



Gulf High School

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Principal: Kimberly Davis
Asst. Principal: Steve Page
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April 10, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The following items provide important information regarding graduation requirements, end of year events for the Class of 2014, and the graduation ceremony. As a family, please review this information:

Academic Concerns

In order to participate in the graduation ceremony, students must meet the following graduation requirements as set forth by the District School Board of Pasco County: (1) a cumulative unweighted Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0000; and (2) required credits earned in specific courses as outlined by diploma option (18 or 24 credit). In order to receive a standard high school diploma, a student must meet the above requirements and the following: (3) passing required FCAT Reading test or concordant scores on the ACT and/or SAT. Students that do not meet the 3rd requirement will receive a certificate of completion which is not equivalent to a standard high school diploma. **Students seeking an 18 credit option** must also pass the Algebra End-of-Course exam or have a concordant score on the PERT. Students and parents have been made aware of these requirements. Throughout the year, students have received report cards and have met with guidance counselors to review the requirements. Unfortunately, there are some students who are still in danger of not meeting one or more of the requirements. **This final quarter is very important**, especially in terms of the danger of not having the appropriate credits (which can happen if the student fails a course) or receives low grades resulting in a GPA less than the required 2.0000. Seniors need to have all work completed by Wednesday, May 21st. This includes on-line courses (Pasco eSchool and FLVS), adult education courses, and credit recovery.

Please discuss your son's/daughter's graduation status with them. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the guidance department at (727) 774-3330.

The counselors will be developing the final list of graduates through the morning of Tuesday, May 27, 2014. This is a tedious process which requires, in some cases, refiguring grades from the final quarter and/or semester. If your son/daughter does not meet all of the requirements, you will be notified by phone no later than May 27, 2014.

Students who did not meet graduation requirements prior to May 27th will have the opportunity to participate in the Marchman graduation, which is held in August at RRHS (provided that they have met the full requirements at that time).

Class of 2014 Year-End Activities:

May 1, 2014 - Baccalaureate church service

St Mark's Presbyterian church has invited all GHS graduates and their families, along with other local high schools, to attend a Baccalaureate church service on May 1st at 7:00 pm. This is an optional event and is not school sponsored. The church is located at 7922 State Road 52, Hudson FL 34667. Please contact the church directly with any questions, (727) 863-5646.

May 16, 2014 – Deadline for Senior slideshow pictures

Each year as a part of the Gulf High School graduation ceremony a video highlighting the Seniors is

shown. As a part of the video, baby pictures and current pictures of the graduates are included. This is always a very enjoyable and memorable part of the evening. Students and parents are asked to supply two appropriate pictures for the video--one showing the student as a baby and one showing the student as they are today. **Pictures are due by Friday, May 16th.** Students **must be pictured alone** and the pictures should be about the same size. Pictures can be emailed to wrutherf@pasco.k12.fl.us or submitted to Mr. Rutherford in an envelope with the student's name and first period teacher on the front. We will make every effort to return all pictures; however, do not send one-of-a-kind never-to-be-lost pictures. Pictures need to be as clear (sharp) as possible. Pictures will be returned to the students individually, in their 1st period class or at graduation practice.

May 15, 2014 - Senior Night of Excellence, 6:00 pm in the GHS Activity Center (Gym)

May 21, 2014 - Breakfast and Senior Check-out; last day for Seniors

Last Day of School for Seniors

On Wednesday, May 21, 2014, all Seniors are **required** to go through the check-out process during their scheduled time. Also, administration will be providing a catered breakfast beginning at 8:00 am in the cafeteria. Feel free to adjust your arrival time for breakfast according to your check-out time, but plan on arriving no later than 8:30 for breakfast. Check-out will immediately follow. Check out times have been organized by student last name to help expedite the process. Students will not be allowed into the activity center before their scheduled time and if they arrive after their scheduled time, they will need to wait until the end. Assigned times are as follows:

A-G 8:30-8:50
H-O 8:50-9:10
P-Z 9:10-9:30

This check-out process includes the payment of fees based on the No-Go list. Seniors whose names are on this list are responsible for all fees which include media center books, textbooks which have not been returned (even from previous years), and cafeteria monies owed. The list will also include fees for athletic, band, painting parking space (for those who painted their spaces in the fall) and NJROTC uniforms not returned and other items which the student may owe. Once students have completed the check-out process, they will receive their cap & gown.

If you did not purchase a cap and gown and you plan on borrowing one from a previous graduate, you are still responsible for purchasing a diploma cover, medallion, and tassel. Please see Mr. Elias or Ms. Donlon for more information.

Students should try on their cap and gown immediately to be sure they are the correct size. The student owns the gown and does not need to return it. If your student has not purchased a cap and gown, please go to <http://herffjonesstpete.com> and order one as soon as possible.

*** Graduates are required to leave campus after check-out.**

*** Students are NOT permitted on campus after May 21st unless preapproved by an administrator.**

May 27, 2014 – Graduation Practice, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Calvary Chapel Center (MANDATORY)

May 28, 2014 – Graduation Practice, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Calvary Chapel Center (MANDATORY)

Please remember GHS is the guest of the Calvary Chapel Center so it is very important that students dress appropriately. Dress code regulations, along with all school regulations apply. Good conduct helps the practice move along smoothly.

Students should make arrangements to be at the practice for the entire time. Students who are significantly tardy or who do not attend practice will have their number of tickets reduced by 1(one) for each tardy or absence. Please arrange for child care prior to the first day of practice.

If there are extenuating circumstances where your student will not be able to attend one of the practices or must leave early, please contact Ms. Donlon at the school.

Each graduate will receive **5 tickets**. Everyone (including small children and babies) will require a ticket. We do not have additional tickets and seniors who desire additional tickets should check with their friends who may not be using all of their tickets. These tickets will be distributed on Wednesday, May 28th, at the end of the graduation practice. Those who still owe fees at that point will not receive their tickets. These students will then need to see a front office secretary to pay their fees and receive their tickets on **Thursday, May 29th**. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We need to know **by May 16th** if there will be any guests who are in need of hearing impaired services or wheelchair seating. Please contact the school directly to let us know.

May 28, 2014 - Senior Picnic (NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED)

In past years, a number of parents joined together to plan a year-end picnic held in the afternoon after the last graduation practice. **This event was organized by parents**. The school does not accept the responsibility of planning this activity.

This year's picnic will be held at the New Port Richey Recreation and Aquatic Center located at 6630 Van Buren Street, New Port Richey, Florida 34653. Cost will be \$2.00 per student paid upon arrival at the aquatic center. Picnic will start at 12 noon.

Graduation Ceremony

Location & Time: **Graduation is May 30, 2014 and will be held at the Calvary Chapel Center located at the Calvary Chapel Worship Center - 6825 Trouble Creek Road, New Port Richey**. Admission to the Center will be by **ticket** only. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. and after 5:50 seating will be in the balcony only. The ceremony will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m.

*Please note that all graduates are required to be at the Calvary Chapel Center by 5:00 pm for graduation check-in.

The student's gown should be carefully pressed for the ceremony, and please have your son/daughter adhere to the following apparel guidelines:

Females: Skirt and blouse, a dress or coordinated pantsuit should be worn under the graduation gown. Skirts and dresses should not show below the bottom of the gown.

Males: Collared shirt and a tie. Dress pants and dress shoes are required.

Both: No jeans, sneakers, or flip-flops. **Students who are not properly attired will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony.**

Parents are asked to assist with stressing the importance of appropriate attire and decorum with their son/daughter and guests. GHS needs to be respectful of the Calvary Chapel Center. We are guests, and as such, need to do our very best to not take advantage or cause much disruption to the facility. Please be aware that air horns, bells or noise makers, etc. will not be permitted inside the Calvary Chapel Center. Those using such items will be removed. Please do not bring balloons as they impair the line of vision for others. Security personnel will be on duty.

The school has made arrangements to have an individual picture made of each graduate at the moment he/she receives his/her diploma cover. Another, more formal picture, is taken as the graduate leaves the stage. These pictures will be taken by Bryants Photography. **Picture taking close to the stage by guests will not be allowed.** Other picture taking from the audience area is fine. The school does not make a video of the ceremony.

Graduation Etiquette

Please be aware that we attempt to have a very formal graduation ceremony.

Please.....

*Arrive prior to the start of the ceremony

*Applaud when appropriate

*Stand for processional, recessional, National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance

*Remain in your place until the ceremony is completed and the graduates have exited

*Take pictures from your seat

*Dress appropriately

The graduation ceremonies can be viewed live by logging on to the following website:

<http://www.ccwc.org/livebroadcast.aspx?parentnavigationid=4571> - or -Go to <http://www.ccwc.org>

Click on "watch us live" ticker on the right side of the screen

Additional items for Seniors:

GHS has always been fortunate to have a tradition of no year-end pranks by Seniors. We expect this to continue for the benefit of our school and our students. As a warning, any student who participates in year-end pranking will face serious consequences, which may include arrest, not participating in graduation and/or graduation related events. You are encouraged to discuss this with your child.

Sincerely,

Kim Davis
Principal