

# Gulf High Gazette

**Volume 7, Issue 6**

[www.gulffhigh.org](http://www.gulffhigh.org)

**June 2009**



**Congratulations, Class of 2009 Graduates!**

*Photos by Jeff Miller*

## **Message from the Captain**

Hello Buccaneers!

Summer is here and, with a couple of months to recharge the batteries and enjoy family and friends before we return in August, I want to encourage all of our students to read at least 60 minutes each day! Research indicates that students engaged in reading and academic learning during the summer come back to school prepared and ready to experience success. As the summer progresses, we will have a number of campus activities that your student will be invited to attend! School spirit, pride, and unity continue to be primary focuses for Gulf High School. I encourage ALL of you to regularly check our website for

information and details about our school and programs at: [www.gulffhigh.org](http://www.gulffhigh.org).

Communication with parents and students is a crucial connection we continue to make a school focus and priority. Enjoy the summer! Stay safe and volunteer to make a difference in our community. I also want to remind everyone that you can and should be involved in your school! We are "Anchored in Excellence, United in Pride."

Sincerely,

**Steve Knobl**  
Principal



## **NJROTC Summer Camp August 3-7, 2009**

NJROTC will be hosting a summer camp for the incoming 9th grade NJROTC students.

Chief Rodriguez will be mailing out a package to the homes of all incoming cadets to the program.

For more information, please contact LCDR Nesthus or Chief Rodriguez at 727-774-3352.

## **Extended School Year at GHS**

**ESY is offered (on a limited basis) to seniors who did not graduate with their peers in the May ceremony. Specific classes are based on student needs.**

**Classes will be conducted on the following days:**

**6/16-18, 6/22-25, 6/29-7/1**

**AM Session 7:30-11:20 AM**

**PM Session 12:00-3:30 PM**

### **School Address:**

5355 School Road  
New Port Richey, FL 34652

### **Phone:**

727-774-3300, 813-774-3300

### **FAX:**

727-774-3391

### **Web site:**

[www.gulffhigh.org](http://www.gulffhigh.org)

## **June**

- 6/11: Final Report Cards
- 6/13: ACT test at Tarpon HS
- 6/16: Extended School Year Begins

## **July**

- 7/1: Extended School Year Ends

## **August**

- Week of 8/3: Teen Driver Program
- 8/13: Annual PIBS Picnic
- 8/17: First day for Teachers
- 8/18: Orientation for Students
- 8/24: First Day for Students
- 8/27: Open House

## **Summer Sports Information**

Please call the Main Office for information regarding summer weight room hours, camps and team tryouts.

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

### Fifth Annual PIB Picnic

The annual PIB picnic is scheduled for *Thursday, August 13th*. Students will report at 12:15 PM for fun activities and workshops. The parents will have a workshop at 4:45 PM till 5:30 PM. The actual picnic will be held in the Cafeteria from 5:30 – 7:00 PM. The price is \$4.00 per person. The transportation department will be on hand to discuss any/all busing concerns. Invitations will be sent out soon.

### GUIDANCE

June 16- Extended School Year begins at Gulf High School for 2008-2009 juniors and seniors

July 1- Extended School Year ends at Gulf High School

July 14- Registration for Extended School Year at Marchman Tech. (juniors at 8 am and sophomores at 9 am)

July 15- Extended School Year classes begin at Marchman

July 30- Extended School Year ends at Marchman

July 29 and 30- Students with schedule problems can meet with counselors at GHS between 8 am and 2 pm

August 7- Deadline to register for the September 12 ACT Test (recommended for seniors)

August 5, 11 and 12- Students new to Gulf High School can register for classes (stop by over the summer to pick up a registration packet and receive an appointment time)

August 18- Countywide Orientation Day for secondary students (registered students may pick up their 2009-2010 schedules and new students can meet with a guidance counselor to select classes)

### SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Attention! All student drivers! Want to park in the student parking lot next school year? Along with ALL the other high schools in Pasco County, Gulf High School will be starting a new program next year. It is called the **Teen Driver Program**. The program will be put on by Cpl Fichtemaier at GHS the week of August 3rd-7th. He will be holding a morning class and an afternoon class. The

morning class will be from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The afternoon class will be from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. This program will be **MANDATORY** to all students who want a student parking pass at GHS. For more information, contact the Main Office.



**Teen Driver Program**  
**August 3-7, 2009**

### Discretionary Lottery Funds: 3rd Quarter Report for 2008-09

Section 24.121(5) Florida Statutes states that each school district shall make available and distribute to the public, a report of expenditures of lottery funds allocated to the school district. As of March 31, 2009, funds have been allocated and expended as follows:

	Allocation	Expenditures
School Recognition Awards	\$3,009,212	\$2,896,180
Teacher Salaries and Benefits	\$1,277,497	\$1,089,081
School Expenditures	\$333,919	\$291,330
Charter Schools	\$37,655	\$33,001
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,658,283</b>	<b>\$4,309,592</b>

### Summer St. Petersburg Times Reader Program

**June 14-August 22, 2009**

**10-weeks, 7 days per week**

**Only \$10!**

**To order, call 1-800-888-7012 and ask for operator 4501**

**You will need to provide your name, address, phone number & school.**



### Pasco County School Board Members

**Allen Altman**  
District 1

**Joanne Hurley**  
District 2

**Cathi Martin**  
District 3

**Kathryn Starkey**  
District 4

**Frank Parker**  
District 5

District School Board of Pasco County  
**Heather Fiorentino**  
Superintendent  
7227 Land O' Lakes Blvd.  
Land O' Lakes, FL 34638



**NJROTC ROCKS!** What a year! The Unit continues to improve every day. More awards, accolades, and accomplishments have been realized this year than any other in the past. If the year, and more particularly the last quarter, are any indication of what is to come, then come along for the ride or move aside!

Since the last newsletter, the Unit has been recognized by a number of Florida and Pasco County legislators, several newspapers and a number of fraternal and veteran organizations for its many achievements. Among them are National Champion Academic Team, Regional Champion in Academics, Athletics and Drill competition at the University of South Florida, sixth place overall at the state championship, and second place overall at the Annual Brain Bowl State competition.

The biggest news of the year came in March when we received word that Gulf's #1 team scored the highest of any of the 1,534 teams that participated, and are the 2009 NJROTC National Academic Champions! This is the first time in history that a Florida team has won the title. (The NJROTC program was approved by Congress in 1964 and its first Unit activation/participation in 1966). Winning team members include Cheryl Jennett, James Weber, Aaron Heusted, Matthew Harmaz, and Cody Boyet. The test included questions from the four-year curriculum of the Naval Science program, and other topics such as Social Studies/History, Science, Economics, Politics, Government, Health and Nutrition, Ceremonies and Drill, Leadership and Current Events.

Gulf's much improved NJROTC competition team qualified for the State Championship in

late February! They did so at the University of South Florida by defeating fifteen teams vying for the opportunity to head to States. The cadets really started to peak as they placed no lower than eighth in any of the eleven events. In fact, they brought home trophies - placing in ten of those eleven events! Of significance is the Academic Team which has placed no lower than second in any of the four state-sanctioned field meets during the school year. They placed first at USF! Other first-place finishes included the Unarmed Exhibition and Sit-Up teams. Second-place finishes included the Unarmed Basic, 100- and 200- meter track teams, and the Unit Personnel Inspection. The Push-Up team placed third, and the Armed Exhibition and Color Guard teams placed fifth.

The Buccaneer cadets exceeded expectations on March 7<sup>th</sup> by scoring higher than at either of the two showings at the State Championships in school history. (The Unit has been in existence for 28 years). They placed sixth of 22 teams. Last year, they placed sixth of 18 teams. Although the team performance in track, push-ups and drill was not at the level displayed at the Regional Championship hosted by USF two weeks earlier, the cadets represented the school and community with amazing results. The Academic Team continued its winning style by placing third overall behind only two teams (Flanagan and Boca Raton high Schools), both of whom placed in the Top Five in the 2008 National Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships. James Weber placed second and was awarded the silver medal. The Sit-Up Team placed third overall, despite incredible competition from the other schools. Pierce Pondi and Christian Keyes both finished with 250 sit-ups in 5 minutes (cadence at 50 per minute) and continued for a shot at an individual medal. Pierce placed third and was awarded the bronze medal for completing 330 sit-ups in 6 minutes. Christian finished with 313. The Unarmed Basic Regulation and Color Guard teams both placed a respectable seventh overall.

The Unit placed fifth overall in Personnel Inspection- another first for the Buccaneers in state competition.

Commander Dirk Hebert visited GHS NJROTC on March 28th for its biennial Area Managers Inspection (AMI). The commander inspected financial accounts and cadets' knowledge of operations throughout the entire Unit. The cadet staff provided him with a State of the Unit slide show presentation, a snapshot of Unit achievements and progress throughout the year, which left him with a very positive impression of the program and its cadets. The commander left stating that he expected this Unit would be among the top-of-the-top in Florida in a very short order.

After a wonderful military ball just one year ago, who would have thought it could get even better? This year, a large number of cadets, guests, parents and the instructors experienced one of the most dynamic and fun balls imaginable! The event took place at the Spartan Manor. The male cadets looked so great in their tuxedos, suits or uniforms, and female cadets in their formal gowns! We are so proud of these students and wish that all their parents would have had the opportunity to enjoy the event with us.

The GHS NJROTC really has made a **HUGE** difference in the school and community! There are numerous before- and after- school competitive teams, lots of weekend events, an Annual Ball, and so much more. If a student is enrolled in grades 9 – 12, is a U.S. citizen or national (or alien lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence), is **physically qualified** to participate in the physical education program, has a **2.0 or higher GPA**, is able to maintain acceptable standards of conduct, and can comply with grooming standards as set forth by the Unit Commander, then consider joining! All students planning to join or return must interview with the Unit Commander.

## You cannot beat this!

If you take Naval Science for **2 years**, you may receive the following credit:

**Hope, Physical Education, Performance/Practical Arts**

If you take Naval Science for **3 years**, you may receive the following credit:

**Physical Science**

## More Facts:

Absolutely NO MILITARY obligation!!!

Numerous opportunities for scholarships and grants

Advanced Placement (if enlisting) = E-2 or E-3

Awards and Recognition

Competition Teams – Travel to State and National Venues

Academics, Athletics (Track & Field), Precision Drill

