

Middle School

Garden City PTA HS & MS Joint Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 - 9:30AM

High School Auditorium

Agenda

- **Call to Order**
- **Welcome** - *Donna Kraus & Tara Kelly*
- **PTA Updates**
 - Acceptance of Past Meeting Minutes
 - Announcements
- **SEPTA Updates** - *Sivan Chapman*
- **Principal Updates**
 - *Mr. Kevin Steingruebner* – Garden City High School
 - *Mr. Edward Escobar* – Garden City Middle School
- **Presentation** - *Mrs. Mandi Stefankiewicz*, Assistant Principal for Guidance and PPS

MS–HS Curriculum Decisions: Myths, Facts & Long-Term Impact

An open conversation for middle and high school parents about academic pathways and how early course decisions shape — but do not define — a student’s future.

- **Myths vs. Facts** about accelerated and regular schedules
- **Honors, Regents, and AP courses** — what’s the real difference?
- **Quantity vs. Quality** — is more always better?
- The long-term impact of decisions made at age 12 and how they can influence opportunities at 19

We will explore how academic choices can have meaningful consequences — but are not irreversible or damaging — and how to make thoughtful, child-centered decisions rather than fear-based ones.

This session is designed to provide clarity, reduce anxiety, and help families make informed decisions aligned with their child’s strengths, goals, and well-being.

Announcements & Events

Skit Night – Route 26 was an incredible success. A heartfelt thank you to my amazing co-chairs **Lisa Brown and Beth Bushart** and to the many volunteers who made the evening possible.

We are grateful to our high school administration — **Mr. Steingruebner, Mr. Cohn, and Mrs. Tierney** — along with **Mr. Ryan and our custodial staff** for their support.

Special thanks to **Kristine Henry, JaneEllen Logler**, and the Decorations Committee, as well as committee chairs **Shawn Cohen, Anne Abbate, Jen O’Hanlon, Deb Cupani, Pia Fortney, Kerri Andersen, Liz Delligatti, Laura Baiker, and Jessica Dessiderio**, and our dedicated **Junior Moms and parent volunteers**.

“Active Parenting of Teens” - Began on March 5th, 2025 and will run weekly through April 9th, 2025. A 6-week program, hosted by school social workers that explores healthy ways to communicate with your adolescent, set appropriate boundaries and understand the needs of your child at this stage of development.

PTA Health & Safety Awareness Day - was held on Friday, March 6th
Where over 30 students received CPR & Lifeguarding CPR/AED Training

Spring Musical – Footloose

March 12 (4 PM), March 13 (7 PM), March 14 (7 PM)

Tickets: gchsny.booktix.net

Senior Yearbook Last Chance Deadline

March 20 | 11:59 PM | yearbookforever.com

Career Skills Workshop

March 20 & March 27 | 3:00–4:15 PM | High School

Tri-M Induction – March 18

Harlem Wizards Game – March 20 - Garden City High School

PTA Reflections Awards Ceremony

Monday, March 23 | 7:00 PM

HS Spring Sports Parents Meeting

Thursday, March 26 | 7:00 PM

Middle School PTA / SEPTA Family Bingo Night

6:30–8:30 PM

PTA Dinner

March 31 | Garden City Hotel

Nominating Committee

Accepting Nominations for next year’s open positions