

Senior Newsletter

Principal John R. Koch

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

- May 3 Prom, The Adriana Hill Ballrom, 8:00 – 11:00 pm. Advanced Ticket purchase required.
- May 5-23 IB Exams, Contact IB Coordinator, Mr. Chris Smith for more information
- May 6 Required Senior Class Meeting & Photo, 10:30 AM, Main Gym (CAL and ACE students will be released to attend)
- May 13-14 Jostens Cap and Gown Distribution at lunchtime in the main gym; if you haven't ordered your cap and gown yet, call Jostens Representative, Brian Coushay (503-255-7120)
- May 16 Pass/No Pass Deadline; 3:00pm
- May 23 Springfest, Special Schedule
- May 26 Memorial Day, (No School)
- May 27-30 Senior Check-out forms distributed and must be returned to bookkeeper by May 30th.
- May 27 Senior Banquet, 6:00 PM, GHS cafeteria
- May 28 Senior Scholarship Night, GHS Cafeteria, 6:30 pm
- May 29 All School Awards Assembly, Special Schedule
- May 30 Seniors' Last Day! All class work must be completed and turned in by 3:00 pm. Senior Check-out procedures must be completed and forms turned in to the bookkeeper for final checkout. All fees must be paid by this date. Commencement tickets will be distributed. Extra tickets may be picked up from Ms. Nelson in the student fees office.

JUNE

- June 5 Graduation Practice, Memorial Coliseum, 8:00 – 10:00 am; All seniors are **REQUIRED** to attend and must provide their own transportation to practice.
- June 5 Commencement Ceremony, Memorial Coliseum, 5:00 pm; All seniors must arrive by 4:15 pm.
- June 5 Senior All-Night Party, Seniors who have purchased tickets and turned in the release form should be at Gresham High School by 10:15 pm to get on the bus for the Senior All-Night Party. Buses will depart from the school at 10:30 pm. (The Senior All-Night Party is not a school-sponsored function; it is planned and chaperoned by senior parents). Buses will have the Seniors back to Gresham High School at 5 am. Someone **MUST** be there at 5:00 am to pick up their student. Students will not be allowed to drive home.

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Information for Parents of Seniors

We are nearing that time when “senioritis” can start to set in. After spring break seniors recognize that there is light at the end of the tunnel and sometimes it feels like they can begin to focus less on school—attendance drops and classwork takes a back seat to other things. Seniors are advised to stay focused and make every effort to finish strong because graduation is at stake. It is that simple. Often college admissions are still contingent upon 8th semester transcripts. Also, many scholarships are still available and it is important that students be able to show that they are still challenging themselves. While it can be inviting to let down and relax, it is generally not in a senior student’s best interest to do so. Keep encouraging your student to do his/her very best right up until the end of the semester!

Grades and Graduation Requirements

All seniors must meet Gresham Barlow School District graduation requirements in order to participate in commencement. If you have any indication that your student’s academic performance and grades may be placing him/her in jeopardy of not graduating, contact his/her counselor and teachers immediately. You may call and/or email your student’s counselor (503-674-5508) and teachers (503-674-5500). Email addresses are available on the GHS website. If your student attends the Center for Advanced Learning or the Academy for Architecture, Construction and Engineering, I encourage you to contact teachers at those schools. The Director at CAL is Carol Egan at 503-667-4978. The ACE Director is Mark Clifford, at 503-546-9928. Twelve-week progress reports will be mailed home the week of **May 1, 2014**. For some students, meeting graduation requirements is one of the first times in their lives that there is no option but to comply with an absolute requirement. A few seniors continue to believe that somehow an exception will be made for them at the last minute. Unfortunately, it will not. One of the most difficult tasks that GHS counselors and administrators face is telling parents that their son/daughter will not participate in graduation. Please stay apprised of your student’s progress toward graduation—we don’t want there to be any surprises during the first week of June. Remember--- ONLY students who have completed ALL requirements for graduation (including credit requirements, career-related learning standards, career-related learning experiences and an academic portfolio containing all work samples) are allowed to receive a diploma and participate in commencement exercises. No exceptions will be made.

Over the next several weeks the auto dialer will be calling all students missing graduation requirements. Many students still have not completed portfolio pieces, career related learning activities (2 required), or have not met the essential skills of reading or writing. If you have a question about these requirement please email or call your student’s counselor, assistant principal, or Barb Cooke.



Senior Class Meeting

All seniors (including those who attend CAL and ACE) are required to attend a class meeting on May 6 at 10:30 AM in our main gym. Students will be given important information about expectations for the remaining weeks of school and graduation, timelines and deadlines for various events related to graduation such as distribution of commencement tickets, procedures for requesting additional tickets, cap and gown pickup, etc. Senior All-Night Party information will also be available. A senior class photo for the yearbook will be taken at the end of the meeting. Students will be reminded that violations of school and district policies regarding the use alcohol, drugs or other disciplinary/behavior issues may result in not being able to participate in graduation activities, including commencement exercises. GHS does not sanction a "senior skip day." Seniors who skip classes on a designated "skip day" and/or a "senior prank" will receive consequences consistent with school and district policy.

Senior Check-Out Procedures

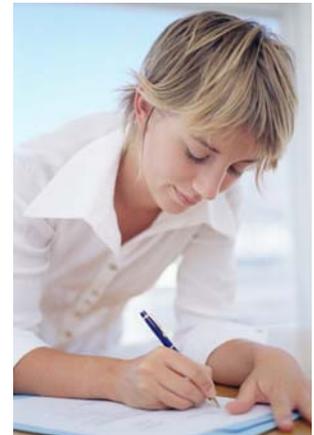
Senior check-out forms will be distributed on May 27th. These forms must be completed, signed and returned to our bookkeeper by May 30, 2014. I know that there is a tendency for students to wait until the last minute to locate lost books and pay fees. I encourage parents to help their senior get ready for clearance by checking in now to remind him/her about turning in books, cleaning out lockers and paying fees during the check-out period. With increasing costs, the school must make every effort to recover all books. All outstanding fees must be paid prior to graduation. Call our bookkeeper at 503-674-5518 to receive an update regarding fees that your student owes

Commencement

It is the student's responsibility to get to the Memorial Coliseum on time for graduation. Graduation begins at 5:00 PM on June 5th. Again, remember parking is a problem. The Coliseum staff recommends parking in the nearby parking structures. Parking on the street is difficult at best. Graduates need to be downstairs in the Georgia Pacific Room by 4:15 pm. Seating is first-come, first-served for your guests. If one of your guests is in a wheelchair, please let Counseling Dept. Chair, Dr. Renice Siefer, know ahead of time so we can make arrangements for wheelchair seating. **STUDENTS, DO NOT BRING ANY VALUABLES, PURSES, BACKPACKS, CELL PHONES, ETC. WITH YOU.** There is nowhere to leave them and there is no one to watch them for you. You cannot carry a purse or bag into the arena for the ceremony.

Be Recognized!

All seniors who are recipients of college scholarships, are asked to notify Kendra Maddox in the College & Career Center. This is important for commencement and Senior Recognition/Scholarship Night - we want to make sure you are recognized for your achievements!



Senior All Night Party



The Senior All-Night Party is a drug/alcohol-free, parent-sponsored event where seniors can be together after graduation for one last night of celebration with their friends. The \$30.00 cost per student includes transportation to the party location, great food, games, activities and prizes for seniors to enjoy. Graduates will be transported back to GHS at approximately 5:00 AM on June 6. Put your check in an envelope made out to SANP and drop it off at the school office BEFORE June 5th. PLEASE PUT YOUR SENIOR'S NAME ON THE CHECK OR ENVELOPE WITH A PHONE NUMBER. If you require financial assistance to purchase a ticket contact a GHS counselor. (The Senior All-Night Party is not a school-sponsored function; it is planned and chaperoned by senior parents)

Graduation Trips



Experience tells us that there is too often a lack of the promised supervision on these kinds of trips.

We are approaching the time of year when seniors are actively planning for graduation events. One of the most common proposals is the alleged "annual graduation trip" to Mexico or other locations that "everyone else" gets to go on. Please be very thorough in researching any package graduation trips before agreeing to let your son/daughter go. In no way does Gresham High School, nor the Gresham Barlow School District, endorse or sponsor ANY kind of graduation trip. We do not allow announcements or posters to be posted, nor do we allow recruitment meetings to take place on our campus. Typically a company will promise a "free" trip to a senior as long as they can sign up ten of their friends (who pay) to go along. I advise checking out these companies very carefully before allowing your son/daughter to go. Experience tells us that there is too often a lack of the promised supervision on these kinds of trips. Inadequate supervision can lead to easy access to alcohol and drugs, inappropriate sexual activity and the potential for serious problems to develop miles away from parental support. If you decide to allow your student to attend a senior trip, whether it be local, national or international, I encourage you to know everything you can about where your student is going, who they are going with and what is going to happen once they arrive at their destination.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://ghs.gresham.k12.or.us>

Graduation Pictures

Graduation Pictures by Gene Takalo Photography are available. You may pre-order a package (2 - 5x7's and 12 wallets) for **\$22**. Contact Gene at 503-667-3713 or email gtakalo@comcast.net. Individual pictures may be ordered on-line after graduation at www.takalophotography.com (client user name is gophergrad14).