



# 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:** Ms. Kim Davis, **Assistant Principals:** Mrs. Luter, Ms. Macri, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Riddle, Mr. Strasser

March 29, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The following items provide important information regarding graduation requirements, end of year events for the Class of 2019, 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 ACT, SAT and/or 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 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 school counselors to review the requirements. Unfortunately, there are some students who may still be in danger of not meeting one or more graduation requirements. **The final quarter of the school year is very important**, especially in terms of being in 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 24<sup>th</sup>. 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 (April 29<sup>th</sup>), all exams (May 6<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 their school counselor: Patrick McKay, GHS 12<sup>th</sup> grade school counselor at [pmckay@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:pmckay@pasco.k12.fl.us) or Tiffany Burkette, GHS IB/AVID school counselor at [tburkett@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto: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 31, 2019. 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, 2019.

Students who do not meet graduation requirements prior to May 31<sup>st</sup> 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 2019 Year-End Activities:**

**April 12, 2019** – 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 26, 2019** – 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 26<sup>th</sup>. Students can check out after 3<sup>rd</sup> period through the front office. ALL students attending will need to meet in the Activity Center lobby at 3:30 pm and the busses will leave GHS PROMPTLY at 3:45 pm. and return to the GHS activity center parking lot by 4 am. Saturday, April 27, 2019.

**May 10, 2019** - Prom will be held at Zoo Tampa Savannah Oasis event center, 1101 W. Sligh Avenue, Tampa, FL 33604 from 7:00 – 11:00 PM. Attendance, discipline, and outstanding items, or monies owed will be used to determine eligibility to attend prom. A signed senior contract letter must be signed and on file at the school in order to purchase a ticket.

- March 27<sup>th</sup> outside guest forms ready for student pickup
- April 21<sup>st</sup> school messenger reminder that all guest forms and appeals are due the next day
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> outside guest forms and appeals due to front office
- April 30<sup>th</sup> last day to buy prom tickets

Ticket sales \$80 (price will not change)

- 1<sup>st</sup> week: Wednesday, April 17th and Thursday, April 18th, (April 19th no school)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week: Monday, April 22nd through Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Final week of sales: Monday, April 29th and Tuesday, April 30th

**May 21-23, 2019** - Senior Finals, Finals will count 10% of the student's year long and/or semester grade. Students who do not participate in district finals will receive a zero. State EOC's (Algebra, Geometry, Biology, and American History) will count 30% of the student's final grade.

**May 23, 2019** – Scholarship Night, 6:00 pm. **THIS EVENT IS BY INVITE ONLY.** Those seniors who are receiving scholarships, and some additional special recognitions will be invited.

**May 24, 2019** - Graduation practice MANDATORY GHS Activity Center. 7:30 – 10:00 am.

**May 24, 2019** - Senior check-out (10:30 am – 12:00 noon)

**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	10:30-10:55
H-N	11:00-11:25
O-Z	11:30-11:55

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:**

\$95.00 payment is received before April 1, 2019

\$100.00 payment received between April 1, 2019 – May 24, 2019

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 28, 2019** - Senior breakfast which will include honor cords and awards. The breakfast is free for students. Parents may choose to attend at a cost of \$15.00 and each student is limited to 2 guests. RSVP and additional information will be mailed as we get closer to the event.

**Senior Breakfast:** This year, the senior breakfast, sponsored for students by Gulf High School will be held at the Columbian Event Center, 5850 K of C Drive, Port Richey, FL 34668. Breakfast will begin promptly at 8:00 am.

**May 28, 2019** - Graduation practice MANDATORY GHS Activity Center. 10:30 am – 12:30 pm.

**May 29, 2019** - Last day of school for ALL students

**June 5, 2019**

### **GRADUATION CEREMONY**

Location & Time: **Graduation is June 5, 2019 and will be held at the University of South Florida** - 12499 USF Bull Run Drive, Tampa, FL 33617. Doors open at 11:00 am. The ceremony will begin promptly at 12:00 noon.

Seniors are to report at 11:00 am to the University of South Florida in order to line up for the ceremony. Please follow the signs upon entering the arena's parking area, as they will direct students and guests to the areas in which they should go.

**ONLY Students should enter at the Corral, which is to the left of Gate A.**

### **DRESS CODE FOR GRADUATES**

Dress pants and dress shirt (a tie is encouraged but not required), a dress or skirt and blouse or pantsuit are recommended outfits. If wearing pants, wear matching/dark socks with dress shoes. No sneakers, sandals, flip flops, etc. are allowed. We recommend that students not wear high heels, as there will be a lot of walking and stair climbing. No visible "bulky" jewelry, scarves, ribbons, etc. are permitted.

**Personal Items:** Leave purses, cameras, and personal items with a parent or friend in the audience; they may not be taken in during the processional and should not be left in the Corral area because it will not be locked or supervised during the ceremony. Flowers or corsages are NOT permitted with the student. They must be kept with family in the stands.

**Graduation Gowns:** Caps and gowns for students have been ordered. If your son or daughter has not ordered a cap & gown please do so at the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/AJIFrEeZHFFV3gKl2>. Please carry your cap and gown into the Corral area. We will not have extra gowns on hand. Make sure that you bring yours to the ceremony. Gowns are to look like they did when received from the company. Nothing extra may be added to them.

**Graduation Cap:** 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. The mortarboard (graduation cap) is to be worn flat with the tassel over the right eye. Once the seniors are declared graduates, the tassel is moved to the left side in unison with the class.

Failure to comply with the dress policy may result in the student not being permitted to participate in the ceremony.

### **SECURITY**

University of South Florida security personnel will do a **visual search and wand** of ALL of the graduates and ALL guests of the graduation.

### **BEHAVIOR**

Graduation is a momentous occasion not only for the seniors, but also for their parents, families, and friends. For that reason, the ceremony is to be held with dignity and courtesy to others. All participants are expected to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the occasion, which includes walking across the stage. All participants must comply with the Pasco County Student Code of Conduct. Inappropriate behavior will result in both students and parents/guardians having to meet with the school administration prior to receiving a diploma. Improper noises and distractions will not be permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, noisemakers such as bullhorns, air horns, whistles, cowbells, etc. Do NOT bring in beach balls, silly string, or any item that would be deemed inappropriate. We ask that you request family and friends to remain seated throughout the ceremony as a courtesy to other graduates and their families and friends. Only graduates, school personnel, and specific designated guests will be permitted on the floor of the arena. Anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not receive his/her diploma and/or will be turned over to appropriate law enforcement officials. As this is a School District of Pasco County event, alcohol will not be permitted anywhere on the property.

### **PARKING AT THE USF**

Please plan appropriately when leaving your homes and give yourself more than enough time to arrive without incident. Once the ceremony begins (processional), the students will not be permitted to enter into the seating area for graduates. This is University of South Florida's security policy and will be strictly enforced. There is a **\$5.00 charge for parking** (per car). Disabled parking is located at Gate A and Gate D, Parking Lot Area 22F.

### **SEATING & TICKETS**

Seating is unlimited in the USF arena. **Tickets will not be necessary as a result.** Floor seating is only permitted for invited dignitaries, graduating seniors, band members, faculty and staff, and other invited guests. All of these people will have tickets in order to go to the floor and their names will be provided to the staff of University of South Florida. No one else is permitted on the floor of the University of South Florida. Those who need handicapped seating would be advised to enter in at Gate A, where there are elevators available. There is handicapped seating available throughout the arena. There is also reserved seating for the hearing impaired. If anyone in your party needs hearing impaired services, please notify Gulf High School by April 10, 2019 so we can make adequate arrangements.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Life Touch Photography (813-402-3500) will photograph each senior individually upon receiving his/her diploma and congratulations from the principal, as well as with their diplomas. Purchase of these photographs is optional. Life Touch will notify seniors via email when the pictures are ready and **all questions** regarding these pictures should be directed to Life Touch Photography. Gulf High School does not receive any of these pictures or information following graduation.

### **SENIOR SHOUT-OUTS**

Graduation shout-outs are now available. A shout-out is a special message to congratulate students who are graduating. These messages will scroll on a screen in the USF arena as the crowd takes their seats and will continue to scroll throughout the ceremony. Each shout-out is \$20 and is limited to 100 characters. This is a great way to congratulate your loved one on the big day, June 5<sup>th</sup>. We are limited to 75 shout-outs so don't wait!

Please note: We WILL NOT proofread your shout-out. We will copy and paste everything exactly as it is typed into the form. Please make sure that you proofread your submission. Also, payment for shout-outs MUST be made at the same time that you submit the form. You MUST pay with a CREDIT/DEBIT card using our ACORN system. A link to the payment system can be found in the order form. If you do not pay for your shout-out, it will be discarded.

Order Form: [https://ghs.pasco.k12.fl.us/mform/view.php?id=55983" title="Class of 2019 Graduation Shout Outs">Class of 2019 Graduation Shout Outs</a>](https://ghs.pasco.k12.fl.us/mform/view.php?id=55983 "Class of 2019 Graduation Shout Outs")

Order form can also be found under the *Student* drop down menu on the GHS website.

### **GRADUATION VIDEO**

Families can pre-order a video of the graduation. Cost is \$25.00 and can be purchases using the ACORN payment system. A link for the payment system can be found in the order form.

Order Form: [https://ghs.pasco.k12.fl.us/mform/view.php?id=56106" title="Class of 2019 Graduation Video">Class of 2019 Graduation Video</a>](https://ghs.pasco.k12.fl.us/mform/view.php?id=56106 "Class of 2019 Graduation Video")

Order form can also be found under the *Student* drop down menu on the GHS website.

### **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

### **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 ☺.*