The Clipper Nautical

Grafton High School York County, VA

Welcome back to the start of a new and exciting school year! We look forward to a year dedicated to the pursuit of continued high academic standards with a resolve to be our absolute best in all endeavors.

This summer we have been very busy planning and organizing for the new school year. The entire school complex has been painted, and it looks great. The resurfacing of the roof is underway and is scheduled to be completed by the end of November. Our custodial staff has been hard at work cleaning classrooms and hallways and preparing the building for the upcoming year. We are almost ready to set sail for another amazing voyage!

During the 2016-2017 school year, our instructional staff will continue to provide learning experiences for students that place emphasis on high expectations, engaging instruction, and building positive student relationships in a safe and secure learning environment for all.

To our transfer students and rising ninth grade families, we welcome you to “Clipper Nation.” We want to assure you that we will do our best to help your child achieve academic, social, and athletic success. With your support and cooperation, I am certain this will be an excellent school year.

As we prepare for the opening of school on September 6, please remember that the New Student Orientation program will be held on Tuesday, August 30th, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Parents and students are encouraged to attend. After brief opening remarks in the auditorium, we will distribute class schedules before visiting classrooms.

Back-to-School Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 15, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your child’s teachers and to learn more about the exciting academic environment at GHS. The evening’s activities will begin in the gym.

In closing, I would like to thank our parent organizations that volunteer countless hours to partner with us. We value the remarkable support we receive from you and are extremely fortunate to have your involvement. I look forward to working with you in the coming year!

Principal Royce Hart

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Principal: Mr. Royce Hart (rhart@ycsd.york.va.us)
Assistant Principal: Mrs. Karen Fahringer Moore (kmoore@ycsd.york.va.us)
Assistant Principal: Dr. Abbie Martin (amartin2@ycsd.york.va.us)
Assessment and Compliance Coordinator: Mrs. Susan Huffines (shuffines@ycsd.york.va.us)

SCHOOL CONTACT NUMBERS

Main Office 898-0530
School Counseling Office 898-0550
Attendance 898-0543
Athletics 898-0563
Clinic 898-0549
Fax 855-369-2612

SCHOOL ADDRESS

403 Grafton Drive
Yorktown, VA 23692
New Student Orientation

New student orientation for rising freshmen and all new students will be held on Tuesday, August 30th at 6:30 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend with their students. We will meet in the GHS auditorium for brief opening remarks before distributing class schedules and classroom visitation.

If I am returning Clipper, how and when do I get my schedule for the new school year?

A list of all students’ first period classes will be posted on the doors of the school Friday, September 2nd. Returning students will receive their schedules during their first period class on Tuesday, September 6th. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!

Back-to-School Night

Back-to-School Night at GHS will be held on Thursday, September 15th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your child’s teachers and to learn more about the exciting academic environment at GHS. The evening’s activities will begin in the gymnasium.

Student Information

The York County School Division provides student information online through the Aspen Family Portal. This secure web-based information management system is password protected and helps to make communication among students, parents, teachers, and administrators more efficient. Families can use the Aspen Family Portal to view student schedules, assignments and grades, as well as daily attendance records and family contact information. Additional information, including Aspen Family Portal account activation instructions, will be provided to students and parents at Open Houses and Back-to-School nights. Stay tuned to find out specific dates for online portal updates. Reference guides and answers to frequently asked questions are also available on the division website, yorkcountyschools.org.

Bus Route Notification

The 2016-17 school year begins Tuesday, September 6, 2016. Scheduled bus stops, times for pickup and drop-off for grades K, 6, 9 & new students will be mailed to parents in late August. All other students will meet their bus at the same bus stop used by those students during last school year.

WHAT TIME DO THE BUSES LEAVE GHS?

The buses depart no later than 2:15 p.m. For safety reasons, once buses are in motion, they cannot stop to pick up students coming out of the building late. Students are required to proceed to the bus loop immediately after school to board the bus.

STUDENT DROP-OFF/ PICK-UP

Please note that the student drop off and pick up section is at the back of the building in the loop around the anchor.

- Please follow these rules for the safety of all students and to create a smoother flow of traffic into and out of GHS.
- It is not appropriate to drop off students at the front curb or near the band room as it creates safety hazards.
- Parents should not turn around in the teacher parking lot or any student parking lots.
YCSD Dress Code
The York County School Division recognizes the importance of a division wide dress code in promoting and maintaining an orderly and safe learning environment. The purpose of the dress code is to promote a safe learning environment, which eliminates distractions, increases the focus on instruction, and promotes responsible dress for all students.

The following guidelines apply to all students while in attendance at the school or school-sponsored events. The principal or principal designee at each school may also include additional dress code expectations and he/she reserves the right to determine what dress and appearance is appropriate for the learning environment. The school administrators will make every effort to be fair in monitoring and addressing dress code violations.

- **Headgear will not be permitted to be worn in the building except for educational, religious, or medical purposes.** Headgear refers to a covering worn on the head including, but not limited to hats, caps, sunglasses, and bandanas.

- **Footwear:** Students must wear appropriate shoes at all times. For safety reasons students are encouraged not to wear open-toes shoes.

- **Shorts, Skirts, and Dresses:** Shorts and skirts must not be shorter than 4 inches from the top of the knee. Form fitting clothing, such as yoga pants and leggings, must be worn with a garment that extends to the mid-thigh. Rips in pants must be no more than four inches from the top of the knee.

- **Pants:** All pants must be worn at the waistline.

- **Shirts:** No shirts may be worn that expose undergarments or the midriff. All sleeveless shirts must have straps that are at least three inches wide. Necklines shall be modest, not revealing and shall not allow cleavage to show.

- **Clothing that is too tight or too revealing may not be worn.**

- **Examples of inappropriate clothing items include but are not limited to halter tops, pajama-like clothing, bedroom slippers, spaghetti straps, and off-the-shoulder, strapless or backless dresses or shirts.**

- **Students’ clothing, haircuts, tattoos or other accessories may not display any of the following:**
  - Weapons
  - Pictures of tobacco products
  - Drugs
  - Alcohol
  - Nudity
  - Vulgarity
  - Obscene, lewd, or profane words

- **Inflammatory racial statements**
- **Items that can be perceived as gang affiliated**
- **Other prohibited expressions as outlined by the principal**

Violation of the student dress code regulation will subject the student to disciplinary action by the school’s administration. The following discipline actions may include but are not limited to a phone call home for first time violators, various in-school discipline actions, to suspension for continuous violation of the policy. Students in violation of the dress code policy will be placed in Alternative to Suspension until the dress code violation has been resolved.

**RULES FOR STUDENT CONDUCT**

1. Any student who brings a cell phone or other portable electronic communication device to school must adhere to the technology guidelines outlined in the AUP and BYOT Policy forms from the time he/she enters the building until the afternoon dismissal bell rings. If a student violates these rules, the device will be confiscated until a parent comes to school to pick up the item. Parents may pick up items after 2:05 in the Main Office.

2. Students are responsible for securing valuable items.

3. Skateboards, laser pointers and water guns are not permitted on school grounds or on school buses.

4. Extreme public displays of affection are not allowed on school grounds.

5. Students are not permitted in the halls without passes.

6. Students must identify themselves when asked to do so.

7. Students are not allowed in the parking lot unless they are arriving or leaving school or they have a pass from an administrator.

8. Students must ride their assigned bus unless they obtain a bus pass from the main office.

9. Students may not operate any vehicle on campus without a valid parking permit issued by the attendance office.
**2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

August 30  
Rising 9th grade/New Student Orientation

September 6  
All Students Report

September 15  
Back-to-School Night

October 7  
Early Dismissal

October 13  
Interim Reports Issued

November 8  
Election Day/Student Holiday

November 9  
2nd Quarter Begins

November 11  
Veterans Day/Student Holiday

November 17  
Report cards Issued

November 23-25  
Thanksgiving Holiday

( Schools/ Offices Closed)

December 9  
Early Dismissal

December 16  
Interim reports issued

December 21  
Early Dismissal

Dec. 22–Jan. 2  
Winter Holiday

January 3  
Students Report

January 16  
Martin L. King, Jr Day

(Schools/Offices Closed)

*January 24  
HS 2AB Exam Regular School Day

*Jan. 25-27  
High School Exams Early Dismissal

January 30  
Student Holiday

January 31  
Third Quarter Begins

February 3  
Report cards issued

February 20  
Presidents’ Day Holiday

( Schools/Offices Closed)

March 3  
Early Dismissal

March 8  
Interim Reports Issued

March 31  
Early Dismissal

April 3 - 7  
Spring Break

April 10  
Fourth Quarter Begins

April 14  
Report cards issued

May 12  
Early Dismissal

*May 16-20  
SOL Testing Window

May 18  
Interim Reports issued

May 29  
Memorial Day (Schools/Offices Closed)

*June 12  
HS 2AB Exam Regular School Day

*June 13-15  
High School Exams Early Dismissal

June 15  
Last Student Day

June 16  
GRADUATION

GHS is tentatively scheduled for 3:00 PM

June 22  
Report cards mailed home

*Note: Exams will NOT be rescheduled. The principal will only give consideration to extreme circumstances. If absences during exams are not prearranged with prior principal approval, the absence may be considered as unexcused. Please make any requests for changes in writing at least one week ahead of time.

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**CLINIC UPDATE**

***Important***

All rising 9th, 10th, and 11th graders must have a completed 3-shot hepatitis B series at the start of school.

All students who need to carry inhalers at school must have the annual contract for self-administration of inhaled medication completed by their physician/medical practitioner with the care plan for emergencies. These forms can be obtained from the clinic or on-line. This requirement is mandated by the state. Students who need to carry epi-pens must have the emergency alert and plan for self-administered epi-pens completed by their physician. This form can be obtained from the clinic or on-line.

**Attention: All medications must be brought to the clinic by parents.** Per the YCSD Student Handbook, students should never carry any medications (including over the counter ones) on themselves without prior authorization from the clinic.

A reminder... Each year your child receives an emergency update sheet. Please complete the information and have your child return it to the school. If your child is sick or injured, the information on this card is used by the clinic to contact the parent. Without this valuable contact information, I cannot contact you if there is an emergency. You may contact the clinic at 898-0549 after August 29.

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**STUDENT HANDBOOKS**

Student Handbooks are issued on the first day of school. Please review the handbook and return the appropriate pages to your student’s teacher by the end of the first week of school.
Grafton High School Daily Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“A” DAY</th>
<th>“B” DAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1A Block 7:20–9:03</td>
<td>1B Block 7:20–9:03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A Block 9:08–10:03</td>
<td>2B Block 9:08–10:03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3A Block 10:08–12:18 Lunch times</td>
<td>3B Block 10:08–12:18 Lunch times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:08–10:38</td>
<td>10:08–10:38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A Block 12:23–2:05</td>
<td>4B Block 12:23–2:05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classes begin at 7:20. Students should be in the building prior to 7:15 in order to make it to class on time.

Lunch

There are three lunch blocks. Students are assigned to a lunch block based on his/her 3A and 3B teachers. They may have one lunch block on A days and a different lunch block on B days. Third period teachers will tell students which lunch block to eat. Seats are not assigned for lunch blocks. Students are expected to clean up after eating and to push their chairs under the table when leaving. While in the cafeteria, students may listen to music, etc. using earbuds or headphones but must leave one ear unencumbered to allow for emergency communications. Students must remain in the cafeteria during the lunch block. If he/she needs to use the restroom, he/she should use the one at the end of the 200 hall, near the school counseling and attendance offices.

GHS ABBREVIATED BELL SCHEDULES

Early Dismissal Schedule

| 7:20 – 8:15 | 1st BELL (Periods 1A / 1B) |
| 8:20 – 9:15 | 2nd BELL (Period 2AB) |
| 9:20 – 10:15 | 3rd BELL (Periods 3A / 3B) |
| 10:20 – 11:20 | 4th BELL (Periods 4A / 4B) |

Please see school calendar for early dismissal dates.

2-Hour Delay

| 9:20 – 9:54 | 1st BELL (Periods 1A/1B) |
| 9:59 – 10:33 | 2nd BELL (Period 2AB) |
| 10:38 – 12:23 | 3rd BELL (Periods 3A/3B) |

| Class | Lunch |
| 11:08 – 12:18 | 1st 10:38 – 11:08 |

12:23 – 2:05 4th BELL (Periods 4A/4B)

*** Morning SOA and New Horizons classes do not meet when the school division is on a 2 hour delay. Afternoon classes will continue as scheduled.

Exam Bell Schedule

| 9:25 – 11:20 2nd Exam |
ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Attendance Secretary
Debi Johnson
(757)898-0543
djohnson3@ycsd.york.va.us

Students are expected to attend school every day and be on time unless the student is ill or there is a death in the immediate family.

What do I do if my son or daughter has been absent?

In order for the absence to be excused, a note with the student’s full name and signed by the parent or guardian, stating a valid reason for the absence must be presented to the attendance office within twenty-four hours or the student’s return to school.

A physician’s note will be required for absences beyond the 10th absence.

Excused absences to school will be given for medical appointments, illness, death in the family, prearranged absences approved by an administrator or other extenuating circumstances as determined by an administrator.

Reasons such as car trouble, missing the bus, and oversleeping are considered unexcused absences or tardies.

I know we are going out of town next month, how do I get my student’s assignments?

At least one week before the absence, send in a written note or email stating the dates and reason of the absence, please include the parent or guardian’s signature and telephone number. Once the absence is approved by the Principal, the student will receive a Prearranged Absence Form to take to his/her teachers.

Specific details about the effects of unexcused absences are available in the Student Handbook!

TARDY POLICY (SCHOOL/TARDY)

What do I do if my student arrives to school late?

Students that arrive to school late should report to the attendance office to sign in. Tardies will be excused if the student brings in a note stating a valid reason for the tardy signed by the parent or guardian. A doctor’s note or other “official” note is also accepted. If the student does not have a written note a parent or guardian must sign the student in with the attendance office in order for the tardy to be excused. Excused tardies to school will be given for medical appointments, illness, or death in the family. Reasons such as car trouble, missing the bus, and oversleeping are considered unexcused tardies.

The unexcused tardy policy is a semester policy. Students may receive unexcused tardies to classes or to school. The following list of offenses and actions are for unexcused tardies only:

1st Tardy: Teacher informs student and notes in attendance book.
2nd Tardy: Teacher makes parental contact.
3rd Tardy: Teacher submits disciplinary infraction to administrator for a verbal administrative warning.
4th Tardy: Administrator (or designee) assigns Detention. A letter concerning the consequence will be mailed home and the parent is contacted.
5th Tardy: Student will be assigned a progressively higher level of consequence to include multiple days of ATS (Alternative to Suspension), detention after school, or Saturday School. (Parents are contacted and disciplinary infraction letter mailed home).

Note: Additional tardy infractions will result in disciplinary action from school staff.

Early Dismissals

Can a student get an early dismissal from school?

Yes, requests for early dismissal must include the time, reason, and parent or guardian’s telephone number; must be signed by the parent or guardian; and must be brought to the attendance office prior to the beginning of classes. Students will receive a pass and must sign out in the attendance office at the time of early dismissal. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence from any classes missed.

If the student does not bring in a note the he or she must be signed out in the attendance office. The person signing out student must present a valid ID and must be on the list of persons permitted to pick up the student located on the yellow student information sheet that is sent home on the first day of school. The attendance secretary will then call into the classroom for the student to be dismissed.

Please do not text or call your student from the parking lot upon your arrival. Teachers will not release students until the time stated on the pass or when they are called down by the office.
NO STUDENT SHOULD LEAVE THE BUILDING DURING THE SCHOOL DAY WITHOUT SIGNING OUT THROUGH ATTENDANCE OR THE CLINIC.

ATTENDANCE QUICK FACTS:
- Absence notes are due within 24 hours of the student’s return to school
- Absences and tardies will not be excused without a written note stating a valid excuse
- If the absence or tardy is unexcused, teachers do not have to let you make up the work that you missed
- Email from a parent or guardian is accepted.

Students in Need of School Supplies?
If you have a student that is unable to purchase needed school supplies, please see a guidance counselor or leave a message for an administrator in the main office.

2016-2017 School Lunch Prices
- Breakfast $1.60
- Lunch $2.70
- Milk (pint) $.55

Applications for the free and reduced lunch/breakfast program will be given to all students the first day of school and will also be available in the School Counseling Office throughout the school year.

SCHOOL FEES
The following is a list of York County High School user fees as established by the School Board. Information will be sent home with students on the first day of school.

Special subject area fees:
- Vocational, Computer, and Art courses:
  - Full year: $15.00
  - Semester: $ 7.50
- Band Uniforms: $20.00
- Instrument Rental: $ 30.00

OBLIGATIONS AND FEES
An important part of learning responsibility is meeting obligations on time. It is imperative that the any fees (see York County Handbook) are paid in a timely manner. Students who are placed on the Obligation List for lost textbooks, library fines or other monies may not be allowed to attend dances or other school sponsored events.

Warning: Be Sure You Are Parked Legally!
Unauthorized parking in fire lanes at schools is a violation of law. The areas identified and marked as fire lanes shall not be used for personal parking conveniences, but shall be reserved for emergency vehicles providing services and for attended buses or as temporary/short-term authorized loading and unloading of vehicles.

The cooperation of parents and/or visitors to the school facilities is appreciated in order to ensure the safety of the occupants and the protection of school property. Vehicles parked in fire lanes are subject to the issuance of fire lane summons/tickets.
Athletic ticket prices for regular season games for 2016-2017, as established by the Bay Rivers District, are:

- $6.00 – Football
- $5.00 – All sports except football and those listed below
- Free - Cross Country, Debate, Forensics, Golf, One Act Plays, Scholastic Bowl, Tennis

An admission charge is required by the District for children in first grade or older.

Season passes will be sold to all students for $45 and to all adults for $75 this year. This pass admits the bearer to any GHS home game during any season all year long. All post-season tournaments (districts, regionals, etc.) are exceptions to this policy. This is a great value, so parents and students are encouraged to purchase passes in the athletic office or at any home games during the year.

The Bay Rivers District has a Golden Age Athletic pass that is free to any Grafton High supporter over the age of 65. This pass is good for all District games for as long as you want. They are limited in supply.

All pass holders MUST present the pass in order to enter without purchasing a ticket. A $5 replacement fee will be charged for all lost passes.

If you have questions you may call the Athletic Director, Laura Sutton, at 898-0563.

Welcome back from the Grafton Athletic Booster Club

I hope everyone had a great summer and time off with family and friends. As we get prepared for the upcoming 2016-2017 school year, we look to build on what we did this past year. We need your support as a new or returning member to the booster club.

Our Mission

We were created to support and recognize the efforts of our student athletes. In addition to working with the athletic directors for both the high school and middle school to help provide equipment and/or uniforms for our athletic teams for practice and/or competition; we also support, recognize and celebrate the efforts of our teams with our sports banquets, senior nights, and newsletters. We distribute t-shirts to our student athletes as a token of recognition and appreciation for their participation in Grafton athletics. All funds generated through Membership dues and our fundraising efforts go directly back to the student athlete.

- Link to our web site gabc.ch2v.com.

Here you can find information about Board members, store for spirit wear, team sports, news, volunteering, and joining.

Look forward to a great year of sports and seeing you out volunteering during the season.

Andrew Minter, President
Welding1@cox.net
School Counseling Office

The School Counseling Office at Grafton High School would like to help make the upcoming school year as smooth as possible for you and your student. Please do not hesitate to contact your counselor with any questions or concerns.

Students are assigned to counselors alphabetically:

A-C Melissa Kashy-mkashy@ycsd.york.va.us
D-Ka Jennifer Ericsson-jericsson@ycsd.york.va.us
Ke-Po Frederick Hilder-fhilder@ycsd.york.va.us
Pr-Z Joseph Erfe-erfe@ycsd.york.va.us

Testing: SAT I, SAT II, AC2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Regular Registration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAT I &amp; SAT II</td>
<td>October 1, 2016</td>
<td>September 2, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT I &amp; SAT II</td>
<td>November 5, 2016</td>
<td>October 7, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT I &amp; SAT II</td>
<td>December 3, 2016</td>
<td>November 4, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT I &amp; SAT II</td>
<td>January 21, 2017</td>
<td>December 30, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>September 10, 2016</td>
<td>August 5, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>December 10, 2016</td>
<td>November 4, 2016</td>
</tr>
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The PSAT will be administered on Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at GHS. All Sophomores will take this test. Juniors are encouraged to take this test as well, since the PSAT is the National Merit Qualifying test for juniors only. Parents may register their student to take the PSAT at Back to School Night on Thursday, September 15th.

To register online for the SAT go to: www.collegeboard.com
To register online for the ACT go to: www.actstudent.org

College Representative Visits: Many college admission officers schedule visits to meet with GHS students who might be interested in attending their college. Seniors and Juniors may attend these sessions. This schedule is kept in a notebook in the Guidance Office. If there is a college you are interested in, sign up in guidance and you will receive a pass on the day of the visit.

When: October 26, 2016 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Where: Hampton Roads Convention Center
(Open to all Students grades 9-12)

SENIOR PARENT INFORMATION

Graduation Requirements: In order to graduate, a student must complete the course requirements for one of three diplomas offered in York County Schools. Each counselor will meet individually with their seniors early on in the fall to make sure that students are registered for the correct courses, discuss post-secondary plans and help make this important year go well for both you and your student The School Counseling Office would like to encourage parents to participate in this very important planning conference. Please call the SCO (898-0550) to schedule this as soon as possible!

Post-Secondary Plans: 4-year college, 2-year college, apprenticeship, military, vocational/technical training, or work. At this point, you should have a good idea of which way you are headed.

Transcript Requests: Pick up a transcript release form from the Counseling office and return the signed form to the Registrar. You will need to complete this form only one time, regardless of the number of applications you send! Complete your application on-line either through the Common Application or through Parchment. Get your personal Parchment Code sheet from your school counselor and create your Parchment Account. There is a link on the GHS School Counseling website to access Parchment directly.

To Do’s For Seniors:
- Conference with counselor
- Complete a student activity card
- Register for appropriate tests
- Begin application process for college, vocational and or technical training
• Maintain good study habits and grades throughout your senior year, as post-secondary institutions and employers look at final transcripts.
• NCAA form if applicable: www.ncaaeligibility.org

To Do’s For Parents

• Participate in your senior’s counselor conference
• Talk with your student about his/her plans
• Complete the Federal Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after October 1, 2016.
• Read the Clipper Nautical for upcoming dates and activities.

** New this year!! Complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at: www.FAFSA.ed.gov
Starting October 1st!

Attend the Parent Information Night For Financial Aid on Monday, October 24th at 6:30 PM at Grafton High School!!!

Important Websites and Telephone Numbers

Best College Deals
www.bestcollegedeals.com

The College Board
www.collegeboard.com

FAFSA on the web
www.fafsa.ed.gov

FASTWEB Scholarship Search
www.fastweb.com

Federal Student Aid Hotline
1-800-4FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)
www.fafsa.ed.gov

Scholarship Resource Network Express
www.srnexpress.com

Wired Scholar
www.wiredscholar.com

The Princeton Review
www.review.com

Pin number registration
www.pin.ed.gov

Attention students in the CLASS OF 2017!
SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE VIA THE GHS WEBSITE ONLY!

Each scholarship will be posted on our website according to the month in which it is due. These web pages will be updated as new scholarships continue to reach the guidance office.

Please be sure to check back very regularly, preferably on a weekly basis. Please follow the directions listed below to get to the scholarship listings:

www.yorkcountyschools.org
Click on “schools”
Click on “Grafton HS”
Click on “about”
Click on “School counseling”
Click on “scholarships”
Click on “click here for more scholarships and deadlines.”

There is money out there! Please be diligent! And remember the small, local, community scholarships have a smaller applicant pool; therefore, making your chances of receiving scholarships more likely.
FRESHMAN PARENT INFORMATION

Your School Counseling Office would like to officially welcome you to Grafton High School! All high school students, of course, need their parents’ support, guidance and encouragement throughout their high school career. Here are some tips to help guide and advise your student:

- Help your student to set realistic academic goals.
- Encourage them to be involved in extracurricular activities.
- Show your support by attending performances, games, etc.
- Make sure they understand that they are to be in school, on time, every day.
- Attend all open houses and Parent Information Nights.
- Write down the dates that interim reports and report cards come home, and expect your student to bring them home.
- Realize that it is your student’s responsibility to get homework done, to prepare for tests, and to follow the school’s rules.
- Work together with the school. Teachers and counselors are there to help your student get the best education possible. If you have a question or concern, call the school.
- Talk to your student about what is happening in school and be a good listener.
- Look for opportunities to praise good grades and extra effort.
- Help your student to choose appropriate courses along with their guidance counselor and teachers.
- Help them to explore and evaluate a variety of career and educational opportunities.

Get Involved: High School is like anything else........the more you put into it, the more you get out. Students who are involved in activities do better academically and they enjoy high school more. Encourage your student to find at least one club or activity at Grafton High School this year!

Plan and Prepare for the Future: In order to prepare for the future it is important that your student get the best education possible. Remind them that they are building their high school academic record and every grade counts!

SOPHOMORE PARENT INFORMATION

PSAT: All 10th graders will take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Qualifying Test on Wednesday, October 19th. This will be administered during the regularly scheduled school day. The PSAT provides practice for the SAT and comprehensive information to help students identify skills that need improvement while there is still time to make a difference. Students receive score reports with all of the questions and answers fully explained, to encourage them to learn from this assessment. The Guidance Department will return these score reports to your sophomores with a detailed discussion and power point presentation.

Get Involved: High School is like anything else........the more you put into it, the more you get out. Students who are involved in activities do better academically and they enjoy high school more. Encourage your student to find at least one club or activity at Grafton High School this year!

Plan and Prepare for the Future: In order to prepare for the future it is important that your student get the best education possible. Remind them that they are building their high school academic record and every grade counts!

JUNIOR PARENT INFORMATION

September
- Meet with your counselor as necessary to discuss your college plans. Review your schedule with him or her to make sure you're enrolled in challenging classes that will help you prepare for college.
- Parents register and pay to have their student take the PSAT. This can be done at Back to School Night.
- Practice for the PSAT/NMSQT at collegeboard.com.
- Take the practice test in the PSAT/NMSQT Student Bulletin. This will be distributed to parents who register their student for the PSAT.
- Get more involved with your extracurricular activities.

October
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation programs for recognition and scholarships. Be sure to check 'yes' for Student Search Service to hear from colleges and scholarships.
- Make a list of college characteristics that are important to you. Use College Search to find colleges that match your preferences.
- Go to college fairs in your area.

November
- Gear up for mid-year finals.
- Learn more about financial aid.
- Talk to your parents about financing college and use the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) Calculator to estimate how much your family will be expected to pay.
- Continue your practice for the new SAT and/or ACT.

December
- Use your PSAT/NMSQT Score Report Plus for personalized feedback on your academic skills, and to help you get ready for college and the new SAT.
- It’s mid-year crunch season. Sharpen up your time management skills to help you make it through.
- Find out about college firsthand from college friends who are home for the holidays.
January
- Start a file of your college brochures and information. Before you know it, they’ll start pouring in.
- Are you selecting courses for your senior year schedule soon? Consider AP courses. You can get college credit or advanced placement for qualifying grades on AP Exams at most colleges.
- Consider college characteristics -- private or public, two- or four-year, close to home or far away? Then use College Search’s Advanced Search to find colleges that match your needs.

February
- Plan to keep your momentum going and avoid senioritis next year by continuing to take challenging classes.
- Plan to visit colleges this spring while they’re in session. Be sure to schedule an interview with admissions officers when you visit campuses.
- Register at collegeboard.com to take the SAT in the spring.

March
- Look for a great summer opportunity -- job, internship, or volunteer position.
- Consider taking a course at a local college, especially if you’re thinking about majoring in a subject for which your school doesn’t offer AP courses.
- Start preparing for AP Exams in May.

April
- Check with your counselor for special summer school programs for high school students at colleges and other institutions.
- If applicable, prepare writing samples, portfolios, audition tapes, and other materials for the fall college application season.

May
- Make a resume of your accomplishments, activities, and work experiences.
- Start your summer reading list. Ask your teachers to recommend books.

June
- Finalize your summer plans. Try to find a job or activity that relates to your career interests.
- Explore college majors that you might want to try. Be sure the colleges you’re considering offer the majors in which you’re interested. Use College Majors Search to find out which majors are offered at which colleges.
- If you are considering military academies or ROTC scholarships, contact your counselor before summer vacation.

Have questions about AP or SOL testing? Attendance Contracts? Tardies? 504 Plans? Remediation?
Please see or call your Assessment and Compliance Coordinator, Mrs. Susan Huffines. Her number is 898-0411. The ACC handles SOL and AP testing, PSATs, AND works with students with over 5 unexcused absences to school, remediation for SOL testing and students with 504 plans.

Selective Service Registration
Federal law requires males to register with Selective Service within 30 days of their eighteenth birthday. Failure to do so may deprive individuals of their rights to state and federal student assistance, state and federal employment, and other benefits. Register online at http://www.sss.gov/.

Parents of high school juniors and seniors
The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act requires school divisions to provide military recruiters with information about high school juniors and seniors. Parents may opt to not provide this information by completing the appropriate section of the Student Handbook prior to returning it to the school.

LOST AND FOUND
Lost items may be claimed from the lost and found box located in the atrium. Valuable lost and found items will be kept in the main office. Items found should be turned in to the main office. Items which are unclaimed will be donated to a charitable organization.
Handy Tips for Parents

1. If you need to see someone in the school counseling office, the clinic or attendance, you should use the back entrance. You can sign in there and save yourself time and steps.

2. Attendance notes have to be signed by a parent. They may also be faxed or emailed within 24 hours of the absence.

3. In the mornings, students should be dropped off in the back loop only.

4. Please don’t call your child on his/her cell phone. Texting should be limited to times when students are not in class. Texting during class time disrupts instruction. You may call the main office (898-0530) and a message will be given to your child between classes. If it’s an emergency, an administrator can give permission to get your child out of class.

5. If your son/daughter texts you saying that he/she is sick, please direct them to report to the clinic. Only the clinic staff may sign out sick students. It will save you time and confusion if your child is there waiting for you when you arrive.

GHS Honor Code

Honor is a combination of ideals such as integrity and respect. At Grafton High School, we hold this quality in high esteem. Regardless of gender, age, or race, honor is vital in everyone’s life. In accordance with the Grafton High School Honor Code, students are responsible for upholding the following:

- Each student is expected to respect the school, staff, each other, him or herself, as well as all property.

- Each student is expected to support the truth in all situations; untruthfulness should be reported and will be penalized.

- Each student is expected to work independently on assignments, which are designed to be completed alone, and not give or receive assistance.

MEDIA CENTER

GHS Librarian/Media Specialist - Kristen Falk (kfalk@ycsd.york.va.us)

The Media Center is open from 7:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Books may be checked out for 2 weeks and may be renewed if they are not needed by others for research assignments. Reference books and magazines will be loaned for overnight use to be returned before the first block class the next day. A $.05 fine will be charged for most overdue items; however, a $.50 fine per day will be charged for late overnight materials, including reference books, reserve books, and AV materials. Students may use the computers in the library for educational purposes before school, during lunch blocks and after school.

GHS ALMA MATER

As we sail upon life’s sea
Hope and pride we find in thee
With the red, gray and blue
Our flag flies true
Through the storms that may rise
Still our spirit ne’er dies
As we travel on our way
We will cherish every day
You’ll forever be our anchor and stay
We are Grafton High!

GHS Fight Song

Let’s hear it for our Grafton Clippers
Here to fight and win tonight!
Go Big Red! Our Clippers
Always play with strength and might!
Silver, red and blue – to the Clippers, we’ll be true!
G-R-A-F-T-O-N! Grafton – that’s who!
Come on and show your Clipper pride
and share a victory tonight!
Fight!

School Mascot: Clippers
Also known as “Big Red”
School Colors: Red, Navy and Silver


**Student Representatives**

**SCA REPRESENTATIVES**

President – Matthew Grant
First Vice President – Yenna Chu
Second Vice President – Florence Darko
Corresponding Secretary – Elizabeth Sholtis
Recording Secretary – Alex Lee
Parliamentarian – Kiera Schwarz

**CLASS OFFICERS**

**Senior**

President – Julia Larsen
Vice President – Hannah Guyer
Secretary – Megan Harrah
Treasurer – Laurel Nicks

**Junior**

President – Christina Jefferson
Vice President – Tori Chipchase
Secretary – Mackenzie Peeke
Treasurer – Sam Janousek

**Sophomore**

President – Alex Roper
Vice President – Haley Sutton
Secretary – Lisa O’Grady
Treasurer – Abby Zwirschitz

**Freshman**

President –
Vice President –
Secretary –
Treasurer –

**ADVISORS**

Grade 12/Class of 2017: Mrs. Shriner
Grade 11/Class of 2018: Mrs. Zwirschitz and Mr. Auth
Grade 10/Class of 2019: Mrs. Ayres and Mr. Bennett
Grade 9/Class of 2020: Ms. Marcy and Ms. Carter

**SCA Sponsor(s):** TBD

**Welcome to School Year 2016-17 from your PTSA Board**

So where did summer go?? Seriously, it can’t be over already!!

The GHS PTSA Board is looking forward to another successful year of working alongside our students, faculty, friends, family and community. There are two main components that enable our success; members and volunteers. With these in place we are able to support the many wonderful programs here at the High School. With that said, we currently have a vacancy for a Chair for the Reflections Student Art program, if you feel you can take on a leadership role in this committee please contact me. My details are at the end of this newsletter.

**BECOME A PTSA MEMBER**

The cost of membership remains at $6 per person this year and in case you didn’t know, the big difference between a PTA and a PTSA is the S which stands for Student. At the High School the students are encouraged to become members too and voice any concerns they may have about issues that affect them. They are welcome to be part of our monthly PTSA meetings and we even ask for a representative from each grade to give feedback on news from their grade to the Board and bring up any issues/suggestions. If your student would like to be a part of that then please contact me. We meet at 7pm on a Tuesday – dates to be confirmed.

Encouraging you to become a PTSA member is extremely important for us but what does the $6 do? It allows us to support the school and Grafton families in the following ways:

- Monthly Teacher Appreciation Lunches/Breakfasts
- Monthly Student Appreciation known as Red & Blue Crew
- Student homework passes (2 per student per year in different subjects and check with Teacher first)
- Senior Student Scholarships for Excellence in Volunteerism
- School assembly programs such as Don’t Text and Drive, Anti Bullying, Internet Safety
- Reflections Student Art Program
- Senior After Prom event
- Senior Baccalaureate Service
- Discounts at local businesses (see graftonpts.org and look at the Programs tab/PTSA benefits)
Discounts at national businesses (see pta.org and check out About PTA tab/Member Benefits)

A weekly Monday Message with a whole heap of useful info about GHS and the community events

There are a couple of ways to sign up for Membership, you can bring the form and your payment (cash/check or credit card) to the PTSA table at either Freshman/New Student Open House on August 30th or Back to School Night on September 15th, or you can put the form and payment into an envelope marked PTSA and send it into school with your student and have them bring it to the front office or NEW THIS YEAR you can sign up and pay on-line at the following link: graftonptsa.org/membership. Your membership cards will be sent to you via your student along with a couple of incentives to say thanks for joining.

FUNDRAISING

- If you shop at Kroger you can register your Kroger Plus card on-line and choose to support GHS PTSA, every time you shop or buy gas as a portion of it will come back to us in the form of a rebate. We are also registered at Farm Fresh and to support that all you need to do is show a key tag when you shop. The tag is specific to GHS and again a portion of your bill will come back to us. Fundraising at its easiest!!

- The instructions to register your Kroger Reward Card are on the PTSA website at www.graftonptsa.org and the Farm Fresh tags will be available at the Membership table at Open House and Back to School Night.

- Also at Back to School Night on Thursday 15th September you will be able to eat Chick-Fil-A and support the PTSA at the same time. CFA will be at school from 5:30pm-8:00pm selling chicken sandwiches, chips and water so come hungry, eat CFA with us and visit with the teachers. A portion of all sales that night will benefit the PTSA.

- One more fundraiser we have is an on-line shopping opportunity just in time for Christmas because it will be here before you know it!! We are working with a company called Brax who sell spirit cups and travel cups for all your favorite NFL, NHL, MLB teams as well as over 100 top colleges and 5 branches of the US Military. With football season here already you can purchase spirit cups and travel cups for yourself or send them direct to your family and friends around the USA. You can even give the link to others via social media and have them shop for their family and friends and we reap the rewards!! Shopping without the hassle. Register at: www.spiritcupsdirect.com/login, choose Grafton High School PTSA from the drop down box then create a username and password, set your goals and get ordering. Complete instructions are on the PTSA website at www.graftonptsa.org

Look out for family engagement fundraising nights throughout the year. Put Saturday 12th November in your calendar as we are working on a special event that will be fun for all the family.

PROGRAMS & VOLUNTEERS

So why does the PTSA fundraise? There are many programs at GHS that we give back to, some of which have already been mentioned but just to recap:

- Monthly Teacher Appreciation Lunches/Breakfasts
- Monthly Red & Blue Crew events
- Reflections Student Art Program
- Senior Student Scholarships for Excellence in Volunteerism
- Senior Baccalaureate Service
- After Prom

To be able to support these programs we need funds and that is where your membership fee helps. However, this is not enough so along with a donation bucket at Open House and Back to School Night we also hold fundraisers.

This year the Board would like to add another program to the list and that is to give back to the school as a whole through indoor/outdoor beautification, this is a program that hasn’t been offered at High School for a while. Look out for more information on this throughout the year. To sign up to volunteer for this or any of the programs just complete the bottom half of the membership form. You can put a check mark against the committee you would like to help with and once the chaos of the new school year settles down you will be contacted by a Committee Chair.

In conclusion I would like to say a big thank you for your time in reading this message and I look forward to meeting new families and to catching up with old families as we begin 2016-17.

Sandra Di Gangi
GHS PTSA President
ghsptsapresident@gmail.com
www.graftonptsa.org