



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, Mrs. Luter, Ms. Moon, Mr. Page, Mr. Strasser

April 6, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The following items provide important information regarding graduation requirements, end of year events for the Class of 2018, 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 Grade 10 ELA Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) or concordant scores on the ACT and/or SAT and the Algebra 1 End of Course (EOC) exam or comparative score on the PERT; and (4) Students must participate in the EOC assessments; the results constitute 30 percent of the final course grade. These assessments are in the following subjects: Biology, U.S. History, and Geometry.

Students who meet all requirements but the 3rd 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 school 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 a 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 Friday, May 11th. This includes adult education courses, and credit recovery. All on-line courses (Pasco eSchool and FLVS) have the following deadlines: DBA's (April 27th), Coursework (April 27th), all exams (May 4th).

Please discuss your son's/daughter's graduation status with him or her. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact their school counselor: Jennifer Ludington, GHS 12th grade school counselor at jbislick@pasco.k12.fl.us or Tiffany Burkette, GHS IB school counselor at tburkett@pasco.k12.fl.us or you can call (727) 774-3330.

The counselors will be developing the final list of graduates through the morning of Monday, May 21, 2018. 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 21, 2018.

Students who did not meet graduation requirements prior to May 21st will have the opportunity to participate in the summer graduation ceremony, which is held in August at RRHS (provided that they have met the full requirements at that time).

Class of 2018 Year-End Activities:

April 13, 2018 – Senior Blitz @ PHSC. **Students must apply to PHSC prior to attending the event.** Students must sign up in Guidance to attend. Seniors will have an opportunity to meet with representatives from admissions, financial aid, student services, and take a tour of the campus.

April 20, 2018 – Grad Bash @ Universal Studios Orlando, 6000 Universal Boulevard Orlando, FL 32819. Students attending Grad Bash are required to attend classes periods 1-3 on April 20th. Students can check out after 3rd period through the front office. ALL students attending will need to meet in the Activity Center lobby at 3:45 pm and the busses will leave GHS PROMPTLY at 4 pm. and return to the GHS activity center parking lot by 4 am. Saturday, April 21, 2018.

April 27, 2018 - Prom will be held at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 N McMullen Booth Rd, Clearwater, FL 33759 from 7:30 – 11:30 PM. Attendance, discipline, and outstanding items, or monies owed will be used to determine eligibility to attend prom.

Tickets will be sold on April 5th and 6th for \$75, April 9th through 13th for \$80, and April 16th through April 20th for \$85. You MUST have a permission slip turned in BEFORE you can purchase tickets! Any students planning on bringing a guest that is NOT a GHS student will need to pick up a guest form in the front office. Guest forms are to be turned in to the front office no later than Monday, April 16th, no exceptions! Students bringing a GHS student as a guest will need to have a GHS permission slip completed for their guest, NOT a guest form. Permission slips and guest forms are now available in the front office and media center!

May 4, 2018 – 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. **ALL PICTURES are due by Friday, May 4th.** Students **must be pictured alone** and the pictures should be about the same size. The preferred method for submitting pictures is via email. Pictures can be emailed to wrutherf@pasco.k12.fl.us. If you choose to submit hard copies of photos, they need to be submitted to Mr. Rutherford in an envelope with the student's name and telephone number printed clearly on the envelope. 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. Hard copy photos will be returned to the students individually at graduation practice.

May 9-11 2018- Senior Finals (Finals will count 10% of the student's grade. Students who do not participate in district finals will receive a zero) / End of Course (EOC) exams (State EOC's will count 30% of the student's final grade)

May 11, 2018 - Last full day of classes for seniors

May 14-16 – Senior Seminars (Seminars may include, but are not limited to banking, loans, taxes, resume writing, job interviewing)

May 17, 2018 - Senior check-out (11 am – 12:30 pm)

Senior Check-out - All Seniors are **required** to go through the check-out process during their scheduled time. 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	11:00-11:20
H-N	11:25-11:45
O-Z	11:50-12:10

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 graduation fee**. ALL students MUST pay the senior graduation fee in order to complete the check-out process and receive their cap & gown.

Senior Graduation Fee:

\$90.00 payment is received before April 30, 2018

\$95.00 payment received after April 30, 2018

Senior graduation fee includes cap, gown, tassel, diploma cover, and medallion

ALL students MUST pay the full fee in order to receive a cap & gown and participate in the commencement ceremony. 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 and submitted to Ms. Donlon in the CRC. Credit card payments can be made at the Gulf High School website via the ACORN/PAYMENT button.

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.

May 18, 2018 - Senior brunch

Senior Brunch: This year, the senior brunch, sponsored by Gulf High School will be held at the Columbian Event Center, 5850 K of C Drive, Port Richey, FL 34668. Brunch will begin promptly at 11:00 am.

May 21, 2018 - Yearbook signing event in the GHS activity center from 10:30 – 12:30 pm.

** Seniors on campus after May 11 and NOT attending structured Senior activities or exams, must be in their assigned classrooms according to their schedule.*

May 21, 2018 - Senior Night of Excellence, 6:00 pm at the Verizon Event Center. **THIS EVENT IS BY INVITATION ONLY.** Those seniors that are receiving scholarships, awards or honor cords will be invited.

May 22, 2018 – Graduation Practice, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Calvary Chapel Worship Center (MANDATORY)

May 23, 2018 – Graduation Practice, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Calvary Chapel Worship Center (MANDATORY)

Please remember GHS is the guest of the Calvary Chapel Worship 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** (Graduates DO NOT require a ticket). All guests (including small children) 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.

All seniors will receive 5 tickets. Please do not sell tickets you do not need. We ask that students with additional tickets return them to GHS so they can be redistributed to students who may need additional tickets. We are asking all families to please report any students attempting to sell additional tickets as this is not acceptable

REMINDER: The graduation ceremony is STREAMED LIVE! To do so, visit the following website:

Go to <http://www.cwc.org>- Click on **Media** and select **Live Streaming** or use this direct link:

<https://livestream.com/cwcchurch>

TICKETS: Will be distributed on Wednesday, May 23rd, 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 24th**. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We need to know by **Friday, May 11th** 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.

In past years, a number of parents joined together to plan a senior class year-end picnic. **This event is a joint effort among the parents and is not a school sponsored event.** If a parent committee is created, please communicate all plans with the school via Ms. Donlon at (727) 774-3351 or email at adonlon@pasco.k12.fl.us.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

Location & Time: **Graduation is May 25, 2018 and will be held 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 Worship 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, dress, or dress pant and shirt should be worn under the graduation gown. Skirts and dresses should not show below the bottom of the gown.

Males: Collared shirt, 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 Worship 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 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 Lifetouch 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; however, Calvary Chapel Worship Center archives their live steamed videos for future viewing. Access to the recorded ceremony can be found at <https://livestream.com/ccwcchurch>.

Cap/Mortarboard Decorating

Cap/mortarboard decorating will be allowed. Administration has the right to remove any cap/mortarboard that they deem inappropriate and replace it with a new one at a cost to the student. 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
- *Remain in your place until the ceremony is completed and the graduates have exited
- *Take pictures from your seat

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** and select **Live Streaming**
<https://livestream.com/ccwcchurch>

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 lie FLAT** on the cap. Nothing can lie 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 ☺.