



ONE OF THE CHESAPEAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**GREAT BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**  
301 HANBURY ROAD WEST • CHESAPEAKE, VA 23322  
(757) 482-5191 • FAX (757) 482-5559

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August 27, 2010

Dear Students and Parents:

On behalf of the entire Great Bridge High School staff, I welcome you to the 2010-2011 school year. We look forward to seeing your student on September 7, 2010. This year our theme will be, **“One Team...One Goal: Let’s Make a Difference.”**

All students will receive agendas for logging homework and tracking attendance. Hall passes and the student handbook can be found inside the agenda. Parents should review the student handbook with students during the first week of school and review the agenda at least weekly to encourage organization and to monitor daily activity. Students should not remove pages from the agenda.

As the parent/guardian of a Chesapeake Public Schools secondary student, you have online access to your child’s school information, such as his/her grades and assignments through a web-based application called **Edline**. This secure website will notify you when grades have been updated. The application is convenient and easy to use from any computer with Internet access. Here are some of the key features:

- Check your child’s grades;
- View homework assignments;
- Receive email alerts when new grades have been assigned;
- Check the completion status of your child’s assignments;
- Read notes from your child’s teacher;
- View calendars containing both school and class information

Frequently asked questions and answers, especially relating to forgotten passwords and screen names, may be found on the Edline web page. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the guidance office.

This mailing contains PTSA information, important dates for the music programs and special information about the start of the school year. Please retain this information for future reference. The Chesapeake Public Schools Calendar may be found at <http://www.cps.k12.va.us>.

Sincerely,

Sheli Porter  
Principal

**SCHOOL HOURS** - 8:40 a.m. – 3:38 p.m.

**OFFICE HOURS** - 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, AT 5:00 P.M.**  
**(All students new to Great Bridge High School – bring schedules and meet teachers)**  
**Gym suits and PTSA memberships will be on sale.**

**School Bus Routes – Watch *The Virginian-Pilot Clipper* and the CPS website.**

**Parent Newsletters will be posted monthly on the GBH website.**  
**(If you wish to have one mailed to you, please call Mrs. Stephenson in the school office.)**

Doors open for students at 8:00 a.m. Staff members are not required to report before 8:15 a.m. The main office staff arrives at 8:00 a.m. Prior to 8:00 a.m., there is no supervision for students in the building. This poses a safety concern. Please do not plan for students to arrive at school before 8:00 a.m. Students will not be permitted in the school until 8:00 a.m. Your understanding is appreciated. If a student desires to arrive before 8:00 a.m. for extra help or for make-up work, prior arrangements should be made with the teacher to provide supervision.

## **STUDENT INFORMATION**

During homeroom on Tuesday, September 7, each student will receive a student planner which will include a calendar of events, the athletic schedule, the student handbook, and the student's daily hall pass. In addition, each student will receive a packet of information which will contain school bus regulations, school policies, free and reduced lunch forms, information on school insurance, student conduct guidelines, and PTSA information. Parents and students should read all information carefully. The cover letter of the information packet and the Statement of Receipt from the Student Conduct Policy Guidelines must be signed by the parent and the student, acknowledging that the information has been received and reviewed. **These forms must be returned to the homeroom teacher.**

### **ABSENCES**

***Phone calls will NOT be necessary to report your child's absence.*** In order for an absence to be excused, the student must bring a note from the parent stating a valid reason for the absence. Please note your child's name, date of absence, reason for absence, and homeroom teacher's name. By following this procedure, you will help ensure the accuracy of your child's attendance records.

### **AGENDAS**

***Each student will be issued a student agenda on the first day of school from his/her homeroom teacher.*** The agenda contains the student handbook, daily hall passes and the school calendar including athletic events and student activities. Please help us encourage use of the agenda by asking to see the agenda at least weekly. Students are expected to record homework assignments in the agenda. Students should **not** remove any pages from the agenda.

### **ATHLETIC SEASON PASSES**

Athletic passes may be purchased for \$35.00 per season. The Fall Athletic Pass entitles the pass holder admission to all home games of fall sports (Varsity and J. V. Football, Varsity Boys and

Girls J.V. and Varsity Volleyball). The Winter Pass entitles the pass holder admission to all home games of winter sports (Boys and Girls Varsity and J. V. Basketball, Varsity and J. V. Wrestling, and Gymnastics). All tournament and post-season events are excluded. Passes may be purchased in the main office. Great stocking stuffers!

### **BOOSTER CLUB**

The football booster club supplements funds provided by the school to our football team by fundraising, sponsorships and donations. Please visit website at [www.wildcatgridironboosterclub.com](http://www.wildcatgridironboosterclub.com).

### **CELL PHONES, IPODS, ETC.**

Following Chesapeake Public School Board Policy, students shall not possess or carry on their person cellular devices or electronic devices during the school day. Cellular telephones, other portable telecommunication devices, and electronic devices *must be turned off* when students enter the school building and must remain off during the school day (8:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.). These devices must be stored in school assigned lockers and/or automobiles. Students who possess or carry these devices on their person, in their book bags, in their purses, or in any item taken into any area of the school during the school day, shall be subject to consequences up to and including suspension.

### **DELIVERIES AND MESSAGES TO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL**

As you can imagine, the delivery of phone messages and personal items to students can be very time consuming. In an effort to help us minimize classroom interruptions and students missing class time, parents are asked not to call to leave messages unless it is absolutely necessary or an emergency. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, because of 1,700 birthdays, and many special holidays and festive occasions during the year, we cannot accept delivery of flowers, balloons, etc. for students. We appreciate your understanding.

### **DRESS**

The Chesapeake School Board expects all students to dress in a manner appropriate for the promotion of learning. Discretion should be exercised by parents and students when choosing articles of clothing such as current fashion fads that may be distracting to the learning environment. Remember that the building is air-conditioned. Specific guidelines are listed in the student handbook, which will be distributed on the first day of school. **The administrative staff reserves the right to determine whether or not a student's attire meets the standards.** When a student is in violation of the guidelines, all efforts will be made to correct the situation at school. However, if an acceptable alternative cannot be found at school, parents will be notified to bring in appropriate clothing. Students who consistently violate dress code standards will face disciplinary action. **Parents are respectfully requested to help the school enforce the dress code guidelines.**

### **LUNCH AND BREAKFAST**

Breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. The cost of breakfast is \$1.00 and the reduced price is 30 cents. Lunch will be served during 3<sup>rd</sup> block. Students will be informed of their lunch period on September 8. Lunch times are determined by the scheduled 3<sup>rd</sup> block class. Students may not change lunch periods. **The cost of a high school lunch is \$2.00 and the reduced price is 40 cents. A la carte milk is 55 cents. This may be paid daily or in advance;**

**however, lunches may not be charged.** *All students will need to know their 7-digit identification number when making a purchase in the cafeteria.* Students who qualify for reduced fee or free lunches may pick up forms in the main office. PLEASE NOTE: Fast food should not be brought to our students during the school day. Thank you.

### **LOCKERS**

Students will need a combination lock for their hall locker before a locker is assigned. (Exception – 800 hall lockers have built in locks.) PLEASE NOTE: To protect student belongings, locks for gym lockers are recommended as well.

### **MEDICAL INFORMATION**

A medication order form (CS-405) must be completed by the physician and parent in order for medication to be administered at school. These forms are available from our school nurse and will be available at orientation. **All medication must be brought to school by the parent and delivered to the nurse.** The medication must be in a container appropriately labeled by the physician or the pharmacy. **Students are not allowed to bring medication to school or be in possession of any medication.** Parents or guardians of students with medical problems should contact the school nurse at 482-5194.

### **2010 PSAT/NMSQT REGISTRATION**

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) measures critical thinking skills that are important for success in college, including critical reading, math problem-solving, and writing skills.

Taking the PSAT enables students to:

- Get feedback about critical academic skills
- Seek information from colleges
- Enter scholarship competitions
- Practice for the SAT

PLEASE NOTE: In order to compete for scholarships offered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, students **must** take the PSAT test during their **junior year** of high school.

The PSAT will be given on **Wednesday, October 13, 2010**. The cost for students is \$13.00. Registration will be held September 20<sup>th</sup> – September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:10AM in Roy's Alley.

Please note that September 22<sup>nd</sup> is the last day to order test materials from College Board so students will only be guaranteed a testing spot if they register by that date. Thank you!

### **PTSA**

Link your VIC card at Harris Teeter to the number **6883**. All proceeds will benefit GBHS. Drop off all Farm Fresh receipts at the security desk. **American Red Cross Blood Drive** is Friday, October 29. The 26<sup>th</sup> annual **Craft Fair** will be Saturday, October 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at GBHS. **Spirit wear** will be sold during all lunch bells on Thursdays. You can view

items on the GBHS website. Click the PTSA link. If you would like to volunteer for the many activities and receive updates on areas of need, email [c.j.flint@att.net](mailto:c.j.flint@att.net).

### **PARENT NEWSLETTER**

Our first parent newsletter will be posted on our website the week of September 27. Newsletters will be posted monthly, except for December and June. If you prefer to have a newsletter mailed to you, please contact Mrs. Stephenson in the main office (482-5191).

**PARKING INFORMATION** – Student parking registration information for juniors and seniors is available on the school website and in the main office. Times for parking tag sales are posted on Channel 46.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

*All students taking physical education are required to have a combination lock and gym uniform.* Uniforms will be sold during PE classes beginning the first day of school and at the orientation: Gym shorts are \$7; shirts are \$4 for small to ex-large and \$5 for sizes 2X to 3X - *cash only*.

### **PICTURES**

Student pictures of freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will be taken Thursday, September 23. Make-up day will be on Thursday, October 21. These pictures will be used for the yearbook, and will be available for purchase. Pricing information will be on the counter in the main office prior to picture dates and on the school website.

### **SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVE**

Chesapeake Public Schools is committed to providing a safe learning environment. Trained security monitors will assist administrators and faculty in supervising the school building and grounds. Security cameras monitor the school hallways and exterior. A Youth Services Officer from the Chesapeake Police Department is assigned to Great Bridge High School. In addition, the Chesapeake Police Department in cooperation with Chesapeake Public Schools will conduct random, unannounced searches on the premises and in the building using specially trained dogs.

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

If you shop for supplies at K-Mart, Office Depot, Office Max or Target, be sure to have the cashier credit Great Bridge High with your purchases.

### **SENIOR PICTURES**

Senior formal pictures will be taken on Friday, September 24, from 11:57 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is for the yearbook pose only and senior class composite. There is no sitting fee unless you want your proofs to be mailed home. (The charge to have the proofs mailed to your home is \$20.00.)

**The deadline for senior portraits** to be taken by *Prestige Portraits by LifeTouch* for the yearbook and senior composite is Friday, November 5. Seniors must have their pictures taken by *Prestige Portraits by LifeTouch* in order to appear in the senior class composite. Call 420-9417 to make your appointment.

**SENIOR YEARBOOK ADS** will be arranged directly with Jostens. Watch for more information in the mail.

**TARDIES/CUTS**

Great Bridge High School has a reasonable expectation that all students arrive to class on time and stay on task. Students and parents are encouraged to review policies regarding tardies and class cuts in the student handbook.

**TEXTBOOKS**

Textbooks are issued to students on a loan basis. If a student loses or damages a textbook, a replacement fee will be assessed. The student must pay the fee before receiving another textbook. Parents may purchase textbooks used by their children for personal use at the cost of the textbooks to the school division. For specific information, parents may call the Educational Resource Center at 547-1440.

**TRUANCY**

In accordance with state laws and school board policies, students are required to be regular and punctual in attendance. Parents of students who accumulate five (5) unexcused absences are required to meet with the school administration to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan for the student. At six (6) unexcused absences, a determination will be made if outside help sources can provide assistance. At seven (7) unexcused absences, students will be referred to court services.

**GREAT BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL WEB SITE –**

<http://eclipse.cps.k12.va.us/public/schools/GBH/index.html>

**For the school athletic calendar of events, please explore [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net).**

**THE CIRCLE LANE IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL IS DESIGNATED AS A FIRE LANE. VEHICLES PARKED IN THIS FIRE LANE WILL BE TICKETED. AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY, PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PICK UP STUDENTS IN BACK OF THE BUILDING BEHIND THE 800 HALLWAY. VISITOR PARKING HAS BEEN MOVED AND IS LOCATED IN THE FRONT OF THE PARKING LOT FOR YOUR EASY ACCESS TO THE MAIN OFFICE.**

**Some Important GBHS Dates**

PTSA Open House (Fall) - Monday, September 20, 7 p.m. Underclassmen Pictures – September 23 PTSA Craft Fair – October 16, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Homecoming – October 22, 6 p.m. SAT – October 9 PSAT – October 13 Report Cards – October 15 PTSA Blood Drive – October 29, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.	Band Concert – November 9, 7:30 p.m. Orchestra Concert – November 4, 7:30 p.m. PTSA Open House (Spring) – Monday, February 15, 7 p.m. Miss Great Bridge Pageant – February 19, 7:30 p.m. Ring Dance – February 26, 8 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. Mr. Great Bridge – April 2, 7:30 p.m. Academic Awards, May 2, 7 p.m. Prom – May 20, 8:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.
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College Fair – Grassfield High, October 25, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Make-up Underclassmen Pictures – October 21 Chorus Concert – October 28, 7:30 p.m.	After-Prom – May 21, 12:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. Scholarship Awards – May 25, 7 p.m. Graduation – June 15, 7:30 p.m. (Wednesday)
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**WATCH FOR OTHER DATES IN THE PARENT BULLETIN.**

## GUIDANCE INFORMATION

**ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS GUIDANCE INFORMATION SHEET** is a copy of your schedule for the 2010-2011 school year. Please check the address and phone number on your schedule and notify the guidance secretary at 482-4450 immediately if any changes are necessary. It is important that this information be correct.

School opens on September 7 and is in session from 8:40 a.m. until 3:38 p.m. All students are to report to their period 01 (PD), semester one (S1) class prior to the 8:40 a.m. tardy bell.

However, if you are scheduled to attend the Center for Science and Technology in the morning, report to the GBHS cafeteria at 8:30 a.m. If you are taking the "Ed Intern" class during 1<sup>st</sup> period, report to the main office at Great Bridge Intermediate at 8:40 a.m. on September 7.

### REQUESTS FOR SCHEDULE CHANGES

**(TO AVOID MISSING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME, ALL SCHEDULE CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS ON SEPTEMBER 7)**

1. Student schedules are based on requests made last spring. The deadline for changing electives was at the end of the school year. In most cases, first choice electives were scheduled without creating a conflict with an academic course request. In a few cases, counselors had to place students in alternative electives in order to avoid scheduling conflicts. Please note that all students will receive a copy of their second semester classes at the end of January. The order of their second semester courses may vary slightly from the enclosed copy.
2. Counselors have spent a great deal of time during the spring and summer reviewing all students' course selections. Therefore, the number of academic schedule changes that must be made at this time should be fairly small. Schedule changes are rare and, among other reasons, are limited, based on class size.
3. Please read the following information carefully to determine if a schedule change can be made.

**Only those students who meet the following criteria should request a schedule change:**

1. Class prerequisites have not been met
2. Class is out of sequence
3. Student received credit for class previously

\*The request must be a **legitimate "academic" concern** – not a request to change electives or teachers.

\*Students must bring a **parent's note** giving permission for the specific academic schedule change. *If the student does not have a note, a change will not be considered.*

If a legitimate error occurs on your schedule, bring your schedule and parent permission note to the sign-in area in Roy's Alley. This is a first-come, first-serve process. We can only serve approximately 100 students on Tuesday, 100 students on Wednesday, and 30 students on Friday. Plan accordingly! Please check your schedule for the up-dated grade level. Please do not call the school for schedule concerns. Due to mandatory city-wide and school meetings, counselors will only be available at the following times during the week of August 30-September 3. Please adhere to the following times if requesting a schedule change!

**SCHEDULING SESSIONS**

Tuesday, August 31	3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	9 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> graders
Wednesday, September 1	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> graders
Friday, September 3	9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	

*Sheila M. Stephenson  
Lead School Secretary  
Great Bridge High School*

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