

Griswold High School

Weekly Memo



01/10/2020

Dear Griswold High School Parents and Guardians,

I hope you have had a wonderful week. It was so nice having a full week of school! We are all preparing for the end of the first semester of the school year, which includes midterm exams. I have A LOT of information to share this week, so please read through carefully. I appreciate it!

Mid-Year Exams: These are high stake assessments evaluating progress towards skills and standards in each course. **Exams will take place from Tuesday, 01/21 through Friday, 01/24. These are shortened days for students with dismissal at noon. Please see below for details on our GHS exam schedule.** Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns, and *encourage your children to prepare!*

PSAT scores from October are out! Please be sure to review your child's score on the College Board. There are resources to inform setting progress goals for your child in preparation for the SAT and beyond. In looking over your child's scores, discuss recommended growth goals set forth by the College Board for the next time the PSAT or SAT is taken. Pay close attention to the color bands aligning with your child's score -- **GREEN** shows on track for college readiness, **YELLOW** indicates close to being on track for college readiness; continue to strengthen skills, and **RED** indicates a need to strengthen skills. If you have any questions, please encourage your child to see his/her school counselor (or contact our School Counseling Office). Thank you!

Attention Juniors and Parents of Juniors: We are offering a FREE SAT Prep opportunity for juniors ahead of our **SAT School Day on March 25th!** Last year, we saw a marked improvement in student scores who attended the prep sessions regularly. **Please see the memo included as an attachment in today's email (it was sent earlier this week, and is available in**

the Main Office and School Counseling Office, as well). These are due to the Main Office by January 24th...please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!

SCHOOL COUNSELING IMPORTANT INFO: Please follow our School Counseling Office on **Facebook (@GHS School Counseling)** for regular updates for your child(ren). There is new information posted regarding the Day Kimball Junior Volunteer Program. They are looking for the first 45 applications, so please check it out!

PTO UPDATE

The GHS PTO met this week, and have some exciting updates to share!

- To date, we have raised about \$650 this year!
- We now have a GHS PTO email account set up, so please look for emails from the PTO and feel free to reach out: ghspto@griswoldpublischools.org
- Please see attached flyer in this email for a way to support GHS PTO using Shaparoo. Thank you!
- We have fundraisers planned for the near future including a winter ball (or social) in March and a basket raffle! Your support is welcomed.
- Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 02/05, at 6 pm**

GHS Softball Field of Dreams Fundraiser: The GHS softball coach is working hard on significant improvements to our softball field at no cost to the school budget. We are hoping to support the “Field of Dreams” through fundraising efforts, including a night of fun dinner/dance. The event will take place on Saturday, February 22nd from 6-10 p.m. at the Jacques Cartier Club. There will be a stuffed chicken dinner, raffles and music by Big Dawg Isaac -- all for \$25/ticket. Tables of 8 can be reserved with cash payment, and the last day to purchase will be February 18th for an accurate food count. Please see me, Pam Getter at GHS, Lisa Wojo at GMS, Dawn Bouchard at GMS or Coach Rick Arremony for tickets. Hope to see you there!

Awesome Week! Students participating in art, photography and drama had the opportunity to attend the New Britain Museum of American Art this week. This trip highlighted cultural diversity in all works of art. Students participating in AP Human Geo participated in a field trip visiting the UConn Islamic Center, as part of their unit on culture and religion. The trip was described as an incredible experience; they talked about misconceptions today, extremism, and how UConn students practice the pillars and gender roles. The School Counseling Office organized our annual graduate panel for seniors this week. During this presentation, post-grads had the opportunity to share their experiences upon leaving high school, and current seniors were able to ask questions pertaining to their future. It was a very successful panel, and I thank those alumni for coming!

Griswold's Vision of the Graduate! Talk to your child about the importance of the following skills that will aide in a successful future:

- Resilient Problem Solver
 - Flexibility, strategic planning, attention to detail, perseverance
- Effective Communicator
 - Writing, speaking, listening, presenting, collaborating, creative expression
- Engaged Citizen
 - Culturally literate & aware, civic-minded, open-minded, service-oriented, integrity
- Critical Thinker
 - Inquiry, literacy, knowledge, application, initiative

In the new year, we are excited to welcome an accreditation team through NEASC for our decennial visit. The team will convene here at GHS on **March 8th through March 11th**. This process is about professional collaboration and growth, and we look forward to showcasing our school and receiving feedback moving forward. For more information on the value of the NEASC process, please visit <https://www.neasc.org/>. *We would love for parents to be involved! If you are interested in sharing your experiences from the perspective of a GHS parent, please let me know!*

Sincerely,

Erin Palonen



Follow me on Twitter: @PalonenGHS

GHS Mid-Year Exam Schedule, January 2020

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| 7:35-9:30 | EXAM 1 | Students report to Exam 1 classrooms. - No morning announcements | | |
| 9:30-9:40 9:38: 2 minute warning bell | BREAK | Teachers and Staff, please supervise the hallways and lavatories during this extended passing time. | | |
| 9:40-12 | Lunch/EXAM 2 <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">9:40-10:05 - Lunch Wave 1 10:05-12 - EXAM 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">9:40-11:35 - EXAM 2 11:35-12 - Lunch Wave 2</td> </tr> </table> | 9:40-10:05 - Lunch Wave 1 10:05-12 - EXAM 2 | 9:40-11:35 - EXAM 2 11:35-12 - Lunch Wave 2 | PLEASE SEE BELOW for duty and lunch wave schedule. Free lunch all week. (Fewer options will be available). |
| 9:40-10:05 - Lunch Wave 1 10:05-12 - EXAM 2 | | | | |
| 9:40-11:35 - EXAM 2 11:35-12 - Lunch Wave 2 | | | | |

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Monday, 01/20/2020 | <i>NO SCHOOL -- MLK DAY</i> |
| Tuesday, 01/21/2020 - Green Day | A1 & B1 |
| Wednesday, 01/22/2020 - White Day | A2 & B2 |
| Thursday, 01/23/2020 - Green Day | C1 & D1 |
| Friday, 01/24/2020 - White Day | C2 & D2 |

LUNCH WAVE SCHEDULE

| Free lunch for ALL students during exam week | Lunch Wave #1 | Lunch Wave #2 |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Tuesday, 01/21/2020 • B1 | B1 Study Halls 4200s LMC | 4100s Basement 3200s |
| Wednesday, 01/22/2020 • B2 | B2 Study Halls 4200s LMC | 4100s 3200s Basement PE |
| Thursday, 01/23/2020 | D1 Study Halls | 4100s |

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|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D1 | 3100s 4200s Basement LMC | 3200s PE |
| Friday, 01/24/2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D2 | D2 Study Halls 4200s LMC | 4100s 3200s 3100s Basement |

Additional Notes:

- **It is imperative that your child is on time for his/her exam. Students arriving late will not be permitted in the exam.**
- **Make Up Exams for students with Excused Absences** will be held in the LMC during each exam block AND from 12-2:19. For students needing to stay until 2:19, bus transportation will be available for Griswold residents only.
- **Late arrival during Exam Week:** Students who have access to their own transportation AND have a study hall scheduled during the first block of the day of the exam day are not required to report to school until 9:30 AM. Students who arrive on the bus will report to their regularly assigned study hall by 7:35 AM.
- **Early Dismissal during Exam Week:** Students who have study hall during second testing blocks are permitted to dismiss after their first exam block ends at 9:30. However, these students will be responsible for arranging their own transportation. Students who are taking the bus home are not permitted to dismiss earlier than 12:00. All students who are leaving early will sign out in the main office before dismissing.
- **Senior Exemption** applies to seniors with a 90 or greater in a first semester class and is that teacher's discretion. Midterm exam exemption does not apply to full-year courses.
- **STUDY HALLS:** Students are not required to report to school for their scheduled study halls during exam week. All study hall students who plan on coming to school, however, will report to the cafeteria if it is the first exam block. If they arrive for the second exam block and have a scheduled study hall, then they will report to the auditorium.

Inclement Weather: 2-hour Delay Schedule and Cancellation Information

2- Hour Delay Schedule

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| Warning Bells: 9:30, then 9:34 |
| EXAM 1: 9:35- 10:55 (First Testing Session scheduled for the day) |
| 11:00-11:25 Lunch One (9 th & 10 th) Break in Gym: (11 & 12) 11:35-11:55 Lunch Two (11 th & 12 th) Break in Gym: (9 th & 10 th) |
| 12:00: Dismissal |

School Cancellation due to Inclement Weather

In the event of a school cancellation due to inclement weather, exams will continue as scheduled, and the cancelled day would be taken the following week (schedule would be sent in this case). For example, if Day Two of exams are canceled on January 22nd, they would be taken on Monday, the 27th with a special full day schedule sent for that day.