

## Garden City High School Curriculum Committee Meeting Notes for June 17, 2020

1. **Standardized tests:** Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the administration of spring 2020 AP exams was online. There were various (mostly technical) difficulties, but fees were waived for re-takes. The third round or “exception testing” continues through June 26. The College Board has ruled out offering online SAT exams largely due to the experience with the spring APs. There is an administration of the SAT in-house specifically for GCHS students scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2020. There are 105 Garden City students registered for the September 23 date so far. For the ACT, registration for taking the test at available locations on a Saturday in the fall begins at the end of July. GCHS is open to looking into the feasibility of a fall administration of the ACT in-house specifically for GCHS students.

2. **Staffing for next year:** There are strong candidates for vacancies in German and Guidance. The interview process for a new HS German teacher and a new Guidance Counselor has been completed, and the hiring process is at an advanced stage. The same holds true for the hiring of a new K-12 STEAM Coordinator to fill the Math Curriculum Coordinator vacancy. The search for a replacement English Curriculum Coordinator is at an earlier stage. New Director of Athletics, Health and Physical Education Eamonn Flood and new Director of Pupil Personnel Services Janine Villez have already been announced by the district. There is also a search to fill the Assist. Director of PPS position.

3. **HS courses for 2020-21:** The following courses are not scheduled to run due to low enrollment: Journalism, College Scene Study and Analysis, Myths and Legends, Culture of the Sixties, Advanced Programming – Java H, Advanced Visual BASIC H, College Essentials for a Healthy College Experience, Music Theory H, Greece and Rome Rediscovered—and Music Industry, Technology and Theory H. These were mostly announced by email letter from GCHS on May 18, except for the 12<sup>th</sup> grade elective Greece and Rome Rediscovered, which has since needed to be added to list. Revised tentative schedules for students will be sent out via Google Forms soon for final verification—to incorporate level changes, honors appeals, and error corrections submitted thus far.

4. **Summer assignments/virtual learning:** Summer assignments are up on the GCHS web site and do not differ much from past years. For any students falling behind due to COVID-19 and the resulting virtual learning, this is something that teachers will be seeking to address when school re-opens in the fall as far as helping everyone get to the right starting place for the next level course. There may need to be some looping back to look at previous material to ensure all students are ready for the current course that they are enrolled in. Up to now, counselors, teachers, Curriculum Coordinators and administrators have worked closely together to identify and reach out to any students at risk of falling behind. Curriculum Coordinators will also be looking at content areas over the summer to identify potential gaps, and Dr. Cannone is heading up the Curriculum aspect of the Re-entry Task Force.

5. **Re-opening of schools in the fall:** There are no definitive answers right now due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. There are 3 possibilities: in-person, hybrid or completely virtual. The district is waiting for further guidance from NYS. The district's own Re-entry Planning Task Force is divided into subcommittees, such as Operations, that are looking into various aspects of a re-opening. As far as student schedules, GCHS is currently proceeding with their usual process, but the add/drop policy has been taken out of the Student Handbook to allow for flexibility in response to the pandemic, including its impact on courses such as physical education, and vocal and instrumental music.

6. **Budget/resources:** The school district budget passed. Expenses for cleaning/disinfecting due to COVID-19 are coming from the district's budget for buildings & grounds and are already being taken into account. As to differing needs given the possibility of virtual schooling, it's an issue that is being looked at as events develop.