

December 9, 2022

Dear Families of GPS:

BOE Budget Meeting

The Board will meet next on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7:00 PM at Central Middle School for its regularly scheduled Business Meeting, in-person and virtually. The agenda includes action items for an adjustment to the 2022-2023 school calendar to add a second conference for elementary grade levels, 2023-24 Operating Budget, 2023-24 ARP appropriations, and 2023-24 Food Services Budget. Any member of the public can join virtually using the [meeting specific Zoom link](#) or by dialing (646) 558-8656 and entering the meeting specific Meeting ID: 834 7760 0917.

GHS Curriculum Information

The district curriculum and leadership teams have worked hard across the district to provide more information on the website. For GHS, you can find out what standards are taught for the numerous courses [available right on the high school website](#). Click on the subject, and then you can find the course of interest to you.

504 Parent Coffee and Conversation

Chief Officer of Special Education and Student Supports Stacey Heiligenthaler and Program Coordinator Michele Iannello are hosting a “504 Plan Coffee and Conversation” on Tuesday, December 20 from 10:00-11:00 AM at Central Middle School. All District families are invited to learn more about the 504 process and have an opportunity to get to know our wonderful staff.

GHS Field Remediation Update

In coordination with the Department of Public Works, we recently gave [an update on the Greenwich High School environmental remediation project](#). Field 3 work commenced in June 2022 and will continue into the fall and winter. The bulk of excavation work was completed during the school recess. The remaining work includes replacement of the artificial turf for Field 3. Field 3 and a portion of Fields 2 and 4 will remain inaccessible during Fall 2022. The details of remaining cleanup activities planned for Field 2 and Field 5 and several smaller areas located west of the school building are still being discussed by the Town, DEEP, and EPA, and are pending regulatory approval. The school continues to be safe and most of the parking spaces and athletic fields are available for use during the school year.

Virus Prevention & Self-Test Kits

Starting next week, our schools will have extra COVID self-test kits for all staff and students. Please grab one, two, or as many needed for your family going into the Holiday Recess and the return to school. Please note that while some tests are past their printed expiration date, we have confirmed [with the FDA](#) that these kits’ shelf-life has been extended through January..

The Connecticut Department of Public Health is reminding parents to take precautions against respiratory viruses this fall, including influenza, RSV, and COVID. There are steps you can take to help prevent the spread. Specifically, if you have cold-like symptoms, you should cover your

coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your upper shirt sleeve, not your hands; wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; avoid close contact, such as shaking hands, and sharing cups and eating utensils, with others; and clean frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs and mobile devices. And most importantly, keep your children home if they are not feeling well.

Magnet School Program

GPS is proud to offer choice to the families of Greenwich that may wish to apply to any of the District's four elementary schools magnet programs. School choice provides opportunities to attend Hamilton Avenue, International School at Dundee, Julian Curtiss, or New Lebanon that offers programs that may be of particular interest to a family and/or an individual student. Western Middle School will not be accepting new students through the magnet program this year (unless they have had an older sibling already attending), due to temporary capacity challenges and the ability to meet the needs of their students. We hope to reopen the magnet option in the future. School choice also provides the District with a means of balancing enrollment among its schools on a voluntary basis rather than by mandating school attendance area changes. Magnet School information and guidelines are available only on the [GPS website](#). The lottery application and open house dates will be available **starting Thursday, December 15**, with an online submission deadline of Wednesday, February 1. Be on the lookout!

Waste Free Greenwich Webinar

You are invited to join the Greenwich Conservation Commission and Waste Free Greenwich for a [virtual event on Thursday, December 15](#) from 9:30-10:30 AM hosted by the PTA Council Green Schools Committee to learn about practices and tips to green your holiday celebration. For details and registration, please visit their [website](#).

Distinguished Teacher Awards

Do you know a teacher, social worker, guidance counselor, instructional coach, or specialist that deserves consideration for the 2023 Distinguished Teacher Awards? Now is the time to start the thorough process. The main emphasis in identifying a distinguished teacher is the quality of work with students. To learn more about the criteria and eligibility requirements, head to the [webpage dedicated to DTA](#) that includes the Nomination Instruction Packet.

Important! Forms Must be on File Before January 2!

The free meals COVID funding will now **expire on Friday, December 23** and normal pricing will commence upon our return on **January 2**. In order to continue free or reduced lunch, if you are eligible, a family must complete the application, one of two ways:

1. [MySchoolApps](#) is the fast and secure way to apply for free and reduced meals online. For instructions in another language other than in English, hit the "Language" button in the upper righthand corner **BEFORE** starting the process.
2. Print and return the completed application and forms to your school's office.

For more information, or if you have questions, including details on the cost of lunch and regular menus, visit the [Food Services' webpage](#), or contact your school's administration.

Forms can be downloaded here:

- [2022-23 Application-Family](#)
- [2022-23 Application-Spanish](#)
- [Addendum \(MUST accompany application\)](#)
- [Addendum - Spanish \(MUST accompany application\)](#)

Have a great weekend!

Dr. Toni Jones
Superintendent of Schools