



# Gulf High School

***On the PATH to College, Career, and Life Ready!***



5355 School Road • New Port Richey, Florida 34652 • Phone: (727) 774-3300; Fax: (727) 774-3391 • <http://ghs.pasco.k12.fl.us>

**Principal:** Mrs. Kim Davis, **Assistant Principals:** Ms. Caldwell, Mr. DeWalt, Mr. Page, Ms. Moon, Mr. Strasser

April 11, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The following items provide important information regarding graduation requirements, end of year events for the Class of 2016, 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) appropriate credits earned in specific courses. In order to receive a standard high school diploma, a student must meet the above requirements and the following: (3) passing both the Reading Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) or concordant scores on the ACT and/or SAT and the Algebra 1 EOC or concordant score on the PERT. Students who do not meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> requirement will receive a certificate of completion, which is not equivalent to a standard high school diploma. 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 enough 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 25<sup>th</sup>. All This includes adult education courses, and credit recovery. All on-line courses (Pasco eSchool and FLVS) have the following deadlines: DBA's (April 29<sup>th</sup>), Coursework (May 6<sup>th</sup>), all exams (May 13<sup>th</sup>).

Please discuss your son's/daughter's graduation status with him or her. 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 31, 2016. 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 31, 2016.

Students who did not meet graduation requirements prior to May 31<sup>st</sup> 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 2016 Year-End Activities:

**April 23, 2016** - Grad Bash @ Universal Studios Florida, 6000 Universal Blvd, Orlando, FL 32819. Buses leave Gulf High School activity center parking lot at 4:30 PM promptly! The buses **WILL NOT** wait. If you miss the bus, you cannot receive a refund. Buses will return to the GHS activity Center parking lot at approximately 4:30 am on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Students need to make sure that they make arrangements for pick up at 4:30 am.

**May 20-24 2016**- Senior End of Course Exams (EOC)

**May 23, 2016** - Senior Night of Excellence, 6:00 pm at the Verizon Event Center. **THIS EVENT IS BY INVITE ONLY.** Those seniors that are receiving scholarships, awards or honor cords will be invited.

**May 13, 2016** – Prom will be held at the Bayanihan Arts and Events Center, Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc., 14301 Nine Eagles Drive, Tampa, FL 33626 from 7:30 – 11:30 PM. Attendance and discipline will be used to determine eligibility to attend prom.

Tickets will be sold on April 21st and 22nd for \$70, April 28th and 29th for \$75, and May 2nd through 12th for \$80. You MUST have a permission slip turned in BEFORE you can purchase tickets! Any students planning on bringing a guest will need to pick up a guest form as well. Guest forms are due no later than April 22nd, no exceptions! Permission slips and guest forms are now available in the front office and media center!

**May 16, 2016** – 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 he or she is today. **Pictures are due by Monday, 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](mailto: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 20-24, 2016** – Senior exams

**May 25, 2016** - Breakfast and Senior Check-out; last day for Seniors

**Last Day of School for Seniors**

On Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 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 7:50 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 8:15 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	8:20-8:40
H-N	8:40-9:00
O-Z	9:00-9:20

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), cafeteria monies owed, **and the senior cap & gown fee**. ALL students MUST pay the cap & gown fee in order to complete the check-out process and receive their cap & gown. If you are using a sibling's/relative's cap & gown, you still MUST pay the senior fee for the diploma, cover, tassel, and medallion.

**Cap & Gown/Senior Fee:**

\$80.00 (includes cap, gown, tassel, diploma cover, and medallion)

\$40.00 (includes tassel, diploma cover, and medallion ONLY) (This option is only available if you are using a sibling's/relative's cap & gown)

This fee can be paid any time prior to check-out. Payment must be cash, check, or money order made out to Gulf High School. Payment can be given to Ms. Donlon in the CRC.

The NO-GO list will also include fees for athletic, band, 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.

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.

\* **Graduates are required to LEAVE CAMPUS after check-out. Only students that purchased a wrist band to attend the picnic will be allowed on campus (football field ONLY)**

\* **Students are NOT permitted on campus after May 25<sup>th</sup> unless approved by an administrator.**

**May 31, 2016** – Graduation Practice, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Calvary Chapel Center (MANDATORY)

**June 1, 2016** – 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 **6 tickets** (Graduates DO NOT require a ticket). All guests (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.

**REMINDER:** The graduation ceremony is STREAMED LIVE! To do so, visit the following website:  
Go to <http://www.cwc.org>- Click on **Media & Store** and select **Live Streaming**

**TICKETS:** Will be distributed on Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 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, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We need to know by **Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>** 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 25, 2016** - Senior Picnic 10:00 am – 1:00 pm (IMMEDIATELY following senior check out on the GHS football field. (THIS IS NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED). This year's senior picnic will have inflatables (i.e. water slides, joust, and slip 'n slide). The following dress code will be strictly enforced:

Girls: T-shirt or tank top and shorts **MUST** be worn over bathing suit

Boys: Board shorts may be worn with a t-shirt or tank top

**(\*Anyone violating dress code will be removed from the picnic)**

In order to attend the picnic, you must purchase a wristband for \$5.00 during lunches on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> or during the senior breakfast.

In past years, a number of parents joined together to assist in the planning of a year-end picnic. **This event is a joint effort between the class sponsors and the parents.**

Parents willing to assist in the planning of this event can contact Ms. Donlon at (727) 774-3351 or email at [adonlon@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:adonlon@pasco.k12.fl.us).

### **GRADUATION CEREMONY**

Location & Time: **Graduation is June 3rd, 2016 and will be held at the Calvary Chapel 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 pant suit 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.

#### **Cap/Mortarboard Decorating**

Cap/mortarboard decorating will be allowed this year. Administration has the right to remove any cap/mortarboard that they deem inappropriate and replace it with a new one. Please see attached guidelines regarding decorating.

#### **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

#### **Reminder: *Live Streaming!***

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

Go to <http://www.ccwc.org> - Click on **Media & Store** and select **Live Streaming**

#### **Additional items for Seniors:**

GHS has always been fortunate not to have a tradition of 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

# Gulf High School's Graduation Cap/Mortarboard Decorating Procedures and Etiquette

Please take into consideration the following rules when decorating your graduation cap. Failure to follow these rules will result in a replacement cap being given to you during commencement.

- **NO** offensive language, sayings, nicknames, pictures or lyrics on cap
- **NO** objects such as signs, stuffed animals, bells, flowers, or any 3D object may rest on the cap.
- **ALL** decorations **MUST lay FLAT** on the cap. Nothing can lay perpendicular thus allowing us to see the decoration beyond eye level.
- Your cap **CANNOT** make noise. **NO bells, horns, or anything that makes noise**
- **NO** Political statements
- **NO** advertisements for business or organizations

***It is appropriate to put the following on your cap.***

- Thank a parent, grandparent, teacher, friend
- Recognize the university/college, vocational trade school, or military branch that you will be attending

We **WILL NOT** furnish new caps if you mess yours up decorating! **WE HIGHLY SUGGEST YOU TRACE YOUR CAP ONTO CARDBOARD AND DECORATE THE CARDBOARD. IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE YOU CAN START OVER WITH A NEW PIECE OF CARDBOARD.** After you decorate it, stick it to your cap with double-sided tape or Velcro stickers. Velcro tape can be purchased at any fabric store, Target, Wal-Mart and throughout many CVS and Walgreens stores.

***Administration will reserve the right to disallow anything that is not considered appropriate for the commencement ceremony. If you are unsure, ask someone (i.e. administrator, teacher, etc.)***

*Utilize Google, Pinterest, etc. for ideas on cap decorating. We highly recommend that you stay away from hand drawings unless you have artistic ability beyond stick figures ☺.*

