



## GHS HEADMASTER and PTA NEWS

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Setting the standard for excellence in public education

(203) 625-8000 [Click Here to go to GHS Website](#)

### UPDATES FROM GHS HEADMASTER:

Dear GHS Parents:

April showers bring May flowers. If this statement is true April sure brought us enough showers. Now it's time to enjoy those May flowers and the spring season. As the weather warms up and we venture more outside, please remember to maintain the 6-foot distance from others, and no matter how tempting please follow the rules established by the CDC. The staff at GHS is working extremely hard to provide students with videos and live conferencing so they will receive instruction and feedback on their work. We continue to explore other methods to enhance distance learning, please be patient as we are receiving weekly updates from the Commissioner of the Connecticut State Department of Education.

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).

Sincerely,

Ralph F. Mayo  
Headmaster, Greenwich High School

### **GHS INFORMATION AND UPDATES:**

**First Selectman's Youth Commission: For All GHS Students:** Applications to the First Selectman's Youth Commission of Greenwich are now open. There are five (5) available positions for Greenwich High School students. To access the application, [go to the GHS Website](#).

### **Guidance Department:**

Mrs. Lochridge, our College & Career Counselor is hosting a "Transition to College" webinar for GHS seniors and juniors on May 14 from 4pm to 5pm. She has a panel of GHS alumni who are current college students. Topics will include living with a roommate, balancing academics with sports and/or clubs, selecting courses, choosing majors, and more! Participants will hear panelists' observations about what it's like to transition from high school to college.

Students taking AP exams are encouraged to access their AP Classroom account for regular updates from the AP Program. Test takers are provided with an exam day checklist as well as videos about technology requirements and what to expect when taking their exams.

Seniors are encouraged to log into Naviance to take the Senior Exit Survey and change their school email address to a personal email address. GHS Guidance also needs seniors to report the results of their college applications to their Guidance AA (Angela Carino in Bella House, Judy Massi in Clark House, Giovanna Vernuccio in Cantor House, Karina Palomo in Folsom House and Rose Furano in Sheldon House). We also need to know each senior's "final plan" so that we can send their official transcript to the college, university or technical program they plan to attend after graduation.

### **Library News**

Check out the [April Cardinal Bookmark](#) for information about how GHS librarians can help teachers with video instruction, what the GHS Faculty/Staff Virtual Book Club is reading this month, interesting article links, and a local essay contest for high school seniors.

### **From the Greenwich Public Schools:**

**DELIVERING ART SUPPLIES:** Greenwich Public Schools is currently providing bagged breakfast and lunch to students at various pick-up points around town from Monday to Friday. With these meals and with the help of the Greenwich Alliance and parent volunteers, ART SUPPLIES will be delivered next week to elementary students. **There will also be school supplies (paper and pencils) for middle and high school students.** If you are in need of art supplies or school supplies, please stop by. We will be delivering as follows:

Lunch Route 1 - Tuesday, May 5th

Lunch Route 2 - Wednesday, May 6th

Lunch Route 3 - Thursday, May 7th

Click [here](#) for the lunch bus routes.

There is a safety plan in place when making deliveries - social distancing is being followed, gloves and masks are being used by those delivering the supplies, display of goods are laid out and procedures are in place to avoid direct handling by students and parents. All supplies will be handled with gloves.

**Thank you to Greenwich Alliance for the generous donation of art supplies!**

### **UPDATES FROM THE GHS PTA:**

Message from the Co-Presidents:

Dear GHS Families,

We are proud to congratulate GHS teachers, Jessica Keller and Lori Mulligan who were among the six teachers selected as GPS Distinguished Teachers for 2020. We congratulate all six GPS teachers recognized this year.

PTA members will vote on the 2020-21 GHS PTA Board of Directors slate as well as the proposed 2020-21 budget during our Annual Membership Meeting on May 28th at 9:30am which will be held virtually. We need you for these important votes. We hope you can join us!

Thank you to all who donated money to purchase gift cards for all GHS Teachers and Staff. The outpouring of support was truly remarkable. Although we couldn't honor our teachers and staff with the annual Teacher Appreciation lunches at school, we hope that these gift cards will show our teachers how much we appreciate them!

We also would like to thank you for the support of the BOE budget. The budget process is not over so we still need to advocate to get the funds necessary to give our students the best education they deserve. Please take the time to contact our town leaders. We will send out information ahead of the RTM vote in early May.

Best regards,

Maureen Bonanno & Terry Lamantia

GHS PTA Co-Presidents

[ghspta@ghspta.org](mailto:ghspta@ghspta.org)

### **Mental Health Webinar - May 6, 7pm**

Please join us as Suzanna Narducci, LCSW and Cristina Young, LCSW present on "Pandemic Parenting: Helping Parents Through the Tough Discussions" on Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00pm.

They will speak to parents about this unique period of time at home with our teens. They will address topics, such as: how to manage loss and grief, how to understand and cope with anxiety and depression, how to set appropriate boundaries while nurturing relationships, and how to speak to our teens about what's happening in the external world in an effort to create an environment of stability and certainty.

We hope this will be a helpful and informative session. Please plan to bring questions to this webinar! Details of how to join the webinar will be sent separately.

### **Transition to College Webinar - May 14, 4 - 5 pm**

Ask all the questions you have always wanted to ask about what it's like to transition from high school to college. Mrs. Lochridge, GHS College and Career Counselor, is hosting a panel of GHS alumni who are current college students. Topics will include everything from living with a roommate to balancing academics with sports and/or clubs to selecting courses and choosing majors, and more!

Please plan to bring questions to this webinar! Details of how to join the webinar will be sent separately.

### **GHS PTA Annual General Meeting - May 28th, 9:30am**

PTA members will vote on the 2020-21 GHS PTA Board of Directors slate as well as the proposed 2020-21 budget during our Annual Membership Meeting on May 28th at 9:30am which will be held virtually. We need you for these important votes. Stay tuned for information on how to join the meeting.

### **GHS PTA 2020-2021 Open Nominations**

The GHS PTA nominating process is wrapping up. Openings remain for the following positions:

Hospitality Chair, Asst. Treasurer, Financial Review Committee, Social Media Coordinator, Media Center Volunteer Coordinator, Fundraiser Chairs, PTTR Co-Chairs, Summerfare Committee

A brief description of our Board of Directors and Committee positions can be found on our Nominations/Volunteer GHS PTA web page [HERE](#). Training and guidance are provided, and there are a variety of positions to fit the amount of time your schedule allows. Inquiries and nominations can be directed to the Nominating Committee at [Nominating@ghspta.org](mailto:Nominating@ghspta.org).

### **Paint the Town Red 2020 - CO-CHAIRS NEEDED!**

Paint the Town Red is one of our biggest fundraisers. Proceeds from this event support our students and faculty in numerous ways, including the funding of enriching field trips, cutting edge classroom technology, college and career support, speakers and so much more. If you are interested in Co-Chairing this great event, please contact our Nominating Committee at [Nominating@ghspta.org](mailto:Nominating@ghspta.org).

### **Teacher Appreciation Week: May 4-8**

Due to the generosity of you, the parents, we are able to give all our teachers and staff an Amazon gift card to show our gratitude during Teacher Appreciation Week. In addition, please encourage your children to send a note during the week to their teachers to thank them too.

### **Graduation Party**

The District is looking at all end of year activities and deciding which ones have a virtual option, and which ones do not. At this time, we do not know about Graduation festivities. We are working with the GHS Administration to come up with ways to honor our 2020 graduates if school does not return. Please email our Graduation Committee if you want to share your ideas. Along with the district, we are committed to making sure that our seniors are honored and recognized in a way which would be safe, yet still special, should our schools not be allowed to reopen. The funds we have raised and continue to raise will be used for these events. We will offer refunds to those who choose not to donate to the alternative events.

Please contact the Graduation Committee at [gradparty@ghspta.org](mailto:gradparty@ghspta.org).

You can make a donation online through MySchoolBucks or by mail.

### **Our Community Needs Your Support!**

To help those affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, the Greenwich COVID-19 Community Relief Fund has been established by Greenwich United Way to be used for the relief of economic hardship due to the COVID-19 crisis and will benefit agencies located in Greenwich providing aid, assistance and relief to Greenwich residents. Additionally, Neighbor-to-Neighbor's Food Pantry needs donations now more than ever for the children, families and older adults in Greenwich. Please consider a donation during this difficult time.

GREENWICH UNITED WAY - <https://greenwichunitedway.org/greenwich-covid-19-community-relief-fund/>

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR - <https://www.ntngreenwich.org/>

### **Need a Helping Hand? Hire a GHS Student**

NOTE: DUE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES RELATED TO COVID-19, STUDENT EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (SES) IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Our volunteer staff does not have access to the office phone or voicemails, but emails will continue to be monitored. Jobs for the Summer are welcome to be submitted for review, as well as any immediate remote tutoring needs. Jobs requiring hands-on / in person interaction will not be accepted until further notice.

Over the coming weeks, we will continue to follow Greenwich Public School's approach to the situation. Thank you for your continued support. Go to [ghs-ses.org](http://ghs-ses.org) for more information.

### **PTAC Nominations 2020-2021**

Greenwich PTA Council is looking to fill the following positions for the 2020-2021 school year: First VP, Secretary, Curriculum Enrichment Co-Chair. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact [vp-nominating@greenwichptac.org](mailto:vp-nominating@greenwichptac.org).

### **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](https://smile.amazon.com), Select PTSA Connecticut Inc Greenwich High as your charity and Shop Away! Please email [treasurer@ghspta.org](mailto:treasurer@ghspta.org) for more information.

### **Looking Ahead**

Mark your calendars with these important dates:

- Teacher Appreciation Week - May 4-8 (Please encourage your students to write a note to thank their teachers)
- Mental Health Webinar - May 6 at 7pm (via Zoom)
- College Panel - May 14 at 4pm (via Zoom)
- Schools Closed Memorial Day - May 25
- PTA General Meeting - May 28 at 9:30am (via Zoom)

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