



GHS INTERIM HEADMASTER and PTA NEWS
Thursday, September 5, 2019
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(203) 625-8000 [Click Here to go to GHS Website](#)

UPDATES FROM GHS HEADMASTER:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year. We have completed our class assemblies with all the grades and the new school year is under way. We hope everyone has returned from summer break rested, refreshed and ready to go to work (and have some fun too!). We encourage all students to be active participants and become engaged in both classroom and extra-curricular activities.

Each month, the PTA and I send you news and updates from GHS in the form of this electronic newsletter. The newsletter will always be posted on our News and Social Media page found under the GHS Information tab on the GHS website in both English and Spanish.

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,
Ralph F. Mayo, GHS Interim Headmaster

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GHS.....

Security Information for Parents and Visitors to GHS

All visitors to GHS will 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, September 16th.

2019-2020 Student Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures

Parent Drop Off - Following the same pattern as last year, parent drop off before school will be in the BACK of the school. Parents will be directed to enter GHS through the main entrance, drive behind the building and drop off students by the gym. Greenwich Police will assist us in directing traffic. For obvious safety reasons, parents should not drop students off in the street, in neighbors' driveways, or in other entrances to GHS. For your convenience, students may be dropped off at 7:15. They will be minimally supervised until security and other school personnel arrive at 8:00.

Parent Pick Up - Following the same pattern as last year, parent pick up after school will be in the BACK of the school. Parents will be directed to enter GHS through the main entrance, drive behind the building and pick up students by the gym. Greenwich Police will assist us in directing traffic.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS: CONGRATULATIONS TO SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER IAN TIEDEMANN!!

Ian Tiedemann was the recipient of the 2019 Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Teaching Champion Award on behalf of the Council for Economic Education. "The awards committee was particularly impressed with Ian's passion for economics, his inclusion of various external resources and texts, and his continued commitment to economic education". Congratulations to Ian Tiedemann from the GHS School Community!

NEW FROM THE GHS LIBRARY:

Library Hours - Monday through Thursday, 7:45 am to 4:45 pm; Friday, 7:45 am to 3:30 pm

(The library will close at 1:30 pm on Early Release Days and will close at 3:30 pm on Midterm and Final Exam days.)

Media Specialists Alexandra Stevens, Laura Jean Waters, Marie Shimchick, and Susan Morris are available to assist students with accessing appropriate research resources and technology tools for projects and papers, selecting materials for independent reading, logging into and using school systems (Google Apps, Schoology, Aspen, etc.), fixing some technology issues, and more.

Online research databases and additional information about the Library Media Center can be accessed by going to www.greenwichschools.org/ghs > Teaching & Learning > Library.

Students utilize the library for school work or as a quiet space in these three main areas:

- The back part of the Library (extending from the Career Center to the Science area) where the study carrels are located is for silent study only.
- The front part contains larger white tables and couch/chair clusters for collaborative work and group study.
- Between these spaces are several high top bistro tables for quiet, small group study.

Lunch Block is quiet study only for the entire block (11:19 am to 12:49 pm).

The help desk will still be staffed during school hours. IT support will be available before school from 8:00 am to 8:30 am and during lunch from 11:24 am to 12:49 pm

We have a number of parents who volunteer in the library each school year - if you are interested in helping out, please contact marie_shimchick@greenwich.k12.ct.us. Please follow us on Twitter - [@GHS_MediaCenter](https://twitter.com/GHS_MediaCenter).

NEWS FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE:

GHS Guidance and the Greenwich Alliance for Education encourages all parents to attend the College Funding presentation being held on Monday, September 9th at 7pm in the GHS Performing Arts Center. A representative from the Barnum Financial Group will share information for families to plan ahead, as well as an overview of the college financial aid process that parents of seniors need this fall.

The PSAT 8/9 and the PSAT/NMSQT will be administered to all freshmen, sophomores and registered juniors on Wednesday, October 16th. Juniors must register in the Main Office anytime from Tuesday, September 10th to Monday, September 23rd. The fee is \$20, payable by cash or check to GHS.

The College Board has made significant changes to the AP Program this year. Students taking Advanced Placement classes at GHS will need to register on the AP website with their classes "join code" provided by their AP teacher in the month of September. Then students must register and pay for their AP exam in the month of October. More details can be found on the GHS Guidance [website](#).

NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT:

One-for-One on Nine-One-One

On Wednesday, September 11th, Greenwich High School students and staff will participate in the ninth annual September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance by aiding those less fortunate in the Greenwich community.

With the help of the GHS Roots & Shoots Club and Heroes Club, students and staff pledge to collect at least 2,977 non-perishable, non-expired food items, one in memory of each victim lost that fateful day, seventeen years ago. All donations will be provided to Neighbor-to-Neighbor, a nonprofit organization serving the Greenwich community.

Throughout the day on 9/11, club members and volunteers will accept donations from students, parents, and staff in a cordoned section in the middle of the Student Center, which will serve as a memorial throughout the day.

Community support for this service and remembrance project is greatly appreciated.

NEWS FROM ROOTS AND SHOOTS/HAND IN HAND CLUBS:

DART To The Finish Charity Walk October 5, 2019

Dana's Angels Research Trust (DART) is holding its 2nd annual charity walk at Tod's Point in Greenwich on Saturday morning, October 5th, 2019. Sign in starts at 8am and the 2.5 mile walk begins at 9am. Coffee, bagels and snacks will be provided, as well as a DJ and games for kids. Everyone is welcome, even without a beach pass, just mention DART at the gate. A direct link to registration is: <https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/OldGreenwich/DARTToTheFinish2019?remMeAttempt=>

NEWS FROM THE GHS OUTREACH CLUB:

Every September, SAMHSA sponsors [Recovery Month](#) to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance use disorders, and celebrate the people who recover through effective treatment, love and support. The 2019 theme is [Join the Voices for Recovery: Together We Are Stronger](#). This theme serves to help reduce the stigma and misconceptions that cloud public understanding of mental and substance use disorders, potentially discouraging others from seeking help. We need to care about self and others. Together, we can make a difference and create a community of caring.

NEWS FROM GHS HEALTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:

The Annual GHS Mental Health Fair is scheduled for Thursday, September 26th, from 10:30 - 12:45 in the upper gym foyer for students and staff. Participating GHS Mental Health staff and community organizations will disseminate information to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance use disorders, and programs and services available for prevention, intervention and treatment.

UPDATES FROM THE GHS PTA:

Message from the Co-Presidents:

Dear GHS Families,

Welcome back! By now we hope you have received an email from GHS PTA with the **GHS PTA Back-to-School Checklist: ✓ Confirm Data ✓ Join the PTA ✓ Volunteer** through Membership Toolkit (MTK). Please email ghspta@ghspta.org if you have not received this email.

Once you join the PTA, you will be able to access the student and staff directory through MTK either on the MTK website ([MTK link](#)) directly or on your phone through the MTK app.

If you haven't joined the GHS PTA yet this year, we invite you to do so now using the [MTK link](#). Our amazing membership incentives will be available for pick up on both **Open House Nights**. Look for us at the tables in the middle of the Student Center. You can also join the PTA there.

Another great feature of MTK is the ability to sign up for a volunteer position. Our member **volunteer power is essential** to the PTA, and to the school. There are many ways to become a part of the GHS community through the PTA from hourly to weekly options. **Review the volunteer options through your MTK link and sign up for something that works for you!**

Join us **THIS Thursday, September 5th at 12pm** in the **GHS Media Center Rooms 1&2** for our annual **GHS PTA Volunteer Fair**, followed by a **General PTA Meeting** at **12:30pm**. Come to learn about volunteer opportunities, and hear **Mr. Ralph Mayo, GHS Interim Headmaster**, and **Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent Greenwich Public Schools**, speak about the school year ahead. Refreshments will be served.

Open House Night for Grades 9 & 12: Tuesday, September 24th - 7pm.

Open House Night for Grades 10 & 11: Thursday, October 3rd - 7pm.

Annual 9th grade and 12th grade Parent Meetings - Monday October 21st - 7- 9pm. Additional information to follow.

For any questions please contact Christine Dally (12th grade coordinator) Christine_Dally@yahoo.com, Sarah Trager (9th grade coordinator) sbtrager@gmail.com or Kerry D'Angelo (9th grade coordinator) kerrydangelo@gmail.com.

Mark you calendars for Friday, October 25th for **Paint the Town Red; the GHS PTA benefit!**

Please join us 6:30-9:30pm at Richards to help raise money for our school. It will be a fun night, and we hope to see you there. We are currently seeking items to be donated as auction items and drawing prizes. If you would like to donate an item or join the committee to assist in any way please contact Jenny Eichinger or Gretchen Jelinek at benefit@ghspta.org

Student Employment Service (SES)

SES is located in the GHS Media Center and is available from 11:30am-2:30pm

Save the Date for College Night

The GHS annual College Night is **Thursday, October 17th at 7pm**. Last year, representatives from approximately 250 colleges attended this event, which is geared towards our 10th, 11th and 12th grade parents and students. The purpose of this event is to help with the college research and selection process. **Stay tuned for more information closer to the event.**

Be part of the **special tradition on College Night**. We are seeking families who would be willing to host 2-4 college representatives for dinner in their home. This is truly a rewarding and insightful experience since the college representatives are on the road during the fall, and look forward to visiting Greenwich High School due to our generous families opening up their homes and preparing a home cooked meal for them. Families cannot request specific schools, but the process is pretty similar from college to college, so it will be informative for your child to interact with the college reps and ask questions. Families can host jointly as well. If interested, please sign up on MTK ([Volunteer link](#)) or email Anna Povinelli or Sophie Veronis at aspovin@aol.com or sophieveronis@yahoo.com.

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, Select *PTSA Connecticut Inc Greenwich High* or EIN number 06-098-4479 as your charity and Shop Away! Please email treasurer@ghspta.org for more information.

Mark Your Calendars

- **September 5th - PTA Volunteer Fair & Meeting**
- **September 24th - Open House Grades 9 & 12 - 7pm**
- **September 25th - Early release 1:15pm**
- **September 30th - Rosh Hashanah - Schools closed**
- **October 3rd - Open House Grades 10 & 11 - 7pm**
- **October 7th-12th - Homecoming Week**
- **October 9th - Yom Kippur - Schools closed**
- **October 14th - Columbus Day - SCHOOLS ARE OPEN**
- **October 17th - College Night - 7pm**
- **October 21st - Parent Meetings Grades 9 & 12 - 7-9pm**
- **October 25th - Paint the Town Red - PTA Benefit Night 6:30-9:30 at Richards**

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

Best regards,
Maureen Bonanno & Terry Lamantia
GHS PTA Co-Presidents
ghspta@ghspta.org