

GHS Newsletter

September/October 2017 Newsletter

School Day Schedule

M, T, TH, F
 7:50-8:48 1st hour
 8:53-10:02 2nd hour
 (includes announcements)
 10:07-11:05 3rd hour
 11:10-12:38 4th hour in-
 cludes lunches
 (A) 11:10-11:38
 (B) 11:38-12:08
 (C) 12:08-12:38
 12:43-1:41 5th hour
 1:46-2:44 6th hour

Seminar Day Schedule (Wednesdays)

7:50-8:36 1st hour
 8:41-9:33 2nd hour
 (includes announcements)
 9:38-10:24 3rd hour
 10:29-11:29 Seminar
 11:34-1:02 4th hour in-
 cludes lunches
 (A) 11:34-12:02
 (B) 12:02-12:32
 (C) 12:32-1:02
 1:07-1:53 5th hour
 1:58-2:44 6th hour

Seniors Last Day—
May 21

Graduation
May 24
7:00 pm

It is hard to believe that we are already in the middle of our fifth week of school. Our first three weeks, though short, were filled with the energy that a new school year brings. Our students and staff are fully into the school year and it has been a great start.

This school year we are focused on lifting up students and staff who are difference makers. When someone in our school community makes a difference in the lives of others, it is our goal to celebrate their actions and promote a culture of gratitude and positivity. We are using GHSShoutOut on social media as well as individual recognitions. For students, we have opened up the Difference Maker Award to encompass student #differencemakers throughout the year. The Bulldog Pride Award is given to students who score a three for all areas of the employability rubric for each semester. This award allows for reduced parking passes and free admission into athletic events. The Difference Maker Award is a teacher initiated award to celebrate students who go above and beyond to help others in the building.

Our School Improvement Team worked through a process this summer to re-vamp Seminar. We are calling it Seminar 2.0. Students will now have a menu of options to work on during their Seminar time rather than a set of specific, prescribed tasks. Students will still complete a weekly grade check and reflection along with continued use of requests for academic support. We are very excited to see this new direction for Seminar enhance the experience for all students.

This past school year we saw the total number of failed classes drop to 3.26%. We also saw significant increases in our SAT scores across all grade levels and had 90% of our AP tests earn a passing score. We are very proud of the work we are doing for our community and are thankful for the continued support for the Seminar class and 1/2 day professional development days, which have had a significant impact on our achievement.

John Philo
Principal

Absences and Truancy

❖**Tardy or Absent Policy:** Parents must call the attendance hotline at **254-6440** when their student will be out for an excused absence. Pre-arranged absences are done through the attendance office. Students accumulating 10 or more tardies in a class period and/or 15 or more absences will lose their academic grade and will receive an “E”, with credit, if they are passing the class. Parents will be notified every day for unexcused absences and will receive a specific notification on tardies and absences as they approach the limit. Parents and students are asked to monitor grades and attendance on **Infinite Campus** on a regular basis.

❖**Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism:** Truancy is defined as ten unexcused absences in one year. Chronic Absenteeism is defined as attendance 90% or less of the scheduled school days to date. Referrals to the Kent County Truancy Office are made as early as five counted absences during a school year. Referrals require the student, parent/guardian, and school to develop an Attendance Improvement Agreement. A second referral is generated if progress toward goals of the agreement are not being met. A third referral often results in a referral to the prosecutors office. If you have any questions, please contact Joel Breazeale, Dean of Students, at 254-6341

Important Dates September/October 2017

September 22 1/2 Day for Students 7:50—10:55am

September 25 Photo Retakes 8:00—11:00am

October 6 Homecoming Football Game 7:00 pm

October 7 Homecoming Dance 8:00—11:00 pm

October 10 PAC Meeting 1:00 pm

October 11 PSAT/NMSQT 9th—11th grade

October 11 Senior Career/College Conference 9:00am

October 11 Financial Aid Night 7:00 pm

October 14 GHS Band Invitational

October 19 Orchestra Concert 8:00 pm

October 19 Parent teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00

October 20 1/2 Day for Students 7:50—10:55am

October 21 Band Festival @ Jenison

October 21 Harvest Fest

October 23 Fall Break—No School

October 24 Parent teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00

October 24 Orchestra Concert 8:00 pm

October 26 PowderPuff Football Game 6:00 pm

October 28 Band Invitational @ Reeths Puffer

October 28 Monster Mash Spirit Dance 8:00pm

Graduation Gowns

The reasoning for making a change is because I feel strongly about unity. A unified color pattern for graduation shows that "We are Grandville". The decision also comes with a change in the gowns so they are actually both maroon and white. The gowns will be predominantly maroon, with white highlights, and will be better quality. I researched local high schools and colleges state-wide to see not only what they were doing with graduation gowns, but also the impact changing to one gown had on their student body. Each of them reported an increase in school unity. Many of them shared it was the best graduation decision they had made. I also talked to some of our recent graduates, who shared some frustrations with finding a dress that would "work" under their white gowns. This decision was not made flippantly. I made it knowing there would be parents and students who disagreed. However, I believe that sharing the context of the decision and helping concerned students and parents understand the goal of creating an even more unified building will help negate some of those concerns. If you had planned on using a gown from a previous graduate, please have your son/daughter let us know so that we can help take care of purchasing a new gown. We get no monetary benefit from this decision. I view this decision as a chance to start a new tradition based on the values, strengths, and characteristics of GHS and the Grandville Community.

PAC Meetings: Parent meetings with the Principal are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm in the high school media center. All parents of high school students are invited to attend. Note: There will not be a meeting in April or June.

GHS Staff Changes 2017-2018 School Year

New Faces...

Jen Ward: Ms. Ward comes to GHS from Ionia High School by way of Pennsylvania. She has taught all levels of English and also presents at national conferences on technology integration. She is an avid reader and writer who uses social media to enhance learning for her students.

Mike Kennedy: Mr. Kennedy has been selected as the new Assistant Principal at GHS. He will assume those duties during the first full week of October.

Moving On from GHS...

Anne Waldie: Mrs. Waldie was hired as the Grandville Middle School Assistant Principal just weeks before the start of school. We are excited for her new opportunity and know she is doing a great job at GMS.

News from the Counseling Office

The College and Career Senior Conference will take place on October 11, 2017 starting at 9:00 am. We have been working very hard to get the round tables portion ready. We have almost 20 presenters this year. GRCC will also be here to present information to seniors, help them complete applications, and share the many programs that they offer. There will also be help for students with college applications and a guest speaker.

Also, the KCTC bus trip for sophomores who would like to know more about the Kent Career Technical Center will be on October 24. All sophomores will receive information about this opportunity through counselor presentations in their English class the week of September 18. Sign ups for the bus will begin on September 20.

Seniors should be working on college applications, sending transcripts through Parchment, and sending SAT scores. Scholarship information is available through the Family Connection site that all students have access to.

The Financial Aid form will open up on October 1, 2017. Parents can work with their seniors to get the form filled out and sent to help offset the costs of college attendance. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to access the Financial Aid Form.

High School Announcements Change

Starting in October, the daily high school announcements will be sent on Tuesday and Friday. Based on discussions with our School Improvement Team and the Parent Advisory Council (PAC), we will evaluate at the end of October to determine if we need to return to daily announcements. Hopefully, this will limit the repetitive nature of our current announcements and still provide the needed information for parents. Athletic updates will continue to be a part of the announcements but will include three days of competition rather than a daily update. If there are immediate announcements, we will send those individually on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday as an individual message. Announcements will still be sent via Infinite Campus Messenger and will be posted on the school website.

Athletics

Get up to date scores from our website <http://grandvillebulldogsports.com/>

Our winter sports are coming soon. The start dates for winter sports are listed below...

First day of winter sports:

October 30th - Girl's Gymnastics (Co-op with Kenowa Hills), Dance, and Boy's Ice Hockey

November 6th - Girls Basketball and Competitive Cheer

November 13th - Boys Basketball, Boys & Girls Bowling, Wrestling

November 20th - Boys Swim/Dive

September Difference Makers

(Our staff Difference Makers are chosen by their peers each month at our staff meeting. They are selected based on how their words and actions help create a positive school environment for students and staff. It is open to any caring adult who is working in GHS)

Christie Long - Christie is one of two teachers for our students with autism. She continues to embrace the idea that if we believe all students can learn at high levels then "All Means All." She works hard to make sure her students have as much exposure as possible to general education peers and curriculum. As a result, more and more teachers are being pushed to consider what "all means all" looks like (even if they might not realize it). She publicly appreciates the teachers who work with her with "Grandville Cares." She is working Dan Jakubowski and Margie Mayberry (from GVSU) to pilot the true Peer to Peer/Links curriculum endorsed by START. She has made it her personal mission to make sure we are following the new seclusion and restraint guidelines that the State has set forth. Her continual efforts to include all students and teachers in GHS programs make a huge difference in our school and community.

Shelly Weston - Shelly is the high school registrar. She has been tirelessly working to make sure we are getting students enrolled in school and into their classes asap. She is working with and adjusting to the new online enrollment process that is still a work in progress and requires enormous amounts of time. Each day she sends an excel sheet of new enrollments and drops which is anywhere between 4 and 10 students. She still takes time away from those tasks to help us with various IC reporting that we need as well. Her role in confirming students to transfer to other schools is critical to our graduation rate being 94% or above for the past five years. She has handled difficult situations where parents have left feeling relieved instead of more stressed out. Shelly is a difference maker for all of us.

Sheri Gilreath-Watts - Sheri teaches English to our 9th and 12th grade students. She is the picture of dedication. Her devotion to students, whether in her class, or not, is impressive. Anyone who comes through the doors of GHS know they have someone in their lives that cares and always has an open door and a listening ear. Her room is a haven before school, during lunch, and after school where students can process the challenges in their lives, get to know others, get a high-five or hug, or simply hang out. Manifestation of this commitment to students can be seen on a larger level with her leadership with our Peer to Peer mentoring program. Sheri is also our building contact for the Grandville Education Fund as that groups helps raise money to empower teachers and transform the learning experience for all students. For all these reasons, and more, Sheri is definitely a difference maker in our building.

