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Buc Bulletin

The Gulf High School Newsletter

5535 School Road
New Port Richey, Florida 34652

PHONE:
(727) 774-3300

FAX:
727-774-3391

We are on the web!

See us at:

<http://ghs.pasco.k12.fl.us/>

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School Year Starts with High Expectations

New principal Mrs. Kim Davis, as well as two new assistant principals, (See *GHS Administration*, pg. 2), will infuse new energy into Gulf High School this year.

Expectations are high as Mrs. Davis stated recently. "There is an optimism surrounding this school year, and we are preparing for success."

Despite changes on the administrative team, the faculty remains mostly

intact with few changes. (See *New Teachers...*, pg. 3)

The staff has been working to identify school-wide focus areas around which the year's initiatives will be set. After reviewing data including attendance, discipline, grade distributions, ACT/SAT scores, IB scores, AP scores, FCAT scores and various other assessments, the staff established a work plan for the year. The main

focus for this school year is a renewed focus on literacy.

"We are committed to improving our literacy standards and student achievement," Davis said.

"In today's economy, the need for high skilled employees creates a disparity for those who cannot read and access information on their own. We must focus our energy on preparing students for future success."

Don't Forget to Sign up for eSembler ... Again!

eSembler is a great tool for parents and students to keep track of attendance, grades and assignments. But in order for that tool to work properly, parents must create an account every year.

There are so many students who graduate or move to other districts every June that the school district does not automatically renew the eSembler accounts for each family.

We recommend that you sign up as soon as

possible so that you can track your student's progress.

Don't forget to include your own contact information so that teachers can contact you with important dates and assignment reminders.

In addition, make sure that you make note of teacher contact information so you can contact them with any questions you may have about grades, attendance and assignments.

Information on eSembler is not limited to academic progress in individual

classes. It also documents FCAT scores, lunch balances, community service hours, and grade point averages.

Also, coaches may submit names of athletes so that sports participation will also appear on the eSembler site.

Every year these things are available to every parent and student. But you must sign up ... EVERY YEAR!

Go to:
<https://grades.pasco.k12.fl.us>

Register today!

This year Gulf High School opens with three new administrators. Though she began last May, this is Mrs. Davis' first school year as a Buccaneer. Maribeth Caldwell and Steve Page are also joining the school staff. We hope all stakeholders have a very successful 2012 – 2013 school year! As we start this new school year the administrative team is dedicated to our school's mission:

Gulf High School's mission is to link local, state, national, and international resources to create active, lifelong learners who will promote worldwide intercultural understanding and respect.

Mrs. Kim Davis, Principal



Mrs. Davis became Principal of Gulf High School on May 7, 2012. She has been in education for over 20 years, beginning her career in south Georgia. In 1998, her family relocated to Pasco County, where she was hired as a science teacher at Zephyrhills High School. In 2002, she moved to the district office, where she worked

as an Instructional Trainer Coach for science education. In 2004, she became the Pasco County Science Supervisor. She worked with science curriculum and the environmental education centers. In 2006, she opened SLHS as an assistant principal and worked there until moving to Anclote High School. She is very proud of the work the Anclote

staff did moving from an F grade to an A grade in just one year. She believes focusing on what is important and making decisions based on data help schools facilitate student achievement.

She is the mother of two Pasco County graduates, one from Zephyrhills High School and the other an IB graduate of Land O' Lakes High School.

Maribeth Caldwell, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Caldwell joined the Gulf High School administration in July 2012 as the Assistant Principal for Curriculum. In February 1999 she began her Pasco County career, teaching Physical and Integrated Science at River Ridge High School. She was a part of the opening staff at Mitchell High School, teaching Integrated Science, Marine Science, and

Anatomy and Physiology. Upon completing her Education Leadership certification, she became an assistant principal at River Ridge High School in the fall of 2008. Mrs. Caldwell is married to Dillard Caldwell, an assistant principal at Anclote High School.

Douglas Elias, Assistant Principal

Mr. Elias joined Gulf High School's administration in 2008. Previously, he was the athletic director at Wiregrass Ranch High School where he also coached golf. Before coming to Wiregrass, he was an Exceptional Student Education teacher at Land O' Lakes from 2003 to 2006. Before Land O' Lakes, Mr. Elias was a strength and conditioning coach with

his alma mater, Kansas State, from 1989 to 1993, the Director of Strength and Conditioning at the University of South Florida from 1998-2001, and West Virginia's strength and conditioning coach from 2001 to 2003. Mr. Elias has a bachelor's degree in education from Fort Hays State University and a master's degree from Kansas State University.

Dr. Judy Gallagher, Assistant Principal **Mr. Steve Page, IB Assistant Principal**

Dr. Gallagher is the Assistant Principal for Student Services. She began her career in Pasco County in 1974 as a teacher at Cypress Elementary School. In 1990, she was appointed as Assistant Principal of Richey Elementary School and transferred with the staff to Cotee River Elementary School

when it opened in 1994. Dr. Gallagher received her bachelor's degree in elementary education and business education from St. Leo College and her master's degree in administration and supervision from American University. She received her doctoral degree in early and middle childhood from Nova University.

Mr. Page joined the Gulf High School administration in the summer of 2012 as the Assistant Principal for our International Baccalaureate program. Mr. Page earned his Masters Degree in Education Leadership from Argosy University and his bachelor's in Social Science Education from the University of South Florida. In 2000 Mr. Page earned Gaither High School's

Teacher of the Year award and also won a NASDAQ Economics award in 2001. He accepted a teaching position at Mitchell High School, making the switch to Pasco County in 2002. Mr. Page was an Assistant Principal at Land O' Lakes High School before joining GHS.

New Teachers and Staff

Sheli M. Wilbur (left) is teaching IB and pre-IB chemistry. Ms. Wilbur earned a degree in Molecular Biology & Microbiology at the University of Central Florida, where she graduated a member of UCF's Golden Key Honor Society and Delta Epsilon Iota Honor Society.

Amihai Uriel (second from left) is teaching science and reading. He is a new teacher, having recently graduated from St. Petersburg College, where he majored in ESE.

Lisa Jennings (far right) is a guidance counselor for students whose last names begin with A-G. She worked in education for 13 years in Pinellas County.

Heather Legrand (third from left) is teaching Chemistry, Chemistry Honors, and Physical Science. She comes to us from River Ridge High School. She has taught Biology Honors, Chemistry I, Chemistry Honors, AP Chemistry, Physical Science, and Physical Science Honors.

Travis Priddy (back) is an ESE teacher and our head boys' basketball coach. Mr. Priddy comes to us from Freedom High School in Hillsborough County.

Martha Babiarz (second from right) is our Literacy Coach. She will split her time with Bayonet Point Middle School.

Sharaya Janes (not pictured) is working in the attendance office. She is a 2012 graduate of GHS.

Ronald Davis (not pictured) has been hired as a custodian. He is a 2008 graduate of GHS and was a member of the Buccaneer Band.



Important Contact Information

Guidance Counselors (Assigned by the beginning letter of the students' last names):
A - G Mrs. Jennings, H - O Mrs. Cotney, P - Z Ms. Pontikos, PIB and IB - Mrs. Kelley

Guidance Secretary	Marrianna Romano	727-774-3330	mromano@pasco.k12.fl.us
Career Specialist	Kathy Trapp	727-774-3351	ktrapp@pasco.k12.fl.us
Attendance	Sharaya Janes	727-774-3308	sjanes@pasco.k12.fl.us
Athletic Director	Travis DeWalt	727-774-3339	tdewalt@pasco.k12.fl.us
Clinic	Cynthia Moran	727-774-3305	cmoran@pasco.k12.fl.us
Social Worker	Susan Reed	727-774-3329	sreed@pasco.k12.fl.us
School Resource Officer	Cpl. Mills	727-774-3350	dmills@pasco.k12.fl.us
Registrar	Connie Balaban	727-774-3307	cbalaban@pasco.k12.fl.us
Principal's Secretary	Patricia Joens	727-774-3302	pjoens@pasco.k12.fl.us

Important Dates to Remember

September 4	Open House (Details below)
September 7	Deadline to register for the October 6, 2012
September 10	Deadline to apply for Teen Court. See Cpl. Mills or Ms. Nibert in room 113!
September 12	Swimming vs. Ridgewood at the New Port Richey Aquatic Center. Start time is 3:00 p.m.
September 12	College Night at the Pasco Hernando Community College West campus from 6-8 p.m.
September 21	Deadline to register for the October 27, 2012 ACT.
September 21	Deadline to join the Future Business Leaders of America Club. See Ms. Oster in Rm 111. Dues are \$35.
October 8	Girls' Soccer tryouts begin. All athletes should have updated physicals (within the last year) and all paperwork turned in. If you have any questions please contact Coach McFarlane at smcfarla@pasco.k12.fl.us
October 17	The PSAT will be given at Gulf High School.
October 22	Cross Country meet. 3 X 1 Relay
October 26 and 27	Homecoming weekend. Lots of activities planned for this weekend! The annual Buccaneer Alumni Invasion, the Homecoming Football Game, the Homecoming Dance and more. Plan to be a part of a huge weekend as we begin to celebrate Gulf High's 90 th Birthday!
November 3	Cure for Kellie 5K Run (Details below)

Teachers Out of Field Notification

The Pasco County School District requires that we notify parents of any teachers on campus who are teaching a class for which they have not completed the certification. All of these teachers are presently working toward that certification as a condition of their employment. We are very confident in their abilities as classroom teachers and they are held to the same professional standards that the State of Florida and Pasco County requires. The following teachers are working toward becoming certified in their content areas:

Travis Priddy – Science

Amihai Uriel – Science

Bret Wiest – 6-12 Math

Happy Birthday GHS!

It has been 90 years since Gulf High School opened its doors to students! Faculty and students will celebrate in style all year beginning with the Homecoming and Pirate Invasion festivities.

Students will have the opportunity to learn what it was like to be a student when their parents and maybe their grandparents attended Gulf High.

Please be sure to visit the school's website for more details about upcoming events!

Open House Sept. 4th!

Tuesday, September 4th we will hold our annual Open House. IB parents will meet in the Media Center at 6 pm. The Open House schedule will begin at 6:30 with students and parents attending the students' schedules.

During first period a short video will be shown. All other classes will be 7 minutes in length with a presentation from the teachers.

This is an opportunity for you to get to know your child's school and teachers. Please plan to attend!

Cure for Kellie 5K

Kellie Hicks graduated from Gulf High School in 1984 and now she needs help from her Gulf family.

Kelly was recently diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer, for the second time.

Her daughter Ashley, a graduate of Mitchell High School, is organizing a 5K Run that will take place at Gulf High Saturday, November 3rd.

For registration information go to www.cureforkellie.com Lace up your sneakers for a good cause!