

Following are the details about the Greenwich Public Schools' activities to support the 8th to 9th grade transition process for students each year

December – Incoming students with siblings will automatically be assigned to the same house as their older sibling(s). Parents must opt out of this automatic assignment by mid-December. A letter is mailed home to parents of all 8th graders with this information.

January - Orientation assembly for 8th grade students to learn about the GHS elective programs. Students and staff are provided with bus transportation from each of the middle schools.

January/February/March – 9th Grade course planning and selection timeline. The 8th Grade counselors will prepare students for the course selection process, and inform parents when the materials are being sent home. Materials will contain a personalized worksheet with the core academic course recommendations made by the 8th grade team and a link to the *GHS Course of Study Guide*. The COSG contains information about the prerequisites and placement criteria for each course offered at Greenwich High School. Students will also receive a GHS Planning Guide, a four-year course planning chart and an explanation of a typical freshman schedule. These general materials are always available on the GHS Guidance webpage “Course Planning/Course Selection”. All course requests must be finalized by the end of March.

February – Curriculum Orientation meeting for 8th Grade parents at GHS at 7pm to learn more about GHS and assist with course selection. An overview of the academic programs will be presented in the Performing Arts Center. Following, the academic and elective program leaders will be available in the foyer for Q & A. The Guidance table will have a translator for our parents who speak Spanish.

April - Students receiving special education services will be scheduled for an “Articulation PPT” at Greenwich High School. The special education teachers and support specialists in the middle schools will share information with the GHS special education teachers and specialists at GHS in preparation for these PPTs. Course requests that need to be revised as a result of the PPT will be adjusted by the GHS counselor. There will also be a parent orientation session scheduled annually and parents will receive invitations from the administrator for special education.

April- House Placements are announced to all incoming 8th graders. There will be a House Orientation for Parents of incoming 9th graders, 7pm GHS. Parents will meet the house administrator, school counselor and mental health support staff.

May - 8th grade counselors and 8th grade administrators will share information about the incoming students with the team in each house at GHS in order to support a successful transition for each freshman.

May - Parents of incoming ninth grade students will receive information from the district regarding mandatory residency verification. Daytime hours at the three middle schools will be announced, as well as evening hours at the Board of Ed building. All 9th grade students' residency must be verified in order to receive their schedules when school opens for the following school year.

June - GHS Counselors will meet briefly with each of their counselees at the middle schools to distribute information about life at GHS and discuss their courses. There is also a short house meeting, and photos will be taken for GHS ID cards.

June - 8th graders interested in participating in Fall Sports at GHS are invited to attend an after school orientation organized by the athletic program. Bus transportation will be provided to and from GHS in time for the late bus run back at the middle schools.

June – August - The staff at the middle schools will process any student who decides to withdraw from the Greenwich Public Schools through the month of August.

Back-to-School - All 9th graders attend a special half-day orientation on the day before the official first day of school. Freshmen will meet their school counselor and house administrator and receive their class schedule.

Students will be given small group tours of GHS by upperclassmen, participate in a Student Activities fair, attend all of their classes in order to meet their teachers, and then eat lunch in the Student Center with their new classmates before being dismissed.