

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL PTA

2023-2024 Annual Report

Parent Engagement

The GHS PTA currently has 2741 members, faculty/other at 128 and family at 2611.

- GHS PTA facilitated and provided access to all PTA Board Meetings and General Membership Meetings for our GHS PTA Board of Directors, Parents, Faculty and Administrators through in person and Zoom hybrid with the exception of one General Membership Meeting in-person only. BOD meetings in-person. We provided links to zoom recording post meetings.
- Hosted a successful Membership Drive and relevant parent education programs at our general meetings along with grade-level meetings for 9th and 12th in the fall and 12th in the spring.
- Grade Level Ambassadors currently in their fifth year since first established to enhance and build parent engagement. The goals of these positions will be helpful in gaining support from each of these classes.

Increase and improve communications with parents, Greenwich Community and BOE.

- Our monthly newsletter from GHS's Parent Link (PLink) provided valuable information throughout the year. Additionally we included community events when appropriate.
- In addition to our monthly newsletter, we utilized our online platform, MembershipToolkit to send targeted emails to parents with updates on district issues and school and grade related events.
- Attended BOE meetings to convey PTA accomplishments and support the needs of GHS

Increase PTA Membership and Attendance

- Membership communications were sent on a consistent basis. Membership funds raised were just below our target for this year. Our in person Paint the Town Red Gala raised roughly the same as last year, even though attendance was much lower. We had tremendous community support with donations towards our live and silent auctions so this helped make up the difference.

Budget Allocation

This year's focus was on spending what was raised. Our BOD felt very strongly about supporting our students and faculty any way we could.

- The money raised this year supported our students and faculty with department and house allocations, curriculum enrichment support, and so many amazing field trips.

Curriculum Enrichment, Teacher Grants and Outreach

These line items account for the largest portions of our GHS PTA spending.

- Curriculum Enrichment - we spent \$35,637 and funded 35 field trips so far. These included Japan Society in NYC, Whitney Museum, Bush Holly House, Mark Twain House, Yale Art Center, MET in NYC, Maritime Aquarium, Off Broadway Play, Museum of Natural History, International Center of Photography, NY Philharmonic, CIMA Museum and the Thurgood Marshall US Court of Appeals in NYC.
- Teacher Grants - We have spent \$18,195 thus far and have funded 4 new Nikon cameras, a new microscope, 30 graphing calculators for math dept, Architecture supplies, Kitchen items for Alt High School.
- We provide outreach assistance for families with financial need and any who are identified by a GHS guidance counselor. Fees for ACT/SAT classes, yearbooks, cap and gowns, merit and need-based scholarships.
- We support a grant process for AP exam fees for students with financial need who do not qualify for Free and Reduced Meal discounts.

Family & Community Engagement

- Grade Level meetings for 9th & 12th were facilitated in the fall, 12th in the Spring, and provided families with applicable and timely information on milestones. These grade level meetings were held in person and were well attended. The 10th and 11th grade ambassadors were available to families all year for questions and assistance.
- Our PTA continued the work of providing parent education. Our programs offer information from experts on current topics and recurring needs to help members enhance best practices in teen parenting. This year's programs included: College Admissions Q&A with the Counselors: Current Trends in Admissions, Guest speaker Dr. Nicholas Kardaris, an internationally renowned speaker and an expert on mental health, addiction, and the impacts of our digital age. He is the author of GLOW KIDS, and his presentation discussed how screen time has shaped our society, harmed our mental health, affected child development and impacted education. This was open to ALL gps parents, not just GHS. Our last meeting topic will be How to help your teens build meaningful relationships in a digital age.
- The GHS PTA reaches out to neighbors via email in the fall, winter and spring who live near the school to keep them informed of school events that might affect the neighborhood and to invite them to attend events at the high school.
- Parent engagement is a cornerstone of the National PTA. The GHS PTA encourages parents to become involved with the school as a way of engaging them and bringing them closer to the pulse of their child's education. Over 400 in school, parent volunteers who provide over 7,000 hours to the five Houses, the College and Career Center, the Media Center, Student Activities.

Facilities

- We continue to support the GHS facility through a budget allocation and this year that includes folding tables for student and school activities and supporting a refresh of the

equipment in the student fitness center. We also partnered with the Vestibule building committee to sell personalized bricks to raise funds to support the overall project.

- During the BOE, BET, and RTM phases of the budget process, we advocated for capital projects for all of our GPS who are in need, those included the Vestibule project, OG, JC and CMS. Additionally, we purchased a new ID printer for Student Activities and a new laptop for the Media Center

The total approximate spend for the year on teachers, students and the school is \$197,770, broken down as follows:

School Improvements \$20,100

Students: \$131,170

Staff: \$46,500

Looking forward to a bigger and better 2024-2025 school year