



A Century of Excellence

The Gopher Communicator

July 2013

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John Koch, Principal



*An International Baccalaureate
World School*

Budget Reduction Days: School Start Up

To balance our budget the school board has approved four budget reduction days for the upcoming school year. Unlike past years where these days were spread throughout the school year, this year school will start one week later. In other words, instead of starting school the week after Labor Day school will begin the week of September 9th. The last budget reduction day is calendared for March 21, 2014—the day before Spring Break.

Freshman Orientation Day

September 9, 2013 is the first official day of school for our freshman, the Class of 2017! On this day our high school student leadership classes will host an assembly, there will be an introduction to SUN and after school activities, school tours will be given, schedules distributed, and students will spend the afternoon attending their classes. The purpose of the day is to provide freshman an opportunity to learn about the building prior to other students returning to school. **Freshman pictures will also be taken on the 9th! Students should prepare accordingly.**

First Day of School for All Students

September 10, 2013 is the first day of school for all GHS students. More information and details will be forthcoming so please continue checking the website.

High School Operating Hours Have Changed

Due to ongoing busing issues and timelines for elementary age students the high school hours had to be adjusted for the 2013-2014 school year. The first bell will ring at 7:30 and first period will begin at 7:35 am. School will dismiss at 2:30 pm. The GHS building office hours have also changed. The phones and doors will be open from 7 am to 3:30 pm. Full time teacher hours are from 7:15 am to 3:15 pm.

ESIS is No More!

Starting this year the school districts across Oregon will use a new student information system entitled *Synergy*. Esis was discontinued so a change was required.

Our belief is that Synergy will give parents and teachers improved access to student information. The ParentVUE portal will provide views of your student's daily schedule, assignments, grades, attendance, and more. Great news—parents do not have to come into school to activate their account! In our August mailings parents should receive the basic information needed to access your account. The middle schools will have similar information at their walk-in registrations and elementary schools will provide the

information to parents upon request. It is believed that ParentVue, like Esis is most beneficial to families with middle and/or high school students.

Because the transition to Synergy affects virtually all personnel and all aspects of school and district operations, we know there will be some bugs that will need to be worked out. Please be patient as we work through whatever challenges that present themselves. We will also be very interested in your feedback as you activate and use your ParentVUE account.

Overall, we believe the new system has tremendous potential, especially the additional benefits it provides to our families.

Registration Information

As most of you know, GHS uses a mail in registration process. More detailed information about the procedure will arrive via USPS to all registered families, including new ninth grade students, in the middle of August. Once you receive this information please complete the process as soon as possible.

If you know of a student who is new GHS (excluding freshman who attended a District middle school) please encourage the family to go to our website for more detailed information about new enrollments. Keep in mind that we traditionally enroll 300-400 new students each September. On top of that, 100-150 move to other districts or states. These new enrollments consume the bulk of the time available in the Counseling Office at the beginning of the year. We appreciate your patience.

Parent Representative on Site Council

We are in need of one more parent representative on our school Site Council. The Site Council is a statutory requirement in Oregon and the GHS group plays a pivotal and vibrant role in the school improvement process. Membership includes parents, certified and classified staff, students, and school administration. We meet every other Tuesday at 7:15 am for an hour twice a month.

If you are interested in representing the GHS parent community please contact John Koch at 503-674-5500.