

THE RISING TIDE

Letter from your Principal

Dear Gig Harbor Learning Community,

Goodbye September, hello October! It's hard to believe that I'm writing this during the last full week of September. The start of a school year can be both exciting and challenging. I want to thank our staff, our students and our families for a great start! Our students are demonstrating a high level of engagement and achievement. I look forward to the great moments that lie ahead.

September is attendance awareness month. There is an abundance of research that links attendance to school performance. It is imperative that we keep absences to a minimum. Please attempt to plan vacations outside of school days.

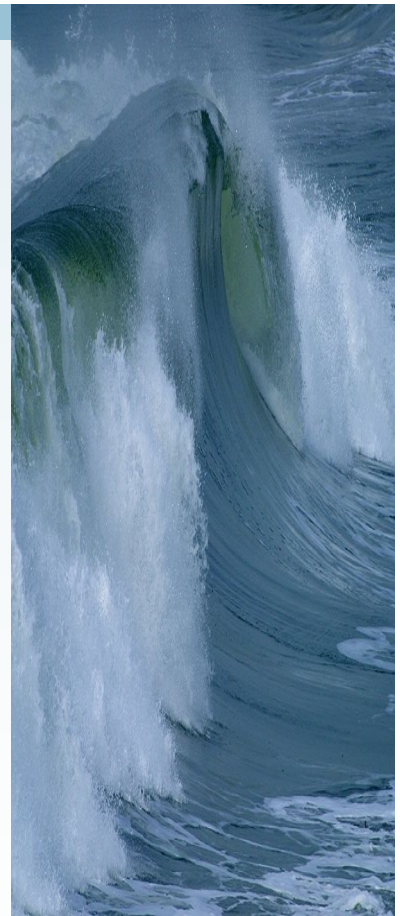
The key to our continued success will depend on effective communication. We currently have a variety of electronic tools (i.e. Parent Portal, email, School Messenger, etc.), but I believe that face to face conversation is still an essential and effective tool. Please contact your student's teacher with individual class concerns. If you have multiple performance concerns, please contact your student's counselor.

Please take the time to look at this newsletter. You will find important information on activities and other "happenings" at Gig Harbor High School.

I thank you for your input and support. Together, we can continue to provide an outstanding experience for **ALL** students. With increased communication, we can truly become an effective learning community.

In Service,
Tom Leacy
Principal

"We Are One!"



IN THIS ISSUE

ATTENDANCE MATTERS	2
FINANCIAL AID NIGHT	2
TUTORING	2
PARKING PERMITS.....	2
GHHS ATHLETICS INFO	3
SCHOLOGY	4
FAFSA/WASFA	4
NHS.....	4
SUMMER TRAVEL	4
IMPORTANT DATES	4
SENIOR YEARBOOK INFO	4
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	4



PARKING PERMITS

Students who drive a vehicle to GHHS are required to have a 19-20 GHHS parking permit. Permits can be purchased in the bookkeeper's office for \$40 with a valid driver's license (not a permit).

Only 500 permits will be sold due to limited parking spaces. As of this newsletter, we have sold 300. Once permits sell out, no additional permits will be issued and no other student vehicles will be permitted to park on campus. If you are a student and currently drive a vehicle to school, you are urged to purchase your parking permit right away.

Parking tickets for vehicles without 19-20 permits will start being issued October 14th. Any vehicle found on campus without a permit could be cited and/or impounded. Likewise, students are only to park in student designated areas. Students who park in staff or visitor areas, block roadways, or park in fire lanes, could also have their vehicles cited and/or impounded.

For more information about parking, please see the GHHS Student Handbook or contact our Security Specialist, Kevin Entze at 530-1410.

Peer and Community Tutoring

Tutors for the 2019-20 school year are now available in the Counseling Office.

Please swing by or email [Ms. Vail](#) for a copy.

Financial Aid Night

Mark your calendar for
October 22nd at Peninsula
High School from
6:00—7:00 PM.

Financial expert David
Aramaki will be reviewing
and ins and outs of how
financial aid works.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Your child's daily, on time attendance is critical to their success in school. While some challenges to your child's attendance are unavoidable, it's important to understand the impact of each absence. When your child is not in class, they are missing out on critical learning. This puts them at risk of falling behind and not graduating from high school. Even as little as two absences in a month, whether excused or unexcused, can make a big difference in their academic performance. In fact, a student who misses two days per month will end up missing 10% of the school year. You can help your student achieve by encouraging them to be present, everyday.

A couple of quick reminders from the attendance office:

- Be sure to call our attendance line to excuse absences within 48 hours of the absence. Also, remember it is necessary to include the date and reason for missing school for students to be considered excused.
- If you are planning an extended absence or vacation, be sure to contact the attendance office for a planned absence form. These need to be signed by teachers and administrators to ensure that staff are aware of the upcoming absences and students are provided the opportunity to collect the work they will miss while out of school.
- Students who arrive late or leave early from school need to check out through the attendance office. Failure to check out is considered a closed campus violation and may result in the absences being considered unexcused.



WINTER SPORTS REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**REGISTER EARLY AS PRACTICES/TRYOUTS FOR MOST SPORTS BEGIN
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH.**

BOWLING BEGINS ON NOVEMBER 4TH.

Registration for 2019-2020 Winter Athletics (basketball, wrestling, bowling, boys swim and dive) will begin **October 8th**.

Deadline for bowling registration is **October 26th**.

The deadline for all other sports is **November 9th**, to allow for processing.

Please see the instructions below to register:

1. Ensure you have a recent physical exam document on file with the athletic office. Please note: your physical is good for 24 months but CANNOT expire during the sport season for which you are registering.
2. Visit the [GHHS Athletics Home Page](#).
3. Click the "Register for Athletics on FamilyID" link to begin your registration.
4. Please be sure to complete all screens until you have confirmation that you have completed registration. You may pay online by going back to the GHHS website and choosing "Pay for Athletics" or by bringing a check to the bookkeeper. For basketball, please wait until rosters are complete to make your payment.
5. If your son/daughter has any health concerns, please be sure to have the current paperwork completed and received by our school nurse to review and ensure a health plan is current.

WATCH TIDES ATHLETICS ALL YEAR LONG!

Watch the Gig Harbor Tides on the NFHS Network!

Get unlimited access to watch the TIDES events this year on the NFHS Network. We've invested in new technology that will bring you every home game from Roy Anderson Field and the Gig Harbor Main Gym live. Enjoy Football, Playoff Soccer, Volleyball. Basketball, and Wrestling!

Full access to ALL content on the Network:

- All of your school's live and on-demand sports broadcasts
- All other sporting events from around the Nation including all WIAA playoffs

Friends and family members who can't make a game will never miss a play again!

Subscription Options:

- Annual Pass: \$70/year
- Monthly Pass: \$10/month

Visit www.NFHSnetwork.com.
Search for Gig Harbor.
Subscribe and follow!

SUMMER TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY!

Are you interested in traveling with the art teachers through Europe during the summer? Mrs. Allen, Ms. Lenkaitis, and Mrs. Yeaman lead an art-focused tour each summer!

If you are interested in traveling with us in July of either 2020 or 2021, please come to the informational meeting on **Monday, September 30th** at **6:30PM** in **Room 326** (drawing classroom). We can't wait to travel with you!

Contact [Heidi Allen](#) for more information.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

If your student will be a sophomore with at least a 3.7 GPA and is interested in becoming a candidate for the National Honor Society, applications will be available online beginning September 30th. You can find all of the information [HERE](#).

Please note: This is only available to sophomores.



FAFSA/WASFA

ALL students are encouraged to apply for financial aid.

Students eligible for **federal** student aid should submit the [FAFSA](#). Those not eligible for federal aid (undocumented students, etc.), may be eligible for **state** aid by submitting the [WASFA](#). For those unsure, please complete this [questionnaire](#) to determine which application to use. This will lead to the correct application. (Some browsers may not work for this questionnaire. Firefox seems to work better than Chrome.)

Both applications open **October 1st**, and are based on **2018** taxes. Whether you think your family qualifies or not, many higher ed institutions use this for granting scholarships, grants, and other types of financial aid.

A NOTE FROM COUNSELING ON SCHOOLGY

Parents and students,

Remind has been a valuable tool for sending notifications from the counseling team in the past, however, this service is no longer available. The counseling team is transitioning to Schoology, which will host a folder for each grade level. Please check this class folder frequently and don't forget that daily announcements are posted on the GHHS website, as well. To gain access to Schoology, log on to your Parent Portal with your Parent Access code. If you have not already used a Parent Access Code or are having troubles, please contact the Counseling Secretary [Shannon Vail](#) at 253-530-1430 for assistance. The instructions for gaining access are on this link: [Parent Access Instructions for Schoology](#).

KEY PENINSULA FARM TOURS

The Key Peninsula Farm Tour is a free family event offered annually, the first Saturday of October, during which local farms on the Key Peninsula open their doors to the public. This year, the tour will be extended to two days, with farms open both October 5th and 6th. There will be a Fiber Arts Festival on Saturday the 5th as well as an Apple Squeeze and Farmer's Market at Volunteer Park on Sunday the 6th.

The farm tour is a time for learning, fun, and first-time experiences!

For more information about the farm tour, please visit: www.kpfarmtour.com



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The CCFE students need parents and guardians of GHHS students to conduct CCFE mock job interviews, scheduled for November 20, 2019. Volunteers are ALWAYS needed to conduct these very important interviews for the students. You can cover one period or stay all day.

If you are interested, please contact [Amanda Lopez](#) at 253-530-1588

IMPORTANT DATES

- **10/3** Senior Parent Night
- **10/9** Picture Retakes
- **10/11** Homecoming Assembly
- **10/11** Homecoming Football Game
- **10/12** Homecoming Dance
- **10/14** Fall Break Day / No School
- **10/16** PSAT
- **10/22** Fall Choir Concert
- **10/25** Fishbowl Assembly



SENIOR YEARBOOK INFORMATION

If you would like to submit a baby picture or alternate senior portrait for the yearbook, they are due on Halloween.

Please email an electronic copy to [Heidi Allen](#) or drop it off in the yearbook room.

Please check the [GHHS website](#) for altered bell schedules and to stay up to date!

The Peninsula School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the District's Title IX and Compliance Officer, Dan Gregory, at (253) 530-1009, Email: gregoryd@psd401.net or the Section 504 and ADA Coordinator, John Yellowlees, at (253) 530-1080, Email: yellowleesi@psd401.net. Mailing address: 14015 62nd Ave. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332.