

# GULF HIGH GAZETTE

5355 SCHOOL ROAD

NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34652

727-774-3300

## Florida Partnership For Academic Achievement and College Readiness

The Florida Partnership with the College Board was formed in 1999 as a result of the Florida legislature's A+ School Report Card plan. The Florida Partnership's function is to help students to improve their academic achievement and college readiness. Gulf High is meeting the challenge!

The areas of attention supported by the Florida Partnership include the following:

\*Increasing enrollment in advanced placement (AP) classes

\*Pre-SAT for ninth- and tenth-grade students (PSAT -- not only an excellent preparation for the SAT, but

also a qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship as well as for other scholarships, in addition to providing diagnostic information for teachers, and serving as a recruiting device for advanced courses)

\*SAT preparation courses (to be offered at GHS beginning January, 2003; and at Mitchell High School beginning February, 2003 on Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m.)

\*Critical Thinking course offered at GHS through adult education (1/2 credit -- See Mr. Palma).

\*Tutoring -- free! Through Pasco-Hernando Community College (offered in all academic area with both student

and teacher tutors, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30-4:30 at GHS. Bus transportation is available.)

\*Opportunity Hall (teachers are available to help students with homework, make-up tests, study skills, writing research papers, and FCAT practice and ACTive, an ACT preparatory software system. This is offered on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30-4:30 at GHS. Bus transportation is available.)

\*Newsletters such as this will go out to parents, outlining opportunities for their students to enhance their achievement.

Parents are encouraged to support their children in se-

lecting the highest level courses for which they are qualified, especially advanced placement classes. Statistics show that students who take AP classes have a tremendously higher success rate in college, whether or not they actually pass the AP exam. Pasco County School Board supports the AP curriculum by rewarding students who accept the rigors of such courses with an extra quality grade point, which enhances AP students' GPA's. Parents are further encouraged to urge their children to take the PSAT in both ninth as well as in tenth grades. Practice results in higher scores and better opportunities for our students after graduation.



## School Focuses on Literacy Improvement

Parents, have you noticed a positive change in your sons' and daughters' vocabulary since we launched the Greek and Latin Root Word of the Week Marathon on the Monday morning news program? The lucky winners of the weekly marathons - Mr. Miller's, Mr. Stobb's, and Mrs. Long's classes - have thoroughly enjoyed the donut breakfasts provided by Southgate Publix. Gulf High School has moved full force into a total school-literacy program as teachers in all classes have

introduced the students to the learning strategies of previewing, predicting, defining vocabulary, and active-reading note taking, which increase student comprehension and retention in all subjects.

Teachers and students will also be focusing on in-class test-taking skills for improving student achievement on the FCAT, SAT, and ACT tests. Students may practice the FCAT at home by accessing the online FCAT Explorer program using the password of student's first

initial (no space) last initial and four-digit birth month and day (00/00). A disk of another FCAT practice program can be purchased for use on home computers from Mr. Wolf's Computer Club for \$3.00. We are very optimistic that through linking parent, teacher, and student resources, Gulf High School students are going to be proud of their well-earned academic achievement.

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**Congratulations, Winners!**

**Brett Walsh**, National Council of Teachers of English 2002 Achievement Award in Writing, National Level

**Kayla Kuni**, "Dear Author" Writing Contest Winner, District Level

**Chris Canatsey**, Story Tell-ibration Contest, School Level

**"What matters is ability, not disability."**

**Institute of Business Technology News**

For the Great American Teach-In on November 20, a panel of local business people shared their career experiences. Participants included: Tom Castriota of Castriota Chevrolet; Mike Cox of Morgan Stanley; Robert Palisi of New Port Richey Fire Department; and Lori Kalman of Innisbrook.

Career Shadowing in the workplace has already begun. Students are planning and accompanying business people in the workplace to observe firsthand

the world of work.

On November 22, Vinny Buscetta with Pasco County Parks and Recreation, spoke with students about the careers he has embarked upon leading to his career today.

On November 4, FBLA members attended District 11 Fall Rally at River Ridge High School. In November, members selected team and individual performance categories for District Competition in January. The Gulf High chapter officers will be attending both the Flor-

ida and National Leadership Conference in Jacksonville in November -- Cassi Long, President; Monica Marcenko, Vice President; Jennifer Grantham, Secretary/Treasurer; and Amanda Fischer, Historian.

IBT winners in the poster contest during Drug Awareness Week were Julia Carroll and Seana McIntire. Congratulations!

**Institute of Health and Human Services**

The Institute of Health and Human Services Learning Community Team has been extremely busy with planning and preparing events for the school year. In October, the student's were invited to a Wellness Fair held in the Health Occupations and the Family and Consumer Sciences rooms. In all, 355 students were given screenings for hearing, vision, blood pressure, weight/height, carbon dioxide levels, and reflexes,

and then were given information on nutrition and exercise. Thank you to Publix at Southgate, Walmart in Oldsmar, and the American Lung Association for their contributions of brochures, goodie bags, and personnel to help make this event a success. Also in October, the Health Department's Rex Joyner presented the IHHS students with information concerning hepatitis, rabies and the West Nile Virus and

ways to avoid infection. November's activities included the Great American Teach-In and the "Turkey Shoot," a wheelchair basketball game presented by professional wheel chair basketball players from around the country). Their message to our students is, "What matters is ability, not disability." Check out Gulf High's Web Site to see important information about the IHHS Learning Community.

**Institute of Communication and the Arts**

The Institute of Communication and the Arts wound up their "Holocaust" themed project on November 15 at 6:30 p.m. with the final performance of the play, "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" to a packed audience. Students who saw the play prior to the final performance had nothing but positive comments regarding the play, actors and the museum which reflected the concentration camp theme.

Kari Hirschfeld, a sophomore in the ICA said, "the play was a

very nice dramatic approach to teaching students about the Holocaust."

Paige Harper, a junior said, "the play and museum presented a lot of information about the Holocaust that I was unaware of".

The ICA faculty would like to thank all of the actors in the play, students who made the artwork and set up the museum. Without the continued help and support of the ICA students, activities and studies

of this kind would not be possible. Moreover, a "high five" to Mrs. Gedraitis, Mr. Trapani, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Riddle, Mr. Barrus, Mr. Rutherford and support faculty and staff who assisted in our project.

A sincere thanks!!!

Mrs. Barrus

ICA Team Coordinator



## Institute of Technical Sciences News

The Institute of Technical Sciences would like to welcome the following business leaders to our new CAPA (Career and Academic Partners in Action) Board: Jim Duffy and Doug Baker from Widell Industries, Inc., Victor Ramirez from Tri-Arts Studio, and Craig Peterson from Huff Carbide Tool, Inc.. We look forward to working with these business partners to provide real world experiences for our students.

On January 23, 2003, tenth graders in ITS will attend a presentation by teachers from Marchman Technical Education Center. Marchman's

Automotive Service, Computer Electronics, Auto Collision Repair, Electricity (Residential), Heating, and AC refrigeration, Marine Services, Cabinet Making, and Sports and Recreation Turf Operations are programs that may interest ITS students. Students can attend MTEC for a half day during their junior and senior years. Transportation is provided. An Open House for students and parents will be held at MTEC on February 12 at 6:30 p.m.. Information will be given to students at the January 23 presentation.

## Cum Laude Recognition Program

Students will once again be awarded Cum Laude status and recognition as determined by their class rank grade point average (GPA) this year. All calculations will be completed to the fifth decimal place and rounded to the fourth decimal place.

Each high school will continue to determine student class ranking since this information is still important to some colleges and universities. Valedictorians and Salutatorians will

still be recognized and honored in addition to those achieving Cum Laude recognition.

All graduating students will be recognized based on the following levels of achievement:

	<u>G.P.A.</u>
Cum Laude	3.2-3.7
Magna Cum Laude	3.8-4.1
Suma Cum Laude	4.2 +

## Guidance News

On November 21 the guidance counselors met with juniors to do a credit check and Florida Bright Futures Scholarship review. Students were given a magazine called *Trend*. This magazine contains excellent information for high school students and is published annually by the state of Florida. If your son/daughter was absent, they should make an appointment to meet with their guidance counselor.

On November 22, forty eight seniors turned in the Local Scholarship Application. Seniors should continue to watch the Scholarship Scoop and apply for any scholarships for which they are eligible. In December guidance will be

taking seniors to the computer lab to complete the online application for the Bright Futures Scholarships. To qualify for the scholarship at the end of the 7th semester, students must have submitted the application prior to January 30, 2003. Now is the time for seniors to start thinking about financial aid. On January 9th guidance will be in senior classes to discuss financial aid. **On Wednesday, January 22 a Financial Aid Night will be held for parents at River Ridge High School. Both junior and senior parents are invited to attend.**

In December all students who took the PSAT Test will

receive their results with an interpretation by guidance. An SAT Prep Course will be offered to interested students in January. Students should see Ms. Ledman to sign up for the course. Recently, 10th graders took the PLAN Test. This test is a practice for the ACT Test (a college admissions test) and also contains a career interest inventory. Students will receive their results in January.

Beginning in December students will be working with guidance to select their learning community for next year. Students will be using the Choices computerized guidance pro-

gram and other career web sites to complete a Career and Academic Planner Form. A copy of this form will be given to students. Registration for the 2003-2004 school year will begin in February.

**Both the Guidance Office and the Career Resource Center will be open until 6:30 pm on January 2 and February 3. Parents and students are invited to stop for help with career and educational planning.**

## Parent Quiz

### Are You Helping Your Teen Develop Responsibility?

Perhaps the most important lesson we can teach our kids is to take responsibility for their own actions. Here's a quiz to see how you're doing.

Give yourself five points for something you usually do, zero points for something you never do—or any score in between.

\_\_\_ 1. I give my teen regular responsibilities.

\_\_\_ 2. I try to avoid nagging. I use one word reminders such as "dishes" instead.

\_\_\_ 3. I let my teen make as many decisions as possible.

\_\_\_ 4. I let my teen experience the consequences of his actions once the decision is made.

\_\_\_ 5. I praise my teen when he acts responsibly.

### How did you score?

Above 20 means you're raising a self-disciplined teen. A score of 15 to 19 is average. Below 15? Try some of the ideas in the quiz to build responsibility in your teen.

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Linking Resources to Improve Student Achievement



**Pasco County Schools**  
Helping Students Reach Their Highest Potential  
**Superintendent of Pasco County Schools**  
**Dr. John Long**

**Gulf High School**

**Mr. Thomas E. Imerson, Principal**

**Assistant Principal, Administration**  
**Thomas J. Brochu**

**Assistant Principal, Instruction**  
**Dr. Judy B. Gallagher**

**Assistant Principal, Student Services**  
**Patricia L. Haynes**

**Assistant Principal, Adult Education**  
**Alfred J. Palma**

School Hours	Student Hours	Teacher Hours
7:30 AM-4:00 PM	7:40 AM-2:00 PM	7:30 AM-3:00 PM

**School Telephone Numbers**

Main School Line	727-774-3300
School Fax Line	727-774-3391
Guidance Secretary	727-774-3300
Attendance Office	727-774-3308
Student Registrar	727-774-3307
Clinic	727-774-3305
School Nurse	727-774-3356
Bookkeeper	727-774-3304
Administrative Secretary	727-774-3302
Adult Education Secretary	727-774-3309
<b>Administrative and Guidance Staff as follows:</b>	
Thomas Brochu, Assist. Prin.	727-774-3318
Dr. Judy Gallagher, Assist. Prin.	727-774-3316
Patricia Haynes, Assist. Prin.	727-774-3317
Alfred Palma, Assist. Prin.	727-774-3319
Lois Coburn, Admin. Para	727-774-3314
William Schweiger, Admin. Para	727-774-3312
Patricia Catterson, Guidance	727-774-3333
Mary Jones, Guidance	727-774-3332
April Kelley, Guidance	727-774-3335
Kathy Trapp, Career Specialist	727-774-3351
<b>Other Areas:</b>	
Paul Girardi, Athletic Director	727-774-3339
William Rutherford, Band Director	727-774-3374
Lt. Wysocki, ROTC	727-774-3352
Chief Saunders, ROTC	727-774-3354
Media Center	727-774-3322
School Resource Officer	727-774-3350

GULF HIGH SCHOOL  
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New Port Richey, Florida 34652

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