



The Gopher Communicator

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John Koch, Principal



An International Baccalaureate
World School

A Century of Excellence

SUN Winter Session

"SUN Winter Classes are now in session! Free enrichment activities include Homework Club, Latin Dance Club, Beginners Guitar, Cooking, Baking, Wordshop writing class and more! At the end of the day, students can enjoy a free supper and receive a ride home on the SUN activity bus."

"Get ready for Session 2 of Credit Recovery! We are accepting applications starting February 2nd through February 27th during lunch and after school. Courses include English 9-10A, Algebra 1A, and Algebra 1.5A. Space is limited to (30) students per course. Registration fee is \$50; \$25 for free/reduced lunch students. SUN offers free supper and transportation home after class each day. For more information, contact Lucy Hurst at (503) 674-5570 or hurst3@gresham.k12.or.us."

Parents, Guardians, and Students:

Does your student have any of the following qualities?

- Inquisitive
- Knowledgeable
- Thinker
- Communicator
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- A risk-taker
- Balanced
- Reflective

If so, Gresham High School has an academic program recognized worldwide that helps develop these character traits and simultaneously prepares students for the rigor of college. The program I am referring to is the International Baccalaureate (IB) program.

We are the only school only school in East County to have an IB program and we are looking to open this

opportunity to all students wishing to develop their character and learn a great deal about the world around us.

IB is an internationally recognized program intentionally designed to increase the amount of learning students experience while teaching them to be a well-rounded citizens through service opportunities and other extensions of classroom experiences. The IB coursework is recognized at colleges and universities world wide as a program that produces students that are well prepared for college and beyond. Students that pass the end of course assessments can even earn college credit!

On Line Signatures: College and Business Applications

Almost daily it gets easier for businesses and other organizations to check the background of potential applicants simply by conducting an online search. There is nothing illegal about these types of searches since people willingly post things for the broader world to see. This ease of access to personal information and activities can stand in the way of being accepted by an employer or college.

Here are a few guidelines for how to act on line:

1. Do not post anything that can be viewed as inappropriate by a potential employer.
2. All information posted can be saved or archived by others—view everything you post as something that will stay with you for a lifetime.
3. Your email address can provide a college or business with their first impression of you. Funny or catchy addresses to you may not be viewed the in the same manner.
4. Your ability to cooperate with fellow employees and students is a highly sought after skill in the business world and college. Never post derogatory information about others.

New Semester Student Synergy Access

Several weeks ago we made several phone calls and emails to parents and students informing students they needed to go on line to print their new schedules for the second semester. We knew that accessing the Internet is a challenge in some households so we opened our Library computers and printers to students that needed access.

On the first day of the second semester we also made our staff available to help students that were still having trouble. Approximately 300 students came to the Library because they had not yet been on line to set up their student accounts. This means that these students had not viewed their grades or assignment information throughout the entire first semester. This fact is a bit concerning.

Please remind your students that regular checking of their grades is a basic part of being a student. A critical skill now and into their adult lives is learning to track your on line signature. Checking grades is a simple part of that critical aspect of the adult world.

School Attendance

As much as strong attendance correlates with academic success, it is also a work skill. The absolutely critical habits of getting yourself up in the morning even when you do not really want to are developed early—in school. Teaching yourself to overcome the desire to miss school when there really isn't a strong reason will help students when they enter the adult world.

Other benefits for high rates of attendance:

- Consistent, first hand instruction.
- Hearing instruction first hand including class discussions, other input from students, and questions asked.
- Classroom efficiency and teacher workload improves.
- Better access to the teacher for questions.
- Students that attend at high rates also graduate at higher rates.

Cell Phone Interruptions

Students, parents, and guardians this notice is a friendly reminder that cell phones are not permitted to be used, unless permission is given by a staff member for class or study purposes, while classes are in session. This includes stepping out into the hall to take or make a call or sending messages. Between classes, at lunch and before or after the school day are appropriate times to make calls.

Parents and guardians we sincerely appreciate you not trying to contact your children using personal handheld electronic devices during the school day. If there is an emergency, the office staff can relay messages.

New Gopher Clothing Exchange

"The Gopher Exchange is a clothing resource center available to GHS students in Room 120! Every Wednesday from 7:30 - 8:30 am and every Thursday during lunch students are invited to stop by and swap gently-used clothes for our store items. Students can also make appointments through their counselor or the SUN Program.

The GHS SUN Program, which operates the clothing center, is holding a winter clothing drive to raise awareness and collect vital clothing items for students in need. Some of the items most needed are winter jackets, hooded sweatshirts, active wear, men's jeans and women's jeans. If you would like to make a clothing donation it can be dropped off in Room 104 during the school day. For more information, contact the SUN Program at [\(503\) 674-5570](tel:503674-5570)."

New Summer Abroad Scholarships

ANDEO International Homestays is now offering individual scholarships of up to \$1000 to students participating in summer homestay programs. Locations include China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and Spain. Awards vary depending on available funds in a given year, teacher recommendations, quality of application materials, and program selection. Applications are due by April 1st, 2014. Find out more at www.andeo.org/scholarship

ANDEO International Homestays is an Oregon-based non-profit specializing in educational homestay programs since 1981. For more information about traveling abroad or hosting a student with ANDEO, visit www.andeo.org or email info@andeo.org.