



GHS HEADMASTER and PTA NEWS

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

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(203) 625-8000 [Click Here to go to GHS Website](#)

UPDATES FROM GHS INTERIM HEADMASTER:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Mid-term exams are over, the second semester has begun and it seems that winter has arrived! Please stay warm and safe in these winter months.

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

INFORMATION/UPCOMING EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR:

NEW! security information for Parents and Visitors to GHS

All visitors to GHS will now have their driver's license scanned in a system called "RAPTOR". This system checks the individual for criminal warrants, outstanding court orders that involve injury to children, and scans the national database of sex-offenders. Once cleared through the system visitors are given a pass to be worn that portrays their picture and the location in the school being visited. Please, when checking in make sure to have your driver's license and license plate number available.

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 next Headmaster Forum for all GHS parents is TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019. Mr. John DeLuca, Program Administrator-Science and Mr. Andrew Byrne, Program Administrator-Math will be joining us at the forum this month.

School Improvement Plan:

The 2018-2019 GHS School Improvement Plan is available on the [GHS Website](#).

Student Activities office:

Compass Yearbooks: Yearbooks sales have been tremendous and there is a limited amount available to purchase on a "first come, first served" basis. We urge you to pre-order your copy today at yearbookforever.com.

Attention Parents of Graduating Seniors - Graduation day will be here before we know it. The date for graduation will be announced in the beginning of April. The fee for graduation 2019 is \$40. Please pay by February 28, 2019. You may pay the fee through myschoolbucks.com or download the order form from the school website <https://www.greenwichschools.org/greenwich-high-school/student-life/class-of-2019>

SENIOR PARENTS: SRO INFORMATION: Senior Parents - SRO rehearsals kick off on Feb 4th, leading up to the production on March 7, 8 & 9. SRO is a rite of passage for seniors at GHS and our goal is to get every senior involved. There is a part for everyone, most of the cast does not have theater or performing experience. A rehearsal schedule is posted in the Student Center and was emailed to all seniors last week. We'd love for seniors to make as many rehearsals as possible. But, we are very flexible, understanding that they are busy. We'll make it work for anyone who can at least commit to being there the whole week of the show. Please encourage your senior to participate! And mark the dates on your calendar to come see a fun show and support the senior class in their biggest fundraiser! If you have questions about SRO, email Jen Lynch, SRO Adviser at jennifer_lynch@greenwich.k12.ct.us. We are also asking senior parents to consider making a donation to help offset the cost of the cast dinner. If you are able to donate or want to help with the dinner, email Deb Chauvin, Senior Class Adviser, at debra_chauvin@greenwich.k12.ct.us.

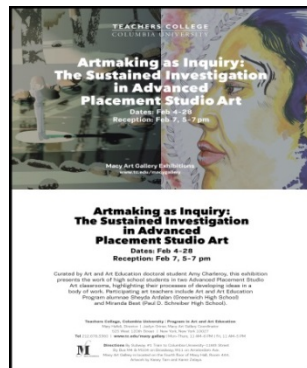
Student IDs: All students must carry their ID and schedules. Replacement IDs can be purchased in Student Activities for \$5.

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

For all Student Activities information please go to the [Greenwich High School website](#) and click on Student Activities under Student Life.

Art Department:

The following students are exhibiting their art at Teachers' College/Columbia University from February 4th-28th. The opening reception is on February 7th from 5-7pm: Alexia Towle, Andres Gonzalez, Aurora Ciornoava, Estelle Jarrett, Flore Bastien, Giselle Cook, Jamie Yee, Kacye Tam, Ziomoara Lopez-Valdivia



Interested in Learning More About Innovation Lab?

GHS Innovation Lab blends disciplines to create STEM (Science and Math) and Humanities (History and English) for a rigorous, interdisciplinary, project-based approach to the core academics while meeting the standards for each department. Students develop the skills and content knowledge they require by connecting the learning across subjects and participating in public exhibitions of learning. We encourage everyone, especially if you're interested in InLab to visit our **exhibition at the Bruce Museum on February 6 from 6:30-8:30pm.**

Start the process with an application - APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW
at <https://ghsinnovationlab.com/students/> (rolling admissions)

Questions? Please email the Innovation Lab faculty at ghsinnovationlab@greenwich.k12.ct.us

Theater Arts

Beauty and the Beast Auditions will take place Feb. 25 and 26 at 3:15 in 612. Prepare 16 bars of a song of your choice. All performers will be taught a dance combination and read from the script. All interested students are encouraged to attend! Questions: See Ms. Cirigliano.

Music

Composer's Showcase is an opportunity for student composers to perform their original music compositions and is open to all GHS students in all grades. Compositions can be in any genre or category including singer/songwriter songs, instrumentals, bands, and electronic music. This is a prescreened and adjudicated event so **all those wishing to perform at Composer's Showcase MUST have it approved by Ms. Freedman by Wednesday, February 27, 2019.**

Composer's Showcase Concert is
Wednesday, March 6 at 7PM in room 802.

For more information or to reserve a time to audition your piece, ACT NOW! Contact Ms. Freedman, Electronic Music teacher, via email: barbara_freedman@greenwich.k12.ct.us

National Honor Society Announcement for Class of 2020

All eligible juniors (Cumulative GPA 3.55 and higher) will receive an email after the February vacation inviting them to submit an application packet to the Greenwich High School chapter of the National Honor Society. Please remind your juniors to check their emails for this information as it will ONLY be communicated electronically. Links to the packet and information about how to apply will be provided in the email. More information about the National Honor Society can be found under the Student Life section on the GHS website. <https://www.greenwichschools.org/greenwich-high-school/student-life/national-honor-society>

UPDATES FROM THE GHS PTA:

Message from the Co-Presidents:

Dear GHS Families,

Last week, we held our evening General Meeting which featured a speaking panel of local professionals on the timely topic of Teen Vaping. Our [Parent Resources page](#) has links to recordings of all our meeting speakers and handouts. The event was well attended by high school and middle school parents who gained insights about vaping statistics at GHS as well as professional and practical tips and tools to assist parents of teens.

SummerFare, a significant fundraiser, was also a great success with very strong foot traffic and positive feedback from our vendors. Attendees not only shopped for summer opportunities while enjoying our live dj, but they also entered a drawing for Beats headphones.

Based on feedback from GHS staff, students and parents, the PTA purchased several vaping detectors for use in targeted bathrooms at GHS. PTA purchases also included more comfortable chairs, end tables and charging stations for the media center. The PTA also made a donation, represented by a piano key, for the new Steinway grand piano for the PAC.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and restful February break. Programing continues after break with PTA support for Diversity Week, beginning February 25th.

Best regards,
Anne Pfetsch & Maureen Bonanno
GHS PTA Co-Presidents
ghspta@ghspta.org

Teacher Appreciation Week

To show our appreciation for teachers and staff, the PTA is planning a week long celebration in April. We are starting to collect \$25 Amazon gift card donations and have made it easy with [one click shopping](#). Our committee is looking for an additional volunteer to help with preparations for this fun week. Contact Board Chair, Kim Blank, for more information at vp.programs.services@ghspta.org.

Distinguished Teacher Nominations Open

Please nominate a distinguished teacher! The Distinguished Teachers Awards Committee (DTAC) has launched the 2019 nomination process. Please visit the GPS website at www.greenwichschools.org/dta to download the Nomination packet or visit your school's main office. The deadline for all nominations is March 7, 2019, by 5 pm. Recipients of the 2018 award include Frank Kovac, GHS grade 9 through 12 Social Studies teacher; Eleanor Ritch, GHS grade 9 through 12 English teacher; and Meagan White, who covers pre-K through 12th grade instruction for hearing impaired students.

Did You Miss SummerFare 2019?

SummerFare is one of GHS PTA's largest fundraisers and draws over 90 camps spread across the country. This annual PTA sponsored free event that is open to the public allows families a look ahead to summer camps, student internships and summer job opportunities. Click on our [PTA web page](#) with information leading to the list of 2019 camps that attended our event, including their contact information. SummerFare is held every January so mark your calendar now for 2020.

PTAC - Curriculum Enrichment Co-Chair Opening

PTA Council (PTAC) is searching for a Curriculum Enrichment Co-Chair. This rewarding work is at the backbone of PTA efforts in our schools. Ideally this position will serve the remainder of the school year (under the tutelage of the current co-chair, who has extensive knowledge of the needs of this committee and the contacts to be effective), and continue serving through the 2019-2020 school year. PTAC members are required to attend monthly Council meetings at Greenwich Town Hall, and committee co-chairs host 2-3 committee meetings per year. Curriculum Enrichment has already fulfilled its committee meetings commitment for the year. If you would like more information, please contact with any questions:

ptacgreenwich@gmail.com or Lisa Gibson at lisag73@msn.com

PTA Online Directory And Parent Portal

PTA members can access our new online Parent Portal via [MySchoolAnywhere](#). Use your email on file at GHS. Click '*Forgot your password?*' and follow the instructions to reset your password. You can access MSA, including the GHS PTA directory, from any internet connected device, including your smartphone and/or download the GHS PTA MSA App. It's more than just a directory. Check it out! For questions and further assistance contact vp.communications@ghspta.org.

Are You The Parent of A Junior?

January is College Kick Off month at GHS. Links to our November PTA meeting program ***What Every Parent Should Know About Applying to College***, along with links to the handouts, has been posted on the [Parent Resources webpage](#).

Attention Parents of Seniors!

A memorable highlight of your senior's graduation celebration is the GHS Senior Graduation Party. The GHS Graduation Party is hosted by Greenwich High School and funded exclusively through donations. The GHS PTA coordinates all vendors, volunteers and prize donations. The party is held graduation night from 10pm - 2am and draws around 75% of the 697 graduates. Our fundraising goal to run this party is \$28,000. Please consider giving as generously as you can online via [MySchoolBucks](#) or by [mail](#).

Need a Helping Hand? Hire a GHS Student

Need a babysitter, tutor, eldercare, home help, tech assistance, sales help, or office help? Is your student looking for some full or part-time work, or perhaps a community service opportunity? Go to ghs-ses.org for more information on the PTA sponsored and operated Student Employment Service (SES). It's also quick and easy to register a job opportunity. Please list with SES as we are always in need of jobs! SES is located in the GHS Media Center and is available on regular school days from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

Looking Ahead

Mark your calendars with these important dates:

- **Winter Recess & President's Day** - February 11-18
- **Headmaster's Forum** - February 26 at 7pm Media Center Rooms 1 & 2
- **Diversity Week** - February 25-March 1
- **Headmaster's Forum** - March 11 at 7pm Media Center Rooms 1 & 2
- **Early Release** - Teacher Meetings March 13, 1:15pm
- **PTA General Meeting** - March 26, Room 900 at 9:30am

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