

Joint Middle School & High School

PTA Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

9:30a.m.

1- Call to order

2- PTA Updates

Courtney Finnerty, Dinner

- PTA Dinner is March 26th- GC Hotel 6:30-10pm Go to GCPTA website <https://gardencitypta.org/dinner> to buy tickets. We have amazing baskets that include high school tickets

Tara Kelly, Middle School PTA Director

- Thank you for donating board games. Games can still be dropped at the school if you have more
- Family bingo night is March 28th for all grades. Sign up genius went out

Zeynep Vitale, High School PTA Director

- Elections are coming for PTA chairs. Nominating committee will start soon
- Health and Safety – CPR course in middle school was completed
- Committee Co-Chair Parent University-Getting kids and parents ready for post high school
- Spring sportswear is on sale
- Staff appreciation is coming up

3- SEPTA Updates: Sivan Chapman, GC SEPTA

- 3/21 Rock your socks. Purchase and wear John's Crazy Socks to support SEPTA
- Nominating committee is coming soon. There are open seats for SEPTA. You don't need to have a student with an IEP to be part of SEPTA—it helps to have an integrated organization.

4- Middle School Updates: Mr. Samuelson, Principal

- Victories
 - o Boardgame drive- Thank you PTA and SETPA. We had a great turnout
 - o GC Cares -A-Thon- Incredible event- Had booths demonstrating community service students participate in. Thank you, Dr. Greenwald,
 - o If your student is doing GC Cares, please submit community service form. Link is in the Friday newsletter on Parent Square

- o One school, one book- your child can still get involved. Information is in Parent Square
- o Hoops for Hope- students were wonderful and we had an amazing turnout
- o Parent Teach Conferences – if you could not schedule a meeting please reach out to teachers
- Areas for attention
 - o Safety- Follow parking lot routines. It is dangerous to drop off students in the street. Please bring your child to the door
 - o Communication – How to best reach teachers lastnamefirstinitial@gcufsd.net
 - o Getting ready for 3-8 assessments. The opt out letter will be sent out. All testing is done on Chromebook. ELA assessment was pushed to late April/ early May. Don't stress -its middle school. Practice test was Jan. 31st
- Science 8 assessment with be in May
- Core value awards- 1st Tuesday of the Month – Optimistic
- There has been an uptick in negative behavior. We try to address issues when they are reported or if a teacher hears. Social media is a problem. Remind students it is advocacy if you tell an adult when something is wrong- not tattling. We address everything and hold people accountable. This is not about labeling a student- we need your help. Parent involvement regarding social media is needed. We need to work together – we know how bad it can get. Let's keep our kids off phones and social media together. Ask for your child's phone to go away at night
- Beauty and the Beast Jr.- Tickets on sale
- March 26: PTA Annual Dinner
- March 28: Middle School Family Bingo Night, 6:30-8:30pm
- March 31: District Wide Reflections Awards Assembly at 7pm at the High School
- Spring Band Concert (4/3)- sports tryouts will end early
- GCMS Dance Showcase (4/8) – No parents attend
- **Question: Will there be outdoor recess during homebase?** Yes- will happen in April

5- High School Updates: Mr. Steingruebner, Principal

- Welcome MS parents
- Follow on Instagram: gardencityhs
- Girls' basketball team was in the finals. Boys team also had a great run
- Track traveled to state championships
- GCHS diver came in 3rd in the state
- Art- Nassau County Art Association student work was presented
- Teachers and students are in D.C. for the Regeneron finalist to present their projects. Forty students are left out of 1,800. Our finalist is studying protein modeling using artificial intelligence. Trying to cure cancer through proteins
- Newsday article- GCHS was named platinum for AP Classes. This is the highest level

- Students with accommodations are taking and doing well in AP classes
- Hoops for Hope was a success in raising money for I'm Not Done Yet Foundation
- Skit Night- was a great event. Thank you, PTA., The parents performed skits for senior students
- Career Resources Committee- Presenting financial literacy
- Disney trip for orchestra- 100 students performed and took a workshop
- Musical is this week and tickets are on sale
- Spring sports start next week.
- Lacrosse teams are traveling during April break to FL, PA, and CT
- National Honor Society will have induction on April 24th
- AP Exams- 1st two weeks in May. Library will be the testing center
- Spring Fling dance is mid-May for 9th and 10th grade
- Prom and graduation meeting in May
- Regents review starts in May- After school calendar will come out soon
- Decision Day is May 1st- Wear your college T-shirts. There will be food, photos and celebrations

6- Presentation: GCHS Guidance, Navigating High School and understanding educational pathways for your child- Instagram: GCHS_guidance

- Open house was successful
- Orientation will be in August for school tours, to get schedule, and meet with students. Guidance meets with students 1:1 twice a year in fall and spring
- Information for incoming students-
<https://www.gardencity.k12.ny.us/o/gchs/page/grade-level-info>
- A google form will go out to make changes to electives. Class placement can be appealed but no changes after the school year is over

Questions

- **What grades do 8th graders need to be put into honors?** The 95 average is per subject, first 3 quarters for 8th graders to be put into honors classes. It's difficult to drop a level and requires changes to the schedule. We want to students to be placed appropriately. Can place up the next year
- **In 9th grade do most students take a lunch period?** It's recommended to take a lunch in 9th grade. Math lab and extra help can happen during lunch. Good for socialization and relaxation. Students can use the library instead of the cafeteria
- **What is the counselor student ratio?** - 1:200 students - National average is 1:250
 - o Organized by alphabet
 - o Students can walk in, parents can call
- **Are we getting new cybersecurity AP?** Not right now- Currently we have Project Lead the Way program but it's not an AP. Will watch enrollment and maybe shift to AP. All

decisions are based on interest from students. You can take AP exams for courses we don't offer. Need 15 students to run an elective

- o To graduate you need 10th grade health class, 4 years of PE, 1 year of music or art
- **How early do you take college aspirations into account for class selection?** Always taking career interest inventory. College planning accounts – Naviance career readiness program will start sophomore year. Conversations with students start right away to evaluate their interests
- **When is orientation?** Last week of August when sports are starting

7- Adjourn

Upcoming Important Dates

March 13: Senior Citizen Buffet GCTA

March 13-17: High School Musical – The Little Mermaid

March 17: Spring Sports Tryouts

March 19: Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction

March 20-22: Middle School Spring Musical – Beauty and The Beast

March 26: PTA Annual Dinner

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