



Groton-Dunstable Regional High School



Shelley Marcus Cohen, Principal
Christopher Jones, Assistant Principal
Dean of Students

Dan Twomey, Athletic Director

P.O. Box 730 Groton, MA 01450 PHONE (978) 448-6362 FAX: (978) 448-0390

We're on the Web! www.gdrsd.org

Dear Parents & Students, **Welcome to the start of the 2008-2009 school year!**

We hope you and your families are enjoying a wonderful summer! While it's not quite time to get back into the swing of the fall, the administrative team at Groton-Dunstable High School has been busy preparing for a smooth opening to the school year.

Scheduling: All students have been scheduled for classes. Several students have requested changes via 'purple sheets'. All changes have been made for those students. Should you have any questions or concerns about a student schedule, please contact the Main Office as soon as possible.

In an effort to create as easy transition back into the school year, students who want to change classes after August 27, 2008 will have to complete an Add/Drop Form. This form will have to be completed by the student, signed by a parent, then submitted to the guidance counselor for review.

School Spirit! As you already know, Groton-Dunstable Regional High School has its own football team! This year our team will play seven home games. After each home game we plan to hold a dance. The dress is casual and the cost to attend these dances will be minimal.

The dances will run from the end of the game until 10:30pm. Student groups – classes, clubs and activity groups will sponsor these dances. All entry fees and concession revenue will go to that organization making it a very effective fund raiser as well as a great time. Our first dance will be held on September 19th after the game and will be sponsored by the Class of 2009. Students - Make plans to join us!

Groton-Dunstable Regional High School Home Football Games

September 19th

September 26th

October 3rd

November 27th

October 24th

October 31st

November 7th

Advanced Placement: Groton-Dunstable Regional High School has received Advanced Placement scores for 2008. Tests were given in a dozen academic subject areas including Biology, Chemistry, English Literature & Composition, English Language, Physics, Statistics, U.S. History, Calculus, Psychology, Spanish Literature, and Studio Art.

- 33% of Groton-Dunstable Regional High School students taking these exams earn a perfect score of 5.
- 35% of Groton-Dunstable Regional High School students taking these exams earn a score of 4.
- 23% of Groton-Dunstable Regional High School students taking these exams earn a score of 3.
- 91% of Groton-Dunstable Regional High School students taking these exams earn a score of 3 or better.

Attention Students & Parents:

The Groton-Dunstable Regional High School's School Council is comprised of parents, teachers, students, and administrators dedicated to leading the school forward. This group reviews budgets, school-based policies, rules and regulations, and works with the administrative team to create the School Improvement Plan. ***Parents and Students are needed for the School Council.*** Please consider joining this vital organization. The time commitment is an hour and a half, once a month. The meeting time is from 4:00 -5:30pm at the high school in room 219 (the fish bowl). Please send an email or call the high school (978-448-6362) if you are interested in sharing your thoughts, ideas and insights!

Sincerely,

Shelley Marcus Cohen, Principal



Parking Registration Times

(Please bring Auto Registration & License)

For Seniors Only: Aug. 25 & 26, 2008- 9:00AM-12:00PM

For Juniors & Seniors: Aug. 27, 2008 9:00AM-12:00PM
Sept. 2 & 3, 2008 9:00AM- 12:00PM

- All registrations will take place in the Main Office
- There will be **NO** registrations on September 4, 2008

September 5, 2008 – Open registration for Juniors & Seniors
During Break @ 8:50AM
During Lunch (Your Lunch time)
After School: 2:00-3:00PM

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, August 18

Physicals **8:00 – 10:00AM** - Nurse's Office
Football Practice @ 8:00AM

Mon, Tues, & Wed, August 18, 19, & 20

Fall Sport's Registration 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Thursday, August 21

Fall Sports 1st day

Tuesday, August 26

Parent-Coach Preseason Meeting

Thursday, September 4

First day for Freshman

Friday, September 5

First day for Grades 10 – 12

Picture day for Underclassmen/ Seniors for ID photo



Return forms on the last 2 pages.

***Fill out and submit to
The
High School Office***

FRESHMAN ORIENTATION 2008 TRAINING

Save the Dates!

9th Grade Orientation Staff only!

Training information:

*Two mandatory training days are scheduled for **August 27th and 28th**. Mark your calendars! We will **start at 9am** and end at approximately 1:30pm. Check your email to see if you have been selected from your application to be part of this group!*

Remember to: Dress comfortably; bring lunch, water, sun-block, and a positive attitude!

Want to make a difference?

*Would you like to be a part of a **core group** who will be asked to volunteer additional time during the summer? This core group will be planning many of the orientation details. In addition to the dates above, this group must also meet on **August 9th from 9am to 12pm** to decide upon a theme, T-shirt designs, and games. Please email Mr. Jones at cjones@gdrsd.org before **August 7th**. The first 10 people will be selected for these important positions.*

Communicating Absences to School

Communicating absences to school should be done using the High School Main Office number: (978)-448-6362. Please listen to the voice prompt and leave a message on the attendance line.

Phone calls from parents to excuse absences are required **on the day** the student is absent. If telephone communication is not possible, any student who has been absent must bring, on the day of return, a note to the main office containing the following information:

- Students first and last name
- Date(s) of absence
- Reason for absence
- Parent/Guardian signature
- Number where parent can be reached during the day

If a note is not received **within 3 days of the absence**, the student will be considered truant. It is the responsibility of the student, not parent or guardian, to bring a note to school within this time frame. If the student does not adhere to the attendance guidelines, they will be placed on social probation (see Social Probation for consequences) for the remainder of the term. An excusal note or phone call will **not** be accepted after the 3-day period. We ask that parents support our efforts, encourage their children to be punctual and stress the value of having consistent school attendance.

News from the Nurse's Office

Barbara Closs, MSN, RN

I am happy to be your GDRSD HS Nurse and work with many of you again. I was the Middle School South Nurse for several years and know many of your students. . As always, I invite you to contact me at any time during the school year to discuss any special needs or concerns you have. In addition, here is some information for a successful school year.

Sports Physicals: Sports Physicals will be done on Monday, 8/18/08 beginning at 8:00 A.M. for those who do not have a current PE. Exams are current for 13 months from date of exam for sports according to MIAA regulations.

Students MUST:

- Be accompanied by guardian if under 18 years of age
- Show proof of age if 18 or older
- Have the required five dollar fee (Checks to GDRSD HS)
- Sign in at Nurse's Office no later than 10:30 A.M
- Pick up School PE form from nurse
- Have guardian or adult student complete form
- Exams will be done in order of arrival. (Please bring patience or a book to read.)
- Students will be given one copy of the exam for future needs.

Emergency Card Forms: Will be at the end of this newsletter. Please complete a form for your student and return by the first day of school. Include emergency contacts, pertinent medical conditions or history and sign the consent for or against administration of acetaminophen or ibuprofen. Note anyone who cannot pick up student due to a court order (attach copy of order). If you have no emergency contact to pick up your student, please list someone who will likely have more information about how to reach you. Emergencies do happen in school. Please make sure we can reach you.

Physical Exams/Immunizations: Please send a copy of current physical exams and immunizations to me on an ongoing basis. This is an efficient, stress-free way to have updated records for sports, trips, and medical care.

Medications: Please refer to the GDRSD medication policy. All medications must be in the original labeled container. A signed parental consent form and physician order form for each medication must be received prior to medication administration. Feel free to call me with any questions.

Attendance Information

A comprehensive copy of the Attendance Policy can be found in the Student Handbook, which will be distributed, to students on the first day of school. We ask that parents and students take the time to read through this document. The following are highlights from the GDRHS policy.

Mission Statement

The mission of Groton-Dunstable Regional High School is to provide a positive, supportive and respectful learning environment for all students to reach their full potential.

Fall Athletics Registration Procedure: Welcome to another season of Crusader athletics! The athletics department is looking forward to another successful and positive season. The days prior to the beginning of a season a student and parent must complete all necessary requirements and return the forms on the dates and times listed below. The necessary forms are downloadable on the athletics website on www.gdrsd.org. All forms are valid for the 2008-2009 school year only. *A student athlete may begin participation only once all components are completed. These include:* [Signed Release Form](#), [Verification of an up to date physical exam \(See Below\)](#), [Payment of athletic user fee \(\\$250 per season per sport\)](#) [Read and initial the Anti-Harassment Policy](#)

Registration will be held on the following dates and times: GDRHS 8/18, 8/19, 8/20 9:00-12:00

Physical Exam Requirements: A valid copy of your physical must be on file in the nurse's office before you can practice or participate in any sport. Valid is defined as 13 months from the date of the exam. It is best you have a physical with your primary care provider. If needed, you can have a school sports physical. These are completed in August, November, and March. The cost is \$5.00. The August physical will be done on **Monday, August 18 at 8:00 am**

Other Important Dates

Parent - Coach Preseason Meeting – Tuesday August 26th, 2008

1st Day of Preseason: Monday August 18th - Football & Thursday August 21st Soccer, Cross Country, Volleyball, Field Hockey, Golf (Cheerleading TBA)

Check the athletics website on gdrsd.org for times and locations of tryouts

Dress Code Reminders

A comprehensive copy of the Student Dress Code can be found in the Student Handbook, which will be distributed, to students on the first day of school. We ask that parents and students take the time to read through this document. The following are highlights from the GDRHS policy.

In keeping with the educational mission of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, and to promote a positive and productive school environment, students are expected to dress and groom themselves as individuals with a sense of responsibility and self-respect. Students may not dress in a manner that is disruptive to the learning environment or which compromises the health and safety of students. Site-specific guidelines will be made available to students and parents and published in handbooks.

Dress Guidelines

Students are to refrain from clothing or accessories imprinted with obscenities, sexual references, messages or pictures promoting tobacco, drugs, alcohol or gang affiliations. Attire that falls under this description includes (but is not limited to):

- Items of clothing or accessories with marijuana leaves, paraphernalia, or drug innuendos (including '420')
- Items of clothing or accessories with alcohol or tobacco promoting messages
- Items of clothing or accessories with gang affiliated colors (bandanas)
- Items of clothing or accessories with sexual innuendos
- Items of clothing or accessories that display offensive images or words that would be considered socially, culturally, or ethnically inappropriate. (Including negative or offensive language or symbols based on bias relative to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age or handicap)

Guidelines to avoid disruptions to the learning process:

- Hats and hoods may be worn in common areas, including hallways and cafeteria.
- Hats and hoods must be removed in all classrooms, unless otherwise stated by the teacher.
- Tank tops with 'spaghetti straps', halter-tops, apron shirts, backless shirts, tube tops or muscle shirts should not be worn to school.
- Tank tops with one-inch straps are permitted.
- Clothing necklines should be appropriate to the educational setting.
- Undergarments should be fully covered.
- Oversized, baggy clothing that represents a safety risk, including pants that are worn below the hip level or lower should not be worn at school.
- See-through, sheer or transparent clothing should not be worn at school.
- Shorts/skirts should be one inch below one's fingertips (with arm hanging straight)
- Shoes must be worn at all times
- Sunglasses are not permitted in the school building.

If it has been determined that a disruption to the learning environment has been caused due to inappropriate dress, the student will be asked by administration to change his/her attire, being sent home if necessary. Whenever this is disputed, the administrator's decision will be final. Repeated administrative intervention will result in a parent conference/phone call and possible disciplinary action.

We encourage parental support and thank you for helping us to maintain an environment that fosters integrity, respect, and a focus on learning.

Protocol for Addressing Questions, Concerns or Complaints

There may be a time when a student or parent feels that he/she has been treated unfairly or disrespectfully. GDRHS encourages parents and students to communicate your concerns immediately and directly to the person involved.

Concerns about academics and classroom experiences should be directed to the classroom teacher. You may contact the teacher either by voice mail or email.

- If you are dissatisfied with the outcome, please contact the Curriculum Coordinator/Department Head for that department.
- If the matter remains unresolved, the next step would be to contact your child's guidance counselor.
- If there is still no resolution of the problem, please direct the matter to either the Dean of Students or the Assistant Principal.
- Should you continue to be dissatisfied with the outcome, the Dean of Students or the Assistant Principal would make the recommendation for you to contact the Principal.

When there is a concern about athletics, a conversation with the coach is the first step, the athletic director the second step and when necessary please contact the Dean of Students or the Assistant Principal.

Foreign Language News



Interested in traveling to Spain?

The GDRSD April '09 Study Tour is still open and... **GREAT NEWS:**

The Spring Discount now extends to August 31st!

- The spring registration discounted price of \$2439 is still in effect.
- Our departure date is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15; return date is Thursday, April 23, 2009 (contingent on final itinerary),

If you are interested in registration materials, please contact

Ms. Jean Ellis via phone (home: 978-448-8945) or via e-mail at (jeellis@gdrsd.org or mwellis@charter.net).



From Guidance

Guidance Counselor Assignments for 2008-2009

| | <u>O'Loughlin</u> | <u>Charbonneau</u> | <u>Hennelly</u> |
|------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 9th | A-F | G-N | O-Z |
| 10th | A-F | G-M | N-Z |
| 11th | A-G | H-L | M-Z |
| 12th | A-K | Various | L-Z |

Parent Consent Form For No Child Left Behind Act

PARENT CONSENT FORM 2008 – 2009

FOR RELEASE OF STUDENT NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER

Our school may be requested to provide names and address of high school students to military recruiters, outside groups and colleges. ***You do not have to participate in this program.***

Please check below to indicate that you ***do not want*** to have your child's name, address and telephone number disclosed.

Return to the Guidance Department

Student Name (**Please Print**) _____ Grade _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

____ **DO NOT DISCLOSE** my child's information.

Your decision NOT to return this form will be taken as an instruction to release your daughter/sons information.