



Groton-Dunstable Regional High School



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

Dear Parents and Students,

Thank you for your support with the new course selection process. It was my pleasure to work with students and parents over the summer to assure that they had the courses and program they wanted. By making sure changes were made prior to the start of the school year, students were able to attend classes from the first day of school. The overall result has been an exceptionally smooth start to the school year.

This process could not have been as effective were it not for the leadership of both Curriculum Leaders and the Guidance Department. Thank you!

ATTENTION PARENTS!

Don't miss the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School's Open House on September 25th! This annual event provides an opportunity for parents to meet the professional staff their students interact with every day. Join us for a brief meeting in which you will be introduced to the Administrative Team, Guidance Counselors, Curriculum Leaders, and our new Team Chair for Special Education. This meeting allows us to share the exciting plans for the school year as well as highlight some of the accomplishments from the past year. Come to Open House early to view the exhibits in the front Common representing each student activity available to G-D students.

**Groton-Dunstable Regional High School Open House
September 25th from 6:30 – 8:30pm**

**Make Plans now to attend Homecoming!
Homecoming weekend begins on October 24, 2008**

AP Exam Results:

The freshmen class members participated in GRADE testing on September 9, 2008. The GRADE exam will provide data on student reading levels as student enter the high school where academic reading, comprehension, and vocabulary skills are closely tied to student success. The collection and analysis of the information provided by this test will allow us to assist students in areas of weakness, make better choices in textbook selection, and prepare students more thoroughly for college.

Advanced Placement Exam Results: This summer GDRHS received the results of the AP exams taken in May. One hundred fifty three (153) AP exams were administered to 90 students.

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

Students earning a score of 3 or more are eligible to have these courses accepted in colleges and universities as college credit.

91% of Groton-Dunstable Regional High School students taking these exams earned a score of 3 or better.

Sincerely,

Shelley Marcus Cohen, Principal

Important Dates:

September

- 17 First Home Football Game @ 7:00PM
- 22 Call to Excellence
- 25 Open House @ 6:00PM
- 26 SAT Registration Deadline for 11/1 Test

October

- 1 School Council Meeting
- 2 Curriculum Half Day
- 7 Progress Reports
- 17 Star Search
- 24 Homecoming
- 29 Curriculum Half Day

GDEF PLANS ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT SCHOOL GRANTS

The Groton Dunstable Education Foundation is gearing up for another exciting year of events and fundraising to support this year's enrichment grants to our district schools. Our 4th Annual Giving Campaign officially kicks off in November, and the popular "Reach for the Stars" Benefit Auction returns in March. GDEF directors will be on hand at district Parent Open House Nights to answer any questions you may have, so please stop by our booth to say hello.

We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help us in all areas this year, and we welcome your participation. We also hope to see you at GDEF's Grotonfest booth on September 20th, where we'll be selling the "Sandy Candy" straws that were a big hit with kids last year, as well as home-baked cookies and lemonade. We're also offering a free raffle for a basket filled with goodies, so be sure to stop by our Grotonfest booth for your chance to win!

Thanks to the on-going support of parents and community members, GDEF has proudly funded 127 grants totaling over \$200,000 to benefit our public schools over the past five years. For the new school year, GDEF will again be awarding two cycles of grants, a mini-grant cycle in November and a full cycle in May. Teachers, staff, and community organizations are encouraged to apply, so please check our website at www.gdefinc.org for further information on how to apply for grants, or to learn about the grants already benefiting our students and teachers.

Driver Ed Classes

Classes will begin on September 22, 2008 and will run from 2:00-3:30PM on Monday and Wednesday for 8 – 10 weeks. Chelmsford Auto School will be providing the classes for students and the cost is:
30 HR Classroom Instruction = \$100
45 Min. on-road instruction = \$40.00/need 16 lessons

Interested in traveling to Spain



with GDRHS in April 2009?

September 12 is the new extended discount deadline!

- The spring registration discounted price of \$2439 is still in effect.
- Tour includes Madrid, Toledo, and Barcelona.
- Registration is open to GDRHS students in Spanish III, IV, or V, European History, or advanced Art courses. *Any interested student should discuss eligibility with Mrs. Ellis.* A study assignment (TBA) must be completed and submitted before departure. A travel journal will be required during the tour.
- 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. Ellis via phone (home: 978-448-8945) or via e-mail at mwellis@charter.net.

SPEDPAC

The GD SpedPAC's mission is to provide a network in which parents of children with special needs have access to relevant information, training and emotional support; and to encourage an atmosphere of effective open communication, understanding and mutual respect among all students, parents, educators and the community-at-large. In addition, the GD SpedPAC provides input to the District staff and administrators, working collaboratively with the District to plan and develop SPED initiatives.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER:

The GD SpedPAC will be attending each school's Back-to-School Open House Night. Look for our information table in the school lobby and stop by the table with any questions and gather information on upcoming events.

GD SpedPAC Business Meeting & "An Evening with Dr. Genovese" All SpedPAC meetings and lectures are free and open to the public.

DATE: Tuesday, September 30, 2008

PLACE: High School Library

TIME: 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm - Business Meeting 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm - Dr. Alan Genovese, Supt. Of GDRSD

Parents, teachers, staff, and community members interested in education issues that involve children with special needs are invited to a discussion with GDRSD Superintendent Dr. Alan Genovese. The SpedPAC has been lucky to have had Dr. Genovese participate for the last three years in these round-table discussions which have proven to be productive and beneficial through an honest exchange of ideas, thoughts and concerns among attendees and the Superintendent.

Dr. Genovese will share his thoughts on the Groton-Dunstable school system – its strengths, its areas of needed improvement, and 'what's in store' for the future. All are welcome to attend.

Visit the Groton Dunstable SpedPAC website at: www.gdspedpac.org.

Parents: Messages For Students



Due to the increase volume of messages being left for students either by dropping off or calling we cannot guarantee that all messages will be delivered. We are only able to contact students during break or at the end of the day so as not to disrupt the learning process. Please encourage students to come to school prepared for the day and afterschool activities. We understand that occasionally emergencies arise and changes are not known before students leave the home and we will try our best to contact them. Thank You



www.g-day.org

Did You Know...?

The Groton Dunstable Alliance for Youth NEEDS YOU!

The mission of GDAY is to reinforce healthy and respectful behavior among our children, teens and our communities. We support programming that effects youth from elementary through high school ages. GDAY believes that a healthy community addresses the diverse needs of its youth and reinforces their value to the community, thus strengthening that community!

We are a 501(3)c non-profit, all volunteer organization and we can and do make a difference for our youth.

What can YOU do to help?

- ☆ Join the Friends of GDAY e-mail list by visiting www.g-day.org for more information
- ☆ Join our Team and Sub-Committees on various physical, behavioral, social and health topics. Contact Alice Anne at a@barbo@g-day.org for information.
- ☆ Join the Parent to Parent Network and participate in our socials and book discussions. Contact Anne at abradley@g-day.org for details.
- ☆ Be a supporter of the MS Half Day Network. Contact Ardie at ahenry@g-day.org to learn more!
- ☆ Visit our display at Back to School Nights (check your school calendar for dates and times)
- ☆ **Look for our 2008 Friends of GDAY Membership form coming home in a backpack soon!**

From our Partners at the Groton and Dunstable Police Departments

- It is Back to School time...take time to review the rules of the road, sidewalk safety and school bus procedures with young drivers, walkers and riders!



WELCOME GDRHS STUDENTS!

Now that students are back the Administrative Team would like to both welcome and thank all the students that participated in this year's freshmen orientation.

All grade levels had the opportunity to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere as they participated in activities and a barbecue. This day fostered a sense of tolerance and provided the students with a working knowledge of the school.

A huge thank you needs to be extended to the faculty of GDRHS for operating the grills, serving the food, and participating in the various events with the students. Another thank you must be given to the students who arranged the day, built the schedule, and selected the ways in which the new students would be absorbed into the community of our high school.

Much of this day was made possible by the hard work of the new Freshman Class Advisor Audra Marini. She was a critical part of all the work needed for the preparation and operation of this most successful event.

ATTENTION! NEW EVENT!



GRAND FINALE 2009

To the Parents of the Students of GDRHS:

I am writing to tell you about an exciting event that will provide the GDRHS students with a safe and entertaining environment after the junior/senior prom this year, and hopefully, in the years to come. This event will be known as "Grand Finale 2009". The theme for this event will be kept a mystery by the decorating committee until 9:00 pm the evening of the prom. Adults will be allowed to walk through the High School to see for themselves what the excitement is all about at this time!

The event will be full of fun and exciting prizes complete with a check in desk, delicious food and beverages, and entertainment. It will be absolutely irresistible so as to compete with other after prom parties.

All GDRHS junior and senior students and their dates are allowed to attend the event at no cost. The event is open to any junior and senior students of GDRHS. Prizes will be given out all night long with a grand prize at 4:30 am. There just might be a fortune teller, hypnotist, hair salon, velcro wall, casino and more!!

A survey has been conducted of local high schools and it is clear that Groton/Dunstable is in need of an event that promotes safety and awareness on prom or graduation night. Join me in making this effort to show the students we care about their safety. This program can only happen with YOUR support.

Please PARENTS, step up to the plate. We need over 150 volunteers to make this happen! What will you say to your child when they ask to go to a party that night?

You can say "Sure, there's a wonderful one being hosted by the parents at the High School!"

Please contact Dyan Sierra, at dsierra1@charter.net should you be interested in heading up one of the following committees:

- Public Relations
- Fundraising
- Set Up
- Prizes
- Check-In/Check-Out
- Chaperones
- Entertainment
- Decorating
- Food
- Clean Up

If you prefer, donations of any type, monetary or services/goods are desperately needed to make this event possible. Please contribute in any way you can. This is a great way to meet other parents and to become involved in the safety of the youth of our town.

Dyan Sierra (978) 448-6145

Groton-Dunstable Regional School District Statement of Non-Discrimination:

It is the policy of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, or homelessness in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1971, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Also, students will not be excluded for reasons of marriage or pregnancy. Requests for information about these laws and/or grievance procedures should be directed to Dr. Susan Rubel, Director of Curriculum and Staff Development, Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, (978) 448-5505.