



## From the National Academy of Finance and the National Academy of Information Technology

The National Academies of Finance and Information Technology have a number of upcoming events. On February 2<sup>nd</sup> AOF & AOIT students will be visiting the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a job shadow day. NRC provides our students an opportunity to see the technology used to regulate nuclear power plants located throughout the country. Last year NRC hired two of our students as summer interns.

On March 14<sup>th</sup> all National Academy of Finance (AOF) and National Academy of Information Technology (AOIT) juniors will participate in mock interviews. The mock interviews prepare our students for their real job interviews. Local business people volunteer their time for the interviews and provide valuable feedback to our students.

On March 22<sup>nd</sup> the AOF and AOIT students will participate in the Young Professionals Conference at The University of Maryland at Shady Grove. Students will get a chance to participate in breakout sessions with executives from Lockheed Martin, IBM, Apple Computer and other major corporations.

If your child would like to explore these great opportunities provided by the GHS National Academies, have them stop and see Mr. Marshall in E-8 or Ms. Allen in E-23. GHS students will register for classes very soon. If your child is already in AOF or AOIT, they are reminded to take at least one business or technology class every semester.

### Highlight a Student: National Academy "A DAY IN THE LIFE" of an AOF Student



Senior, Katherine DeLeon, is a current GHS Academy of Finance student. She is presently taking several honors classes, including Anatomy, Physiology and English. She is also taking Personal Finance and Entrepreneurship. After school she volunteers at Suburban Hospital with Office Administration. Katherine completed a paid internship with Systems Integration and Development Incorporated where she gained valuable skills in accounting. This paid internship experience and her high school and college classes will give her the credit and experience she needs to graduate from the National Academy Foundation in May of 2012.

Need more details? Email [Erin\\_p\\_marshall@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Erin_p_marshall@mcpsmd.org) or [joanne\\_f\\_allen@mcpsmd.org](mailto:joanne_f_allen@mcpsmd.org).

### Yearbook Sales

Yearbook sales started on Back to School Night with a bang! If you didn't pre-order your yearbook then, it's not too late! Bring cash or a check for \$70 to Mr. Taylor in the Media Center studio, or purchase online at [yearbookforever.com](http://yearbookforever.com) (\$1 processing fee for online sales). Be quick! This price is good only for the next 250 books sold! Our theme this year is Stuck Together, and we are busy capturing the memories made at GHS this year! Don't miss out!

### Academy Internships

All juniors who are enrolled in the National Academy of Finance or the National Academy of Information Technology will need to complete 120 hours of Internship participation to graduate from these academies. This academy requirement can be completed anytime between junior year and May of senior year. At this point in the school year, all AOF & AOIT juniors should have given a draft resume to Mrs. Allen and begun preparation for mock interviews. Mock interviews are scheduled for Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and are conducted by people from the Gaithersburg business community.

For all Gaithersburg High School students interested in Internships, check out the GHS website for specific Internship details, or see Mrs. Allen in E-23.

## Student Service Learning (SSL) Notes

Consider getting involved in service on President's Day, February 20, and the "Early Release" day on March 2.

Local, State, and National elections provide opportunities for students to be involved in the political process. Political organizations and opportunities identified with a graduation cap icon on the website <http://www.mcpsssl.org> are approved for SSL. Any service provided to an individual running for public office requires MCPS Form 560-50, Request for SSL Preapproval granted in advance.

Remember: SSL is a graduation requirement. SSL along with all other requirements must be met for a high school diploma to be awarded. For more information on SSL, contact Mrs. Turner at [Lee\\_A\\_Turner@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Lee_A_Turner@mcpsmd.org).

## College and Career Center News

Gaithersburg High School will be hosting a Financial Aid Seminar, Thursday, March 1, at 7:00pm for junior and sophomore families. Parents, guardians and students are welcome to attend. Our featured speaker will be Dr. Herm Davis. Dr. Davis is well known in academic financial circles and we are lucky to have him as our speaker. Several colleges will also be available that evening to provide financial aid information as well as admissions information.

On Friday, March 2, beginning at 7:45am, GHS will host our College Fair. Many colleges and universities will be in attendance offering students an opportunity to meet with admissions representatives, obtain brochures and more. The college fair is being geared towards current sophomores and juniors and is happening before spring break so students can begin their college search.



## College Institute

*A partnership between Montgomery College and Montgomery County Public Schools*

Spring semester kicks off on Monday, January 23 with 130 seniors enrolled in college courses taught here at GHS by professors who travel from Montgomery College. These students are getting a jump start on higher learning and earning transferable college credit. Courses offered this semester include:

- Accounting
- Anthropology
- Business
- Criminal Justice
- Engineering
- Philosophy
- Speech

GHS underclassmen who are interested in taking college classes through the College Institute should challenge themselves with Honor and AP courses; work to complete high school graduation requirements; and prepare for the SAT, ACT or Accuplacer Test. Applications are currently being accepted from juniors for the fall 2012 semester. If you have questions, please call Susan Byrne, Dual Enrollment Program Assistant at (301) 840-4737 or e-mail [susan\\_b\\_byrne@mcpsmd.org](mailto:susan_b_byrne@mcpsmd.org).

## Words From Our Principal

*(Continued from page 1)*

increased, and registration for next year has already been completed. And.....construction is ongoing, with the walls of the new gym nearly in place.

Parents often ask, "How can I help?" looking for ways to volunteer at the high school. Please note, we truly need your participation in our PTSA. They need assistance with upcoming activities and fundraisers including the After Prom, Basket BINGO and Staff Appreciation week. We also need your presence at our PTSA meetings. Mrs. Duff, PTSA President, and I meet monthly to plan meetings with valuable information to support the success of our students and to keep parents updated. The missing link is "parent participation". Members of the PTSA are constantly reflecting on how we can better serve you. Your input and feedback is valuable to us. Don't hesitate to send an email to your PTSA President at [deannajo@comcast.net](mailto:deannajo@comcast.net) or me at [Christine\\_h\\_collins@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Christine_h_collins@mcpsmd.org) to offer suggestions.

Lastly, we truly need your assistance with ATTENDANCE! It is very important for students to be in school, to attend every class, and to be on time. When you receive phone calls from our Attendance Office recording or letters from MCPS, please take them seriously. Call the office to double check if you feel that you received this call or letter in error. Many of our students are missing too many days and this impacts

their learning and their grades. We need your support and partnership in this effort. Our students need to understand that life will require them to be on time for their job, to be at work everyday, and that attendance is critical to their success. Please monitor your child's attendance, submit excused notes in a timely manner, and follow up as necessary.

Let's get off to a great 2012! My best is yours!

With Trojan Pride,  
Dr. Christine Handy-Collins,  
Principal

### \$\$\$MONEY 4 YOUR SCHOOL\$\$\$

Have you signed up? More information online.

Giant Bonus Buck Program—School ID 00797—  
[www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus)

Safeway Club Card Program - Group ID 6506430—  
[www.escrip.com/](http://www.escrip.com/)

Target Visa Program—School ID 58135—  
<http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/>

Harris Teeter VIC Program—[www.harristeeter.com](http://www.harristeeter.com)  
(click on Promotions and then click on VIC Program)

---

## TROJAN PRIDE



Congratulations to Mr. Walker who will be having an art show at Montgomery College. The show opens February 13 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in the High Tech building on the Germantown campus. The show will hang until March 22.

Congratulations to senior Jordan Chesley who is a Finalist in the 2012 Competition for National Achievement Scholarships.

The Gaithersburg High School BROTHERS received the 2012 Children of the Dream Award and were recognized at the recent Montgomery County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration.

The SAT average scores are up 39 points from last year this time-----Go Class of 2012! Also noteworthy, the PSAT participation rate increased above last year.

The Varsity Girls Basketball Team is currently undefeated.

Kudos to Reid Bibb, sophomore, currently ranked as #1 leading scorer with the local club ice hockey team and to Matthew Guenzel, senior, currently ranked #5 amongst leading scorers with the local club ice hockey team.

Congratulations to Mrs. Jennifer Bado-Aleman who was named a National Board Certified Teacher and to Dr. Handy-Collins who was elected as State Coordinator of the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals.

## PTSA President's Message

*(Continued from page 1)*

we are moving in the right direction. I will continue to keep you informed of the progress, and I welcome any input you feel will help with the situation.

As the school year moves forward, the PTSA will continue efforts to bring you relevant information and programs. Our December meeting was interactive as we looked into parent involvement in the GHS PTSA. We received a lot of great feedback from parents, and will work on implementing some of the ideas that came out of that meeting. Our January meeting focused on Student Service Learning hours and their importance not only as a graduation requirement, but also as a tool to help with college admissions. In February parents will get an inside look at a new online study program that GHS has purchased called Study Island. For the March meeting, "I Drive Smart" will bring us the Smart Six Teen Safety Driving Presentation, which identifies for parents and teens the six causative factors that are always involved when a teen dies in a fatal collision and how to address them. Please mark your calendars now for the third Tuesday of every month and join us for these informative presentations.

In November you should have received in the mail a donation form for our Direct Appeal fundraising campaign.

For those that sent in a donation, thank you for your support. If you haven't had a chance to return your donation, please take a moment now to do so. This is the way we fund our programs, and without your contributions we will not be able to meet our operating budget requirements. So far, we have only raised half of what we need to meet our budget. For your convenience, a donation form is included in this newsletter.

As we approach spring things will get very busy for the PTSA. Watch for announcements coming soon in this newsletter and on the PTSA listserv from the After Prom Committee on great opportunities to support this fun and exciting event. If you would like to volunteer to help with the After Prom in any way, please contact Laura Ado at [Laura\\_E\\_Ado@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Laura_E_Ado@mcpsmd.org) or Teri Whittaker at [whittakert@qvmarlins.org](mailto:whittakert@qvmarlins.org).

I look forward to seeing you all at our PTSA meetings, which are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Thank you for all that you do to support GHS through the PTSA. Just as a reminder, if you have not yet joined the PTSA, and we do need you to join, please fill out and return the membership form that is printed in this newsletter. It takes all of us working together to make Gaithersburg High School great!

Deanna

## NOTES FROM THE FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Happy New Year, everyone! We have much going on in Music and Art as we ramp up to second semester!

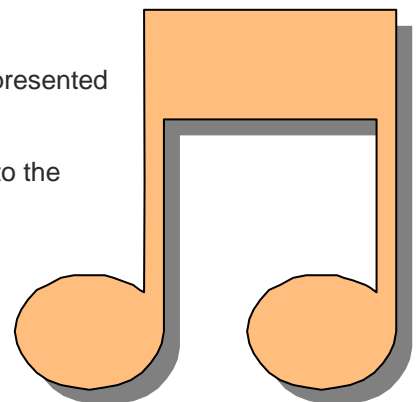
Congratulations to the instrumental music department for successful cluster concerts at Forest Oak Middle School right after the winter break and at Gaithersburg Middle School on Wednesday, January 25.

Two of our barbershop quartets are going through formal adjudications. The first one took place on Saturday, January 21 in Richmond, Virginia. The finals will be held on Saturday, March 10 in Reston, Virginia. Best of luck to the members of "Ethnic Rainbow" (Jenny Ha, Ryann Elery, Leah Pope, and Cristal Escobar) and "Bring It On!" (Jamie Bazen, Leah Bernstein, Rose Tohonou, and Amanda Lee)!

The instrumental and choral performance ensembles are working hard to prepare for the District II Festivals, coming up in March. Good luck to all!

Auditions for the Spring Musical, "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown," were held on Tuesday, January 24 and Wednesday, January 25 after school. The musical will be presented April 25-27 (Wed-Fri) at Asbury Methodist Village's Auditorium.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of all of the fine arts classes we offer to the students at Gaithersburg High School.



# Join the Gaithersburg High School (GHS) Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)

## 2011-2012 PTSA Membership Form

Please join the GHS-PTSA and consider making an extra tax deductible donation.

Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 per parent x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 per GHS staff x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 5 per student x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

+ PTSA Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

A school directory is available for each membership.

Please indicate number of directories requested for your family. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to GHS-PTSA and thank you for joining!

Send to: GHS-PTSA  
314 S. Frederick Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Or drop off in main office in envelope marked GHS-PTSA.

**Stay informed – Join the GHS-Listserve!**

The listserve keeps you informed about what is happening at GHS as well as a forum to get questions answered. If you would like to join please do the following:

Send a blank email to [GHSPTSA-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:GHSPTSA-subscribe@yahogroups.com)  
You will receive an automated message from "GHSPTSA Moderator."  
Please reply to this message in order to 'activate' your membership.

# GAITHERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL PTSA

## Direct Appeal Fundraiser Donation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to make a donation “in kind”, such as food for assemblies and receptions, or supplies for other activities please check the box and someone from the PTSA will contact you.

Please make checks payable to GHS-PTSA and mail to the following address:

GHS-PTSA  
Direct Appeal  
314 S. Frederick Ave.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Thank you for your support,

Deanna Duff  
GHS PTSA President

The Gaithersburg High School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) is a non-profit organization under the provisions of the IRS section 501 (c)(3). Our federal employer identification number (EIN) is 52-1735940. All contributions to our organization are tax-deductible.

**Calendar**

Wednesday, January 25	GMS Cluster Concert, GMS
Tuesday, January 31	Report Card Night, 9th grade parents
Wednesday, February 1	Report Cards Distributed
Thursday, February 2	AP Parent Night
Monday, February 20	NO SCHOOL, President's Day
Tuesday, February 21	PTSA Meeting
Thursday, March 1	GHS Financial Aid Seminar
Friday, March 2	EARLY RELEASE GHS College Fair
Thursday, March 15	GHS Cluster/BOE meeting
Tuesday, March 20	PTSA Meeting
Thursday, March 29	End of 3rd quarter International Night
Friday, March 30	NO SCHOOL, Professional Day
Monday, April 2—	NO SCHOOL, Spring Break
Monday, April 9	

**After Prom News**

Mark your calendar for these After Prom Event Fund-Raisers:

The first Thursday of every month is SADD Night at Gentleman Jim's restaurant! A percentage of the proceeds go to the Mr. Gaithersburg show and After Prom. Thank you for your support!

Dine in or carry out at these restaurants on the dates below and a percentage of the night's sales will be donated to the GHS After Prom Event:

Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> Red Robin, Lakeforest Mall – 5:00 to 10:00pm

All Wednesdays in February Gentleman Jim's in Gaithersburg, 5:00 to 10:00pm

Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> Ledo's Pizza, Montgomery Village, 4:00 to 10:00pm

Be sure to say you're patronizing the restaurant for the GHS Fund-Raiser!

The annual Bingo Night and Silent Auction Fundraiser is set for Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at North Creek Community Center, 7:00 to 10:00pm

Look for additional restaurant nights to be announced soon!

**Attention Grade 9 Parents!**

On January 31, GHS will be hosting a Report Card Night for all grade 9 students and their families. During this informative session, parents will receive their child's report card (a day early!) and have an opportunity to receive relevant academic information as we move into the second semester. The program will begin promptly at 7 p.m.

**AP Parent Night**

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, GHS will be hosting an Advanced Placement Parent Information Night. This session is for parents of students currently enrolled in an advanced placement course. During this session we will share information about exam schedules, registration, fee waivers, testing accommodations and exam preparation. The program will begin promptly at 7 pm in the cafeteria.

**Recordar La Fecha!**

En marzo, Gaithersburg High School celebrará su tercero edición anual de la Conferencia de Padres Latinos.

El objetivo de la conferencia es que los padres latinos aprendan acerca de oportunidades de apoyo disponibles para los estudiantes; recibir información sobre como apoyar a sus hijos casa; aprender sobre los apoyos disponibles en la comunidad y también crear un sentido de comunidad con otros padres u otros interesados.

Para más información, favor de comunicarse con el Dr. Andrés Campos en el teléfono 301-840-4700.