

Gulf High Gazette

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Message from the Captain

Dear Buccaneers,

As we prepare for the start of the next school year, I am excited and energized. After a very productive summer, I want to share my hopes and dreams for our school! The building looks fantastic, and we have had many teachers and staff members diligently working to prepare for our students' arrival in a few weeks. As a school, we have so much to be proud of and much to offer our great community.

Although our school earned the points to receive a "C" school grade, not enough of our students in our lowest 25% made learning gains in reading resulting in a drop of our school grade to a "D." In preparation for the faculty and staff's return, our administrative team and school leadership team have collaboratively created a comprehensive school improvement plan for our students. Our expectations for everyone next school year are very high. We cannot accept being average and not doing our best each day. Our goal for 2009-10 school year will be to move from a D to a B.

I am confident that by working together for ALL of our students we will reach this very achievable goal. We have created a school-wide literacy program that will help all students be more successful this year. In addition, we ALL must take PRIDE in being Buccaneers and displaying our love for our

school in positive ways. High school can, and should be, four memorable years in a student's life.

Parents, I challenge you to dedicate yourself to your student(s) and to their learning. It is crucial to check their attendance and grades on eSembler daily and to question them about their school activities. Taking a genuine interest in your student's high school experience will pay big dividends for your child, for your family, and for our school.

My hope is that your son/daughter will achieve great academic success this year. My challenge to all of our students is to become, or continue to be, involved and committed to school-wide spirit and show school pride in all that they do. As situations arise, it will take a lot of effort and dedication, but the benefits of school spirit are well worth it in the end! Our slogan continues to be "Anchored in Excellence, United in Pride." I absolutely believe that we have the best students and the best faculty and staff in Pasco County.

Thank you in advance for supporting our students, faculty and staff this year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Knobl
Principal



Adult Education Program

The Adult Ed. Program will begin on September 14th and will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays until December 21st. Class times have changed this year. We will begin class at 2:30 and end at 4:30 pm. Students are required to attend 50 hours

Written by Doug Elias, Assistant Principal

of instruction and must receive a passing grade to successfully complete the course. Students who would like to take classes need to see their guidance counselor and register for classes prior to the September 14th start date.

DATES TO REMEMBER

August

- 8/13: Annual PIBS Picnic
- 8/14: 9th Grade HCA Breakfast
- 8/17: First Day for Teachers
- 8/18: Orientation for Students
- 8/24: First Day for Students
- 8/27: Open House

September

- 9/7: No School - Labor Day
- 9/12: ACT @ GHS
- 9/16: College Night at PHCC, 6-8 PM
- 9/22: Progress Reports

School Meal Prices

Effective August 24, 2009

Elementary:

Breakfast \$1.25 / Lunch \$2.00

Secondary:

Breakfast \$1.40 / Lunch \$2.50

Reduced-price:

Breakfast \$.30 / Lunch \$.40

Please note: Last year's meal eligibility status will expire after the first ten days of school on September 7, 2009. New applications are available at school or online.



Health Careers Academy *Written by Carol Hlad, Coordinator*



The Health Careers Academy welcomed the incoming ninth grade HCA students (Class of 2013) and their parents with an orientation breakfast and luncheon in the

school's cafeteria, catered by Bagels Galore and Papa John's. Team teachers, guidance, administration, district personnel and the community advisory committee assisted with the program's agenda, which included break-out sessions for both the students and their parents and a tour of the school. Each family was given a packet of pertinent information regarding the guidelines of the program.

The HCA has also met this summer to make plans for the upcoming year by creating Florida Standards curriculum especially for the Academy, and refining goals and procedures that will enhance each student's academic success, as well as to ensure success in all areas of their high school experience. We are looking forward to another banner year for the Academy!

Senior Project *Written by Lina LaBarbara, Coordinator*

Welcome back, seniors! It's time to start thinking of research and project topics for your Senior Project. This year, we would like to encourage students to choose topics that are challenging, yet fun, and that promote the idea of community service. There are many ways to help out in your community. So coming soon, Gulf High's web page will include a Senior Project page that will have

links to ideas for community involvement, as well as due dates, tips, and answers to frequently asked questions. We look forward to another excellent year and to watching students use their creativity to make this year's projects the best. Go Bucs!



Mrs. LaBarbara is the new Senior Project coordinator.

2008-09 IB/AP Results *Written by Dr. Debbie Lepley, Assistant Principal*

Indeed, our International Baccalaureate Students (11th & 12th), our Program to Identify Baccalaureate Students (09th & 10th) and our Advanced Placement Students have demonstrated that Gulf High School is **Anchored In Excellence, United in Pride!** Both IB/AP results for 2009 broke some academic records for the GHS community as well as the worldwide community. Congratulations to our students, their parents, and the excellent IB/AP academic teaching team.

Our **IB** data demonstrated the following:

1. Seven content areas out of ten scored 71% and above passing rate
2. English, Spanish, French and Math Studies scored a 95% and above passing rate
3. GHS students scored higher than the Worldwide Average in the following content areas:

| <u>Subject</u> | <u>GHS Average</u> | <u>Worldwide Average</u> |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| French | 5.00 | 4.72 |
| Spanish | 4.89 | 4.69 |
| Math Stud. | 5.00 | 4.61 |
| Math SL | 4.50 | 4.45 |
| Music Comp | 5.50 | 4.27 |
| Music So. Per | 5.50 | 4.42 |
| Visual Arts | 4.50 | 4.46 |



Our **Advanced Placement** results demonstrated the following:

1. AP English Comp increased the pass rate from 2008 by 20.7% with 59.7% of the students passing. AP English Lit had 53.5% of the students passing.
2. AP World History jumped from 2008 rate of 15% to 57% students passing the exam. AP Gov/Pol also jumped from 29% in 2008 to 57% for the 2009 school year.
3. AP European History had a 2008 passing rate of 31%. The rate for 2009 doubled with 61.5%.

Again, the Administrative team at GHS is extremely proud of our students and their teachers for their exemplary academic achievements in these national and international assessments!