

Griswold High School

Friday Memo



10/11/2019

Dear Griswold High School Parents and Guardians,

I hope you are all having a great day and looking forward to an extended weekend ahead. GHS has much information to share regarding the upcoming week. Please read carefully, and please give us a call if you have any questions.

October 16th is a very busy day here at GHS, and we want to make sure you are in the know!

- PSAT DAY FOR 9th, 10th & 11th GRADE STUDENTS - Super Important! This is a shortened day for students, with dismissal at noon. **There are no cell phones permitted in testing rooms, and students are encouraged to bring graphing calculators and pencils. They also can bring a snack and water (only water is permitted). Please see attached pictures for room assignments per grade level. These are posted throughout the school, but please review with your child.**
- It is also “Post-Secondary Planning Day” for our **seniors**, where they are excused from school and encouraged to:
 - Go on a college visit
 - Work on your college applications, resume, college essays, and letters of recommendations
 - Explore vocational training
- **Open House** for students and parents (eighth grade parents and students encouraged to attend, too) will be **held from 5-7 p.m.** This is an exciting opportunity to meet and greet teachers and staff, as well as learn more about programs and expectations. We look forward to seeing you there. All parents are encouraged to come!
 - In addition to meeting teachers:
 - Hidden in Plain Sight (Griswold PRIDE)
 - School Counseling and Financial Aid information
 - Passport Support -- GHS Music
 - Community Service Information Station
 - TVCCA Energy Assistance Program

■ Tour of Makerspace in our LMC

- **Important for families of students grades 9-12: There will be an important presentation, “Exploring Financial Aid & Cash Management Solutions,” held at 4 pm on Open House Night. We hope to see you all there -- the time to plan is now.**

Griswold High School hosted a very successful College and Career Fair this past Wednesday. We welcomed over 100 representatives! I want to sincerely thank the School Counseling Department for working so hard to make this happen for our students, and the custodial team for setting up both the cafeteria and gymnasium for our guests.



The College Board launched the **CB Opportunity Scholarship** program last year, providing incentives for students to take the steps that research shows leads to college. In addition to the \$5 million annual scholarship pool and monthly drawings, all public school students in Connecticut have more opportunities to win because of a \$40,000 state supplement. Thus far nearly 40 students have received Opportunity Scholarships in CT since the launch of the program. However, only 12% of CT students have signed up.

- Learn more about the College Board Opportunity Scholarships here: [College Board Opportunity Scholarship information](#)

Check out our new **Vision of the Graduate** bulletin board when you visit GHS! Our goal is for every student and family to know our vision and help support your child's growth towards mastery of these important skills!



As we enter the second half of the first quarter, a surprising concern has been brought to my attention: There are a significant number of students not completing homework expectations regularly. This came as a tremendous surprise to me! Please be sure to check Plus Portal regularly, and reinforce the importance of meeting the expectation of the classroom teacher. This speaks not only to academic expectations, but components of our Vision of the Graduate in being organized, planful, communicative, and resilient! Thank you for your support!

GHS PTO is gearing up for our first fundraiser! We are super excited, as one of us will be taking the plunge on Thanksgiving Day in an effort to raise big money through a competitive round of Penny Wars!

- Representing 9th grade: Erin Palonen

- Representing 10th grade: Jamie Bruno
- Representing 11th grade: Logan Tonucci
- Representing 12th grade: Doug Craig

NONE of us want to go in, but ONE of us will! Who will be the “loser?” This will begin in lunch waves the week of November 11th. **Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, 11/6 at 6 p.m., as we will be electing Board members. Thank you so much!**

DANGERS OF VAPING AND E-CIGARETTES ON THE RISE! There have been several confirmed deaths in the United States from vaping-related lung disease, including the first in our state. Please talk to your children about this dangerous epidemic.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html

SAT - Important for ALL students & families...

At GHS, students are granted the free opportunity for PSAT in the Fall in grades 9, 10, & 11. In grade 11, SAT Day happens for all juniors, free of cost and during the school day. SAT Day for all 11th graders will occur on **Wednesday, March 25, 2020.**

- Please visit www.collegeboard.org for important information and resources for students and parents.
- We encourage students to aim for academic excellence -- AP and ECE courses provide rigorous curriculum opportunities to obtain college credit. Please contact your child’s school counselor for more information.
- Please plan to attend Open House for more information on the importance of your involvement in your child’s PSAT/SAT!

Why is the SAT important?

- SAT testing has never been static and unchangeable. The test has evolved to meet the educational standards of the best colleges and universities and to reflect the material emphasized by the majority of high schools. The Redesigned SAT yields most recent changes implemented to reflect the importance of mastery of skills — not only as skills to be used in **college courses**, but as skills necessary for success in a wide range of **careers**. The PSAT/SAT also open up opportunities for scholarships and recognition!

Parents and Students: you can link college board and Khan academy accounts for personalized practice.

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/k12-educators/advising-instruction/practice-resources/link-accounts>

- PSAT/SAT: College Board reports that “Twenty hours of practice on Khan Academy is associated with an average 115-point increase from the PSAT to the SAT, nearly double the average gain without Khan.”
 - Practice fifteen minutes per day!
 - Take the free SAT Practice tests
 - See more information below!

Important Dates Ahead:

- **Monday, 10/14: No School; Columbus Day**
- **Wednesday, 10/16: PSAT Day, Post-Secondary Planning, Open House**
- **GHS PTO MEETING: November 6th at 6 p.m.**
- **SPIRIT WEEK this year will be November 18th-23rd!** The school will hold our annual Pep Rally on Friday, the 22nd, followed by the community parade leaving campus at 4 p.m. The Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, the 23rd. Encourage (and help) your children to enjoy this time and get involved with their class to create an awesome “Class Wall” and “Class Float!”

Please note the Model UN Zombie Run has been cancelled.

Thank you so much, GHS! Questions? Concerns? Positive news to share? Email or call at epalonen@griswoldpublicschools.org and/or 860-376-7640.

Most Sincerely,



Follow me on Twitter: @PalonenGHS



Get to know Griswold's Vision of the Graduate

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Effective Communicator</u></p> <p>The Griswold graduate demonstrates an ability to communicate effectively and confidently through writing, speaking, listening, presenting, collaborating and other forms of creative expression.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Resilient Problem Solver</u></p> <p>The Griswold graduate demonstrates an ability to achieve goals by taking risks, and solving problems with flexibility, strategic planning, attention to detail and perseverance.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Critical Thinker</u></p> <p>The Griswold graduate demonstrates an ability to gather and evaluate information, analyze objectively, form a judgment, develop a hypothesis, and initiate inquiry through the mastery of multiple literacies.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Engaged Citizen</u></p> <p>The Griswold graduate demonstrates an ability to engage in service-oriented and civic-minded activities and to utilize cultural literacy and integrity to make responsible and culturally-sensitive decisions.</p>