

Back to School Information 2020-2021:

DOCUMENTS THAT MUST BE RETURNED TO GSA Please review the following documents carefully, complete each one as requested, and *return to the office no later than Friday, August 28th*:

1. Contact & Emergency Information Sheet - for the safety of your child we require that this form be completed and returned to the office **prior** to the start of school. **Anyone who does not have an emergency form on file in the office cannot attend classes! Note: if you have already completed this form for this year and have sent it into the office there will not be one in your packet.**
2. Enrollment Agreement
3. Health History Questionnaire
4. Confidential Income Survey
5. GSA 1-to-1 Shared Risk Pool Participation Agreement
6. GSA 1-to-1 Computer Use Policy
7. Vehicle Registration Form – to be completed by any student driver
8. Military Recruitment Notification Form (for 11th graders only)
9. Lunch Forms

IMPORTANT ENCLOSED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

1. Academic Calendar for 2020-2021
2. New Bell Schedule
3. Letter from the Math/Science Departments re: calculators/supplies
4. Letter from the Development Office
5. PowerSchool Password and Email Information Letter
6. Class Schedule: Your child's updated class schedule for the year has been reviewed by Student Services. Schedule changes can occur through the Add/Drop period, Monday, September 14th to Friday, September 18th to accommodate students. **Please make sure your child brings his or her schedule to school on the first day.**
7. Advisory Letter (for 9th Graders only)

GSA STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK: The Handbook contains information, policies, and procedures covering academic and social expectations. This document can be accessed on our website or you can request a hard copy in our office.

SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES: Counseling services are available to students who have obtained parental permission. Please see the enclosed Health History form for more information. You may also contact the school nurse or dean of students regarding these services.

GSA ONE TO ONE COMPUTER PROGRAM: George Stevens Academy is pleased to provide a Macbook Air to each student. This means that all GSA students receive laptop computers for use in their classes. **We must receive the signed GSA 1-1 shared risk pool participation/network upkeep agreement from you before a laptop will be issued.**

PREPAID LUNCH: Information about prepaid lunch is included in this mailing. Prepaid funds are recorded in our system for students to use to purchase food in the cafeteria. If you would like to prepay for your students lunch please have them bring cash or check (payable to GSA – labeled lunch) to the office.

STUDENT INSURANCE INFORMATION

An application for school accident insurance is available in the office. This is low-cost accident insurance designed to cover students who do not have private health insurance. Any student who participates in GSA sports programs must have insurance, either private insurance or school accident insurance. If you need insurance, please come in and pick up an application.

IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATES

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 9th GRADERS

Friday, September 4th is the first day of school for incoming 9th graders and serves as a formal orientation to GSA.

- All 9th graders should be at school by 7:55 a.m., with 8:00 a.m. being the official start of the school day. **School buses will run. Please be in contact with School Union 93 or School Union 76 to check on pick up times.**
- Students should go directly to their advisory. Students do not need to bring lunch. Lunch will be provided free of charge.
- Dismissal will be at 2:30 p.m.

ORIENTATION DAYS FOR ALL STUDENTS

- Students should arrive by 7:55 a.m. and report to their advisory.
- Dismissal will be at 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 8th - 12th Grade Only (Orientation)

Wednesday, September 9th – 11th Grade Only (Orientation)

Thursday, September 10th – 10th Grade Only (Orientation)

Friday, September 11th – 9th Grade Only (Continued Orientation)

HYBRID LEARNING MODEL

Begins September 14th – for all students

COMMUNICATION

Good school-parent communication is vital to your child's education and well-being. Here are some of the ways we communicate with parents and others in our GSA community.

Our Website, www.georgesteveacademy.org, is a rich resource for the GSA community and those who wish to enroll here. The front page includes the school calendar, alerts, a PowerSchool link, and 11 sections of news and information (About Us, Academics, Athletics, Arts, Alumni, Documents, Admissions, Student Life, Community, Giving, and Useful Links. For more on how to best use our website, visit www.georgesteveacademy.org/Page/766.

By Telephone. Some departments have their own phone line. For faster service, use the following numbers to reach:

Registrar, Dean of Students, Director of College & Career Counseling, 374-2120

Development office, 374-2800

Business office, 374-5081

Main office and all other administrators, 374-2808

Friday eBulletin. The eBulletin, published most Fridays during the school year, contains information for parents related to GSA activities, events, and opportunities. If you have given us an email address on the emergency form, you will automatically receive our eBulletin. If you did not provide an email address and wish to do so, or if you would prefer not to receive the eBulletin, email Mark Messer m.messer@georgestevens.org.

Canvas is new this year. Canvas is a Learning Management system (LMS) that provides an online platform for teachers to post assignments and class resources with students, collect assignments from students, enable student discussion groups, and host video classroom meetings. It is like Google Classroom, but much more powerful. Parents will have access to Canvas to observe their child's Canvas account to see assignments and class activities, see their child's grades, and communicate with their child's teachers. This is the "one platform, please!" that we all realized last spring is a necessary mechanism for GSA teachers to use in our time of remote and hybrid learning. Parents and students will get information later about how to access their Canvas accounts.

PowerSchool is a web-based record of academic information about each student. We share a password-protected PowerSchool account with parents/guardians, giving them access to their child's end-of-quarter grades, academic progress, and attendance records.

Gmail Accounts are created for each student and faculty member at GSA. We expect students to use this email account when communicating about school business. Please see the attached sheet with password and account information.

Naviance Student. This web-based service designed for students and parents will help you make decisions about courses, colleges, scholarships, and careers. Ninth-grade students will be introduced to this valuable resource through Ninth-Grade Seminar. Other students should see the Director of College and Career Counseling for support.

GSA Matters, published twice a year, is a magazine about what's been happening at GSA, as well as information of interest to alumni. Matters is available via email and on our website. Paper copies are mailed to donors to The GSA Fund. A limited number are available in the front office. GSA Currents, published once a year, includes similar information and our annual report.

Social Media. Visit George Stevens Academy on Facebook for frequent posts about what's going on with GSA academics, athletics, arts, alumni, and more. Visit George Stevens Academy GSA on **Instagram for more casual posts.**