

GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

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Dorotea M. D'Amico
Principal

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Jennifer Botten
Vice Principal

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August 29, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and that you have had the opportunity to enjoy the summer months. Similar to last year, we have been making plans and then revising and re-adjusting those plans. Most recently, it has been wonderful to see our TI Peer Leaders and our student athletes in and around the building gearing up for the upcoming school year.

I am delighted to welcome Ms. Jennifer Botten as our new Vice Principal! Ms. Botten's tenure at GHS began as a biology teacher in 2005; she then became Science Department Head and subsequently Assistant Curriculum Supervisor of Science, Grades 6-12. Ms. Botten brings with her experience, dedication, enthusiasm and a commitment to growth. We are excited to have Ms. Botten and wish her a long and successful tenure!

School re-opens on Wednesday, September 8th. The schedule is listed below, on our website and will be emailed to students. Similar to last year, all students will have their temperatures checked upon entry to the building and they will be required to wear masks throughout the school day. Students will not need to change for PE classes. In order to avoid large crowds, we are planning on serving lunch in three different locations, which will be indicated on the student's schedule on Realtime. Schedules will be made available through Parent and Student Portals on September 1. At this time, we are not able to make schedule changes. Once school begins, guidance counselors will be in communication with students. Access to Parent Portal and Student Portal will be the same as in previous years. Freshmen and New students will be issued a username and password. I strongly encourage you to use Parent Portal and have your child use their Student Portal. You can continue to log-in using your current username and password (<https://www.fridayparentportal.com/garfield>). Both Parent and Student Portals will allow you access to information pertaining to your child's school records, including attendance, documents, announcements, progress reports and report cards. These documents will not be mailed home. Take note that there is a 'Documents' link in Parent Portal. We will use that link to share information electronically. You will be required to acknowledge documents in Parent Portal once you log-on. This will take the place of the documents that previously required to be returned to school with signatures. *It is so very important that we have current phone numbers, addresses and emails. Please be sure to verify them when you log on to Parent Portal.*

The 2021/2022 GHS Student Handbook is available on our homepage: ghs.gboe.org and on Portal. Students will also receive an email with a link to the Student Handbook. As always, it will include calendars, schedules, dress code and school information, activity information, graduation and testing information and requirements, expectations, protocols and policies. Please familiarize yourself with the handbook. If you cannot access it online, please call the school office.

Freshmen Orientation

Orientation for Freshmen will be held on Tuesday, September 7th. We will hold two orientation programs: grade 9 students with:

- Last names A – L report to GHS at 11 a.m.
- Last names M – Z report to GHS at 1:30 p.m.
- Remember to wear masks.
- Freshmen will also receive a Class of 2025 Teams notification.

All Students

The first day of school is **Wednesday, September 8th (A-Day)**. We will run a modified one-session day schedule, as follows:

- **Grade 9 and 10 students** will report at 8:00 - 8:26 a.m. and follow their block 1 through 4 classes. During blocks 1 and 2, we will hold two class meetings for grade 10 students.
- **Grade 11 and 12 students** will have a delayed arrival only on **Wednesday, September 8th** and **report to school at 10:30 a.m.** They will then report to their blocks 3 and 4 classes.

Thursday and Friday, September 9 (A-Day) and 10 (B-Day) will be one-session days. **ALL** students will follow the schedule below:

Student Arrival:	8:00 - 8:26
Block 1:	8:30 - 9:33
Block 2:	9:37 - 10:37
Block 3 w/ lunches:	10:41 - 12:16
Block 4:	12:20 - 1:20

Additionally,

- All students have been assigned GBOE email addresses along with access to Microsoft Office 365. It is important that students check school email regularly.
- Students will use only their school GBOE accounts for any related school communication.
- Please familiarize yourself with the district site: www.gboe.org
- The direct link to the GHS site is: ghs.gboe.org
- Please be sure to complete summer assignments. Again, this information was shared with all students during the last school year. Additional information can be found on the GHS site under the Summer Assignments tab or directly at: http://ghs.gboe.org/summer_assignments
- Per district protocol, at this time we are limiting in-person conferences at the school. If you need to speak to anyone, please call or email. Staff email can be found at: http://ghs.gboe.org/staff_directory
- Breakfast and lunch will be available to all GHS students at no cost for the school year.
- Please note that there is no option for 'grab and go' lunch on one-session days.
- A travel survey will be sent to all families which will need to be completed.
- Emergency cards will be distributed on the first day of school to students. Please complete and return by Monday, September 13, 2021.

Also, be reminded that I have a GHS Twitter account that I use for general reminders as well as up to the minute announcements (such as changes in daily schedules). Feel free to follow me at [@Principal_GHS](https://twitter.com/Principal_GHS). The Twitter feed is also available on our GHS home page. Take the time to become familiar with our school website for additional information.

Our Virtual Back to School Night will be Thursday, October 7th. More information will follow through Parent Portal. Thank you, in advance, for your patience and cooperation, as we begin to settle into a new school year. If there are any questions, please call the school office. On behalf of the entire GHS administration and faculty, let me extend my wishes to everyone for a successful school year!

Sincerely,



D. D'Amico
Principal

C: Ms. Sciacca, Superintendent of Schools



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WE DO NOT DISCRIMINATE AS TO AGE, RACE, CREED, NATIONAL ORIGIN, GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR DISABILITY.