

2025-2026 Annual Report

The Greenwich High School PTA Annual Report highlights the activities and financial support the PTA provides to enhance the educational experience and environment for all of our students, families, teachers, administrators, staff and the community. The annual report is prepared each year in early May, for submission to the Greenwich Board of Education.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

4 General Membership Meetings

- September: Introductory Kick-Off Meeting, featuring GHS Principal Ralph Mayo and key administrators and counsellors
- January: “College Trends” meeting, featuring College and Career Counsellors
- March: Topical guest speaker meeting, this year featuring Connor Grennan, Chief AI Architect at NYU Stern School of Business and CEO of AI Mindset to discuss the use of AI in education
- May: The official “Annual meeting” this year featuring guest speakers: Alessandra Messineo Long (“legal documents when your children turn 18”) and Shawn Hoyt, GHS Science Administrator, who discussed the use of AI specifically at GHS.

More PTA Sponsored Parent Education Meetings & Community Events

- Jennifer Maxon -- Information Session on National Honor Society: What is it? How do you apply?
- Dr. Amy Swift -- Presentation on teen brain development, mental health, substance use and related challenges. Discussion and Q&A on risk factors, red flags, tips and protective strategies.
- SummerFare – About 100 provider organizations providing information on summer camps and employment opportunities.
- Annual “Paint the Town Red” -- Fabulous parent social and fundraiser

Grade Level Meetings

- The PTA assists the GHS administration for 9th and 12th Grade Level meetings in the fall and then a graduation specific meeting for 12th grade parents in the spring.

Bi-weekly newsletter, “Big Red News”

The PTA newsletter provides information to the GHS community, including events and activities around school, student highlights, opportunities for parents to get involved and make a difference, PTA news and updates, community news and events beyond GHS, and more.

Providing and Coordinating Opportunities for Parents to Volunteer in many roles and get involved throughout GHS

- The GHS PTA identifies opportunities for parents to make a difference and add value for their children’s educational experience, and get closer to the pulse of their children’s education.
- Parents are able, and are encouraged, to sign-up for any of the opportunities and activities.
- Over 400 parent volunteers provide over 7,000 hours of in-school support to the five Houses, the College and Career Center, the Media Center, Student Activities, and more.

GHS Community Pantry

- This year the PTA partnered with faculty & staff of Folsom House to formally expand and operationalize the Pantry. The GHS Community Pantry (formerly the Care Closet) provides food and personal care items to students and their families who can benefit from a little extra support to ensure the students are nourished and can focus on academic success.
- Located in Folsom House and open to all GHS students, the Pantry has become a vital resource for many in our school community.
- Students are able to visit the Pantry to pick up food and supplies when there’s a need, especially on Fridays, to bridge the weekend gap when school breakfasts and lunches aren’t available. What began as support for 40 students has grown to up to 100 students each week—and the need continues to rise.
- We have also partnered with some outside agencies including Neighbor to Neighbor and The Foodbank of Lower Fairfield County
- The Community Pantry is financially supported through a separate funding account set up by the PTA to take in donations specifically and exclusively for the Pantry

The Job Board

This year the GHS PTA, in cooperation with the school administration and the GHS college and career counseling center, introduced Starteryou, a commercial Job Board platform.

The platform allows students to find -- and prospective employers to post -- one-time / weekend gigs; regular parttime jobs; summer employment; qualified paid/unpaid internships, and other opportunities.

- Starteryou is a private for-profit company / platform and there is no official affiliation between Starteryou and the GHS PTA, Greenwich High School, or the Greenwich Public Schools.
- Starteryou will provide all platform/technical support or issue resolution.
- The platform allows only validated student job seekers. It is open to the public for posting opportunities (job posters must also be validated on the platform but are not required to have an association with a school)..
- The GHS PTA and the school worked with Starteryou to secure an unlimited 50% discount on the fees for posting employment opportunities for GHS families. GHS families can get the discount code from the PTA.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Annual College Night

- The PTA funds and hosts dinner for all the college representatives that attend the annual College Night.

Annual Gingerbread Workshop

- The PTA plans, staffs and funds a gingerbread workshop & competition where all GHS students are invited to attend in December. We had approximately 75 students participate

Curriculum Enrichment – The PTA helps fund Field Trips and Club Activities (YTD as of April 30)

- **Field Trips:**
 - English and global studies class to the 9.11 museum in New York city
 - English/Global Studies 113 students to the Intrepid museum in NYC
 - Mamma Mia on Broadway.
 - Interior Design/Fashion Field Trip: Exploring the NY Design Center’s showrooms and engaging with design professionals
 - Field trip to Museum of Modern Art in NYC
 - Field trip to Nanxiang restaurant
 - Millstone Power Station, a nuclear power plant in Waterford CT
 - Stamford Superior court and the Stamford Court House for a Law in America class
 - Field trip to The Deaf Expo in Cromwell, CT.
 - Ragtime field trip.
 - Funding for the Memory Project through the Portrait Project.

- Endeavor Therapeutic Horsemanship Farm
 - Bus to and from JFK Airport for the Photography and Cooking trip to Spain and Morocco
 - Bus to and from JFK Airport for the Shapers of the World and AP Art History trip to Greece
 - Chess on Broadway
 - Field trip to see the play "La Gringa" "Repertorio Theater New York
 - Field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art
 - The French Institute of NY has a HD screening for students of a Molière's play called "le bourgeois gentil homme"
 - Environmental science classes field trip to Greenwich Botanical Center
 - Aquarium Field Trip
 - Guided tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC
 - MOMA
 - Field Trip to Participate in a Ceramics Workshop
 - Death of a Salesman on Broadway.
 - Field Trip to the Morgan Library & Museum to participate in the program on Myth and Meaning in viewing their collection
 - Field Trip to Yale Art Gallery
 - Bush-Holley House and Greenwich Historical Society archives
 - Museum of Modern Art with the themes of “Narrative in Art” and “Art in Society.”
 - Memory Project through the Portrait Project Club to the children in India.
- Clubs
 - Model UN team attending Princeton in November, Harvard in January and NYC in March
 - We The People Team: Yale University for the book launch of "Born Equal" by author and Yale Law Professor Akhil Amar
 - 2026 We the People State Finals Competition in Hartford, CT
 - GHS Science Team competing at the Yale Invitational Science Bowl and the Regional Science Bowl at UCONN Storrs

Outreach & Support

- The PTA provides 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.
- The PTA supports need-based grants for AP exam fees for students with financial need but who do not qualify for Free and Reduced Meal discounts.

Graduation Party

- The PTA raises funds, plans and executes a graduation party for every senior the day before graduation.
- Virtually every graduating senior attends the party.
- The party includes entertainment, food and drinks, games, gifts and prizes

Faculty & Staff Engagement

Teacher Grants

- Two case studies and two computer-based simulations from Harvard Business School Publishing.
- Remarkable Paper Pro Move and Accessories
- A sensory swing for students with autism
- Gift cards for Student of the Month Program, Most Improved Student of the Month, Attendance Rockstar (GHS Windrose Program)
- Supplies for Community Connections
- Project reagents and supplies for the numerous science projects, for the science research students (GHS) and the junior innovators (middle schoolers)
- Fidgets/calming tools for students
- Funding for the Greenwich Magazine, a student-led magazine
- Funding for Chris Herran, motivational speaker
- and more

Monthly events for staff

- October - Pizza and salad lunch for Halloween
- December - Mini Bundt Cakes holiday treat
- January - Chili Lunch
- March - Cheese/Fruits/Cookies for St Patrick's Day
- May - Teacher Appreciation Week:
 - Tuesday-Lunch & gift
 - Thursday-Treat Day
- June - Bona Bona Ice Cream

Facilities

We continue to support the GHS facility through a budget allocation and this year that included enhancing all 5 House lounges, the Art Department office, the Science Lounge and the Faculty Dining room. In addition we maintain some flowers and plantings.

Spending

The total projected spend for the year on students, teachers and school improvements is \$219,200

GHS Projected Expense 2025-2026		
Students	\$ 139,900	64%
Staff	\$ 58,200	27%
School Improvements	\$ 21,100	10%
Total	\$ 219,200	