

Griswold High School

Friday Memo



8/30/19

Dear Griswold High School Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year. It has been a fantastic week here at GHS! Your children are respectful, kind, eager individuals ready to problem-solve, question, learn, reflect and grow. I am most fortunate to be their principal - it is the best job in the world!

The Griswold **community** is one of the many things in which I am most proud. We all want the very best for our children, and it truly takes the collaboration of parents, teachers, staff, and administration. We **want** for you to be actively involved!

Some news and updates from the week:

- We are attempting to begin a PTO for GHS! We are setting a first meeting date for **Monday, September 9th at 3:30 p.m. in the Library Media Center.**
 - Parents of Freshmen and Sophomores -- please know that we do not have class advisors for 9th and 10th grade. We have a parent group for our seniors through Project Safe Graduation, but would love to build groups of parents for each grade along the way, which is another reason we would love for you to be part of the PTO. This will help with fundraising efforts, Homecoming, Spirit Week, and could bring about so much more!
- Please be sure to read through our GHS Student/Parent/Teacher Handbook (available on our website or you can request a hard copy), which includes our attendance policy and practices. The “Record of Parent Annual Notice Form” is mandatory and must be signed and returned to school by Friday, September 6th.
- One of our English teachers, Mrs. Gervase sent along this awesome article -- check out #1! Read in Travel Channel: <https://apple.news/AD8eIW4-gRfWQTQPpyF-4N0w> It is awesome to see our town featured in this positive way!

- School Counselors at GHS!
 - A – C (and Alternative School) Suzanne Alfiero
 - D – M Kathy Kissack
 - N – Z Elaine Taylor
 - Contact School Counselors with any questions regarding:
 - Advanced Placement
 - CCP
 - ECE
 - VHS
 - Plus Portals
 - Naviance
 - 504's
 - PSAT/SAT

PSAT & SAT -- Why it's important?

The College Board has Redesigned the SAT. One of the biggest goals in this change was to make sure it's highly relevant to the future success of our students. The new test is more focused on the skills and knowledge at the heart of education. It measures:

- What you learn in high school
- What you need to succeed in college

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. This year, PSAT Day will happen at GHS on **Wednesday, October 16th (which will be an early dismissal day at noon)**. **Open House will follow for all parents from 5-7 p.m.** 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!

Important Dates Ahead:

- Monday, 9/2/19: Labor Day, No School
- Monday, 9/9/19: GHS PTO Meeting at 3:30 in the GHS LMC
- Thursday, 9/12/19: Mandatory Music Trip Parent Meeting

Thank you all for contributing to such a wonderful start to a new school year. I am sincerely looking forward to an awesome year ahead! I look forward to this journey with you!! 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

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| <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> |

Some fun Back to School Pics to share:





