at the Bruce Museum 6:30-9:30pm
- **Homecoming Week** - October 22nd- 27th

Additional dates are available on the full School Calendar by clicking [HERE](#).