



**GHS INTERIM HEADMASTER and PTA NEWS**  
**Wednesday, March 6, 2019**  
*Setting the standard for excellence in public education*  
**(203) 625-8000 [Also check for info on the GHS Website](#)**

**UPDATES FROM GHS INTERIM HEADMASTER**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

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 MONDAY, March 11, 2019. Mr. Gus Lindine, Athletic Director will be joining us at the forum this month.

**School Improvement Plan**

The 2018-2019 [GHS School Improvement Plan](#) is available. Current and past plans are available on the [GHS Website](#).

**Student Activities Office**

**Compass Yearbooks:** The yearbooks are almost sold out! To order your copy, go to Student Activities or [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 now \$60. Please pay as soon as possible. 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>

**SRO Information:** The Class of 2019 is presenting the annual SRO show Thursday, March 7 & Friday, March 8 in the GHS Performing Arts Center at 7:00. Saturday, March 9 will be the snow date. All tickets are \$10 and will be on sale at Student Activities or at the door. Come out to see a fun show and support the senior class!

**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 8:00-3:00. Come to purchase your Cardinal gear and school supplies!

**For all Student Activities information please go to the website [greenwickschools.org/ghs](https://greenwickschools.org/ghs) and click on the student activities web page.**

### **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. Limited space is available for 10th and 11th grades. **The application for all grades is due March 20th.**

Go to <https://ghsinnovationlab.com> for more information as well as updates about our program and its students! You are also welcome to join us for the National History Day Showcase in the GHS Media Center March 25 6:30-8pm.

Questions? Please email the Innovation Lab faculty at [ghsinnovationlab@greenwich.k12.ct.us](mailto:ghsinnovationlab@greenwich.k12.ct.us)

### **Music**

#### **Electronic Music Composer's Showcase Concert**

Wednesday, March 6th at 7PM Room 802 (Orchestra Room)

#### **Spring Band Concert**

Wednesday, March 20th at 7:30 PM  
Performing Arts Center

#### **Spring Orchestra Concert**

Wednesday, March 27th at 7:30 PM  
Performing Arts Center

**Electronic Music:** The Electronic Music program at GHS has been running continuously since 1969! GHS Electronic Music Composition & Studio Engineering classes prepare students for college and careers in the 43 billion dollar a year music industry. Please see our [new information video](#) and the [new Career Pathways class recommendations](#) on our website: <https://www.greenwickschools.org/greenwich-high-school/academics/teaching-learning/music>

**GHS Band:** Our 34<sup>th</sup> annual **Essentially Ellington Jazz Festival** is set for Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11am-6:30pm in the Performing Arts Center. Come out to hear musicians from 15 world-class jazz bands across the Northeast and Canada, plus our own very talented Jazz Lab Band and Jazz Ensemble, perform throughout the day. Admission is \$5 for students and \$10 for the general public. Lunch and baked goods will be available for purchase.

### GHS Library

Check out the [February Cardinal Bookmark](#) for information regarding a new app for reading e-books and listening to audiobooks, an important policy change in the Media Center, and a couple interesting articles.

**New Lunch Block Policy:** Students and staff have raised ongoing concerns that the library is not conducive to academic work during lunch block in particular, essentially becoming "another Student Center". Consequently, the Media Staff, with input from students and Administration, have adopted a new lunch block policy to ensure that the library is a welcoming place for the GHS Community to work and collaborate.

Effective **Monday, March 11**, the lunch block will become **Quiet Study Only**. Food will still be permitted in the library throughout the day but during lunch block, students must remain seated and converse quietly, whether they are eating or not. Otherwise they will be directed back to the Student Center for the remainder of lunch block. Continued violations of the policy will result in referrals to the assistant deans.

### World Language

The **National Latin Exam** will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> (snow date March 14<sup>th</sup>).

Media Center Meeting Rooms 1 and 2.

Latin 1: 8: 20 AM

Latin 2: 10:25 AM

Latin 3 and Honors Latin Seminar: 12:54 PM

For more information contact Ms. Fusco, Latin teacher, via email: [camille\\_fusco@greenwich.k12.ct.us](mailto:camille_fusco@greenwich.k12.ct.us)

## UPDATES FROM THE GHS PTA:

### **Message from the Co-Presidents:**

Dear GHS Families,

Diversity Week at GHS, featuring daily presentations from multiple outside guests, wrapped up last week. A listing with links to the various presenters can be found on this [Diversity Week flyer](#). Your PTA funded Diversity Week and based on feedback from teachers and students, the programs resonated with our students. A special thanks for Gary Charles for arranging all the programs and thank you for your support that allowed GHS PTA to make these programs possible.

Our PTA parent speaker series featuring life hacks for a healthier, happier teen continues this month with **Teen Anxiety: The Hidden Crisis on March 26th, GHS Room 900 at 7pm**. We are hosting two expert speakers from the [The Southfield Center for Development](#); Behaviorist, Rebecca Strang and Psychologist, Dr. Lindsay Blass. Together with our own Jeff DeTeso, GHS Psychologist, they will talk candidly about the growing epidemic of anxiety in our 21st century youth. Join us for this evening program supporting our parent community and students. As always, our [Parent Resources page](#) has links to recordings of all our featured speakers and handouts.

Best regards,

Anne Pfetsch & Maureen Bonanno

GHS PTA Co-Presidents

[ghspta@ghspta.org](mailto:ghspta@ghspta.org)

### GHS PTA 2019-2020 Open Nominations

The GHS PTA nominating process is underway! A brief description of our Executive Board and Committee positions can be found on our Nominations/Volunteer GHS PTA web page at <https://www.greenwichschools.org/greenwich-high-school/pta/volunteer-handbook>. Training and guidance are provided and there are a variety of positions to suit the amount of time your schedule allows. Inquiries and nominations can be directed to the Nominating Committee at <mailto:Nominating@ghspta.org>.

### **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.

### **2019 Graduation Lawn Signs**

Get ready to show some love for your senior. All senior parents are encouraged to attend the Grade 12 Parent Meeting on **Tuesday, April 9th at 7pm** in the GHS Choral Room 801. We will have information about graduation lawn signs, the logistics of graduation day and the graduation party. Also, coming soon...online auction for 5 VIP Graduation Parking Spaces. Details to come via email.

### **Teacher Appreciation Week**

To show our appreciation for our GHS teachers and staff, the PTA is planning a luncheon on April 24th with raffle prizes and gift card. We are also planning breakfast and sweet treats in the Houses the week of April 29th. We made it easy to contribute a \$25 gift card with [one click shopping](#).

We also make it easy to sign up to donate food or other items in your house for the breakfast or dessert extravaganza on April 30th & May 2nd. [Bella, Cantor, Clark, Folsom, Sheldon](#).

If you have any questions, please contact [vp.programs.services@ghspta.org](mailto: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](http://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.

### **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](mailto:ptacgreenwich@gmail.com) or Lisa Gibson at [lisag73@msn.com](mailto: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](mailto:vp.communications@ghspta.org).

### **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](http://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

### **AmazonSmile**

Please consider supporting the GHS PTA throughout the year by linking your Amazon account to AmazonSmile! It is easy to do and once set up, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the GHS PTA. All you need to do is go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), Select *PTSA Connecticut Inc Greenwich High* as your charity and Shop Away! Please email [treasurer@ghspta.org](mailto:treasurer@ghspta.org) for more information.

### **Looking Ahead**

Mark your calendars with these important dates:

- **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 6:45pm PTA Business, 7:00pm Teen Anxiety Presentation
- **Parent Meeting Grade 12** - April 9 at 7pm Choral Room 801
- **Spring Recess** - Schools closed April 15-19

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