



April 2006 PTSA Newsletter

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Principal's Message

CHHS Family,

Wow! The April edition of D Magazine has some outstanding news about our school. CHHS was ranked 5th among the 109 Metroplex high schools! (Three magnet schools in Dallas and Highland Park HS were ranked ahead of CHHS.) D Magazine used a combination of the number of students taking AP exams divided by 11th and 12th grade enrollment and the percent of AP exams passed to develop their ranking. CHHS actually had the 2nd highest passing rate of all 109 schools at 75.10%! What a tribute to our hard working teachers, our dedicated students and our supportive parents. GCISD patrons can be very proud of the education our students receive as GHS was ranked 8th. Two high schools in the top 8 out of 109 schools! This is a wonderful place for our students, staff, parents and our community. If you see a staff member from our school, please congratulate them and thank them for the fantastic job they do every day with our students.

The spring TAKS test is just around the corner. The tests begin on April 18 and continue through April 21. I know that every student is prepared to perform their best on these very important assessments.

Thanks for being a great partner in our quest to provide each student with a top level high school education.

In "A Community of Excellence",

Dr. Robin Ryan
Principal
Colleyville Heritage High School
"A Community of Excellence"

PTSA President's Message

The First Annual 5K ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) Run was held on March 25th at CHHS. There was a good turn out of participants. A special congratulation goes to Coach Cunningham and Coach John for taking first place in their respective age bracket. A special "thank you" to Coach Walker for sponsoring this event and we look forward to the Second Annual 5K ALS Run next year.

Hopefully, some of the seniors were participating in the 5K run to help warm up for the upcoming Second Annual Senior Field Day on April 7th. We still need a few more volunteers to serve lunch and help monitor the various competitive events. For more details, please see article on volunteer opportunities at CHHS.

Just a reminder that Monday, April 17th will be a school day to makeup for the bad weather day we had on December 8th.

The final TAKS testing will be the week of April 18th. A letter with the schedule is forthcoming. Shortly after TAKS, AP testing will begin on May 2nd.

The PTSA General Meeting was held on Monday, March 27th. At this meeting the 2006-2007 PTSA Officers were elected. Congratulations to

- Teri Ferney, President;
- Stacy Lansford, 1st Vice President - Aide;
- Sue Harry, 2nd Vice President - Programs;
- Janel Gammill - 3rd Vice President - Membership;
- Shelley Beall, 4th Vice President - Ways and Means;
- Mary Alice Rippe, 5th Vice President - Communications;
- Diane Silva, Secretary; and
- Cecilia Monacelli, Treasurer.

Following the meeting, an excellent presentation on internet safety was provided by representatives from GCISD and Colleyville Police Department. Please see an article in this newsletter for more information.

Go Panthers!

Judy Davisson
CHHS PTSA President

Scholarship Information Available On-line!

Seniors, please refer to the Counselor's Corner link on the school's website, www.gcisd-chhs.org, for the most up-to-date information on scholarships.

Important Dates In April

Please mark your calendar for these important dates in April:

- Friday April 14 School holiday
- Monday April 17 School is in session!
- Tuesday April 18 TAKS: English Language
- Wednesday April 19 TAKS: Mathematics
- Thursday April 20 TAKS: Science
- Friday April 21 TAKS: Social Studies

See the article on the new TAKS Incentive Plan in effect for Spring Exams in this issue of the newsletter!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS: TAKS INCENTIVE PROGRAM STARTS THIS SPRING

At CHHS, we are pleased to announce that we will begin a new TAKS incentive program for our students in 9th-11th grades. After gathering input from teachers, parents, students and administrators from both

GCISD high schools, we have developed an incentive plan that will hopefully motivate our students to do their best on the upcoming spring TAKS tests. Our teachers and students have worked diligently this year. We are confident that the combination of diligent work and positive incentives for students in all three grade levels will pay dividends in our results this spring. We may have additional extrinsic rewards in the future, but for now, please take a moment to look at our incentive program and see how your student's passing performance on TAKS will be rewarded! Go Panthers!

Grapevine-Colleyville High School TAKS Incentives 2006 Spring Exams Only

9th Graders:

- Students who pass their regular math class, math TAKS test, and have no more than 5 absences in their math class **have the option** to exempt their math final exam.
- Students who pass their regular English class, ELA TAKS test, and have no more than 5 absences in their English class **have the option** to exempt their English final exam.
- Students who pass their PAP math class, earn commended on math TAKS test, and have no more than 5 absences in their math class **have the option** to exempt their math final exam.
- Students who pass their PAP or GT English class, earn commended on ELA TAKS test, and have no more than 5 absences in their English class **have the option** to exempt their English final exam.

10th Graders:

- Students who pass their regular core class, the connected TAKS test, and have no more than 5 absences in that core class **have the option** to exempt their final exam.
- Students who pass their PAP, AP, or GT class, earn commended on the TAKS test, and have no more than 5 absence in that core class **have the option** to exempt their final exam.
- Students can exempt one class (other than a core) under the current exemption policy.

11th Graders:

- Students who pass their regular core class, the connected TAKS test, and have no more than 5 absences in that core class **have the option** to exempt their final exam.
- Students who pass their PAP, AP, or GT class, earn commended on the TAKS test, and have no more than 5 absences in that core class **have the option** to exempt their final exam.
- Students can exempt two classes (other than a core) under the current exemption policy.
- Students who have not passed all areas of the TAKS testing by the beginning of the fall semester will receive academic support through TAKS recovery initiatives in lieu of Senior Release or aide classes. Once the TAKS is passed, Senior release classes can replace the TAKS recovery class.

12th Graders:

Current exemption policy.

Important News for the Class of 2006

Senior day out is April 7th. Sign up for your teams during lunches. Don't miss out on the day of fun!

Senior Remembrance Pictures are due! Please turn them into Mrs. Brown in the office. Pictures for the Prom Slide Show can be put in the folders outside Ms. Garcia's room (B218).

Please note that the time of the GRADUATION CEREMONY has been moved up to 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 29th.

Lighten up your closets and help brighten up some Students' special nights

Are your closets brimming over with banquet dresses and accessories from events gone by? Would you like to help some CHHS students dress up for the banquets and special events to come in spring 2006? You can drop off dresses and accessories in the front office to the attention of Polly Wallace for Polly's Closet.

PROJECT GRADUATION MEETING AT MAIN EVENT

The April Project Graduation parent planning meeting will be on April 4 at 7:00 PM at the Main Event in Grapevine so all parents can tour the facility and see how everything will work on May 29. We encourage everyone to attend and get involved.

Don't forget to send in the balance due on your child's reservation and his/her contract to Janice Brown in the front office at school or mail the information to Project Graduation, P. O. Box 831, Colleyville, TX 76034

You will find more information and the necessary forms, including the student contract, at the Project Graduation website: <http://www.gcisd-chhs.org/projectgraduation/>

Parent volunteers are needed to make this evening a safe and fun event for the graduating seniors. Please contact Project Graduation President Duff O'Dell for more details (email address: duffodell@verizon.net)

Please Turn in Your Community Scholar Hours!

All Community Scholar hours for seniors should have been turned in by March 31st. For everyone else, you can turn them in as they accrue or whenever your card gets full. Remember to use both sides of the card and get dates and signatures for your volunteering. There are many opportunities in the community, so check the Community Scholar board to see where you are needed. Thanks for all you do to give to others. There aren't many better ways to feel good about yourself, then to help

someone who needs you!

Board of Trustees Approve 2006-2007 School Calendar

The Board adopted the 2006*2007 school calendar at its March 27th board meeting. School will begin on Tuesday, August 15 and end on Thursday, May 24. For more details, check out the district website: www.gcisd-k12.org and click on the "calendar" on the main page.

District Volunteer Background Check Form is Available Online

Volunteers can get a head start on next year by downloading the Volunteer Information Release form and returning the completed form to CHHS and any other campus at which you volunteer. You can find more information at the GCISD website: www.gcisd-k12.org Click on the "Parents" link. The form is at http://www.gcisd-k12.org/job/images/volform_0607.pdf

Volunteer Opportunities at CHHS!!!!

WE NEED MORE HELP ON OUR NEXT OPPORTUNITY ON APRIL 7.

Senior Day Out ----- Dr. Ryan's Cookout for Teachers

Please reserve Friday April 7, 2006 in your date book for the second annual Senior Day Out. Last year everyone enjoyed themselves greatly!!! We still need 25 additional volunteers to make it happen. We have filled many (but not all) of the shifts from 10:00 - 11:30. We still need help to make the senior games happen from 12:00 - 2:00. And I know there is a job that will fit you perfectly. Dr. Ryan's cookout for the teachers will be held at the same time so they can also enjoy part of the Seniors day. We may need one or two more to help from 11:30 - 2:00 in that area. Please email or call me to sign up early (see contact info below). Remember you need to get on a list for an assignment and time.

We are looking for a few more great people to help at the front office desk and in the copy room. We will provide complete training for the jobs and the initial jobs will be as back-ups to learn each of the positions. The people who are being trained this spring will be first on the list for the permanent spots at the copy room and front desk for next school year.

I'm easy to contact at chhsptsavolntr@swbell.net or call on 817-858-9531.

Thanks, Judy Atwood, Volunteer Chair

Calling all O. C. Taylor Alumni!

A retirement reception honoring Janet Dodson will be held May 3, 4:00-5:30 p.m. at the O.C. Taylor Library. All of Mrs. Dodson's former OCT

students are invited to attend. Please email cindy.davis@gcisd.net

with any questions

INTERNET SAFETY PROGRAM

We had a great response to the PTSA sponsored internet safety program on March 27th. Thanks to Robin Davis, Officer Bill Hudgins and Dr. Lane Hunnicutt for their excellent presentations. For those parents who were not able to attend, Dr. Hunnicutt has provided a link to his power point presentation. Some excellent information and helpful websites are included in it. The link is:

<http://www.gcisd.net/~lane.hunnicutt/inetsafety.htm>

Dr. Hunnicutt's list includes **Who to Call** if you have concerns about internet safety in your home:

- Colleyville Police Department
 - Detective Hillary Wreay 817-503-1266
- Grapevine Police Department
 - Detective John Meador 817-410-3255
- Euless Police Department
 - Criminal Investigations 817-685-1531

The websites with more information on safety issues include:

- Internet Safety Resources <http://www.internet-safety.org>
 - The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children <http://www.missingkids.com/>
 - Safeguarding the Wired Schoolhouse <http://safewiredschools.cosn.org/>
 - Netsmartz <http://www.netsmartz.org/index.htm>
 - Internet Crime Complaint Center <http://www.ic3.gov/>
 - Internet Archive <http://www.archive.org>
 - Easywhois <http://www.easywhois.org>
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Imagine Your Name -- in Lights - on the CHHS Marquee!

Looking for a fun way to celebrate your birthday? Announce your special day on the Heritage Avenue Marquee and help CHHS raise funds for the prom and the student activities fund! Contact Janice Brown at CHHS, 817-305-4700, or stop by the front office and pick up a form. The cost is only \$20.00. Please give Ms. Brown a few days notice to get the announcement up in time.

PTSA Awards Committee Seeks Nominees

The PTSA Awards Committee is accepting nominations for the following PTSA awards:

Texas PTA Extended Service Award - Awarded to those who have continued to give outstanding contributions to the well-being of children and youth. This person must also be a member of the PTSA and support the goals and aims of the PTSA.

National or Texas PTA Honorary Life Membership Award

- An honorary life membership is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon an individual by the National or Texas PTA for outstanding contributions to the well-being of children and youth. This person must be a member of the PTSA and support the goals and aims of the PTSA.

Friends of Children Award - This award may be presented to anyone your unit would like to honor; an outstanding volunteer, teacher, principal, assistant principal, school custodian, cafeteria worker, featured speaker, grandparents, business person or owner who continually supports the PTSA. This person does not have to be a member of the PTSA.

Please send your nominations, which should include a brief description of why you are nominating the person and how they have served the students of CHHS, to Dawn Patterson at dgenepatt@aol.com by no later than Friday, April 14, 2006. If preferred, you may also drop your nomination off at front office at the high school, attention PTSA Membership Chairperson. Awards will be presented during the PTSA May General Meeting. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact any of the award committee members, listed below.

Dawn Patterson - (817) 421-3448
Judy Atwood - (817) 858-9531
Lisa Hall - (817) 788-2055
Shelley Beall - (817) 545-7938
Kelly Tookey - (817) 318-7945

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR PTSA DIRECTORY IS?

Gosh, isn't it funny how things disappear right in the midst of our very homes? Our PTSA Phone Directories went home back in October - yet sometimes they find new places to rest in our homes, like under a pile of clothes or a stack of papers. Surely this doesn't happen just at my home!

You see, from time to time I hear from people who tell me they would like to have more than one copy of the directory, but didn't realize that they could obtain another copy! So in case you didn't realize it either, here's the scoop. If you have a student attending the school right now - you can send in a check for the \$6.00 PTSA dues and get another copy of the PTSA Student Phone Directory. Isn't that wonderful?

How do you join the PTSA? The PTSA membership form can be printed off of the website (www.gcisd-chhs.org) and click on the "PTSA" link on the left side of the page. Or, simply contact our PTA President Judy Davisson by phone at 817-545-1412 or email her at: CHHSPTSAPresdnt@aol.com) so she can coordinate getting your membership dues from you and in turn, get a copy of the directory sent back to you.

Of course, if your family is new to CHHS and did not get a chance to join PTA at the first of the school year, we want to hear from you too. Our Spring Membership drive is going on right now and we have plenty of directories on hand so please join our PTSA and get your copy!

Let me highlight a few of the great resources we have in the directory. At the very back of the directory (*on page 80*) we have a copy of the **Bell Schedule** so parents can easily refer to it when they need to schedule a doctor appointment for their student. We also have a handy copy of the **A/B Block Calendar** (*on page 81*) for quick reference - right beside the **Bell Schedule**. Of course, many of the resources in the directory, can also be found on the website in order to make things as convenient for the families as possible. Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the directory if you have not had a chance to do so yet this school year.

I would also like to thank all the wonderful supporters, as noted on page 82 of the directory, who generously contributed advertisements for the directory this year. It is because of their continued support, that our PTSA is able to provide the directory, free of charge, to the teachers, staff, and the CHHS PTA family members in good standing.

Of course I can not pass up an opportunity to suggest that if you know of someone who would like to put an ad in the directory next year, please be sure to have them contact the PTSA president or the main office when school resumes in August.

Have a great spring and stay connected to one another. Diane Dunlap

PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST™

*Don't be a party to teenage drinking. It's against the law.
Based Upon a Program of Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth*

The law:

As a parent, you cannot give alcohol to your teen's friends under the age of 21 under any circumstance, even in your own residence, and even with their parent's permission. You cannot knowingly allow a youth under 21, other than your own child, to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol. Your residence ... your responsibility.

The penalties:

You can face a maximum sentence of one year in jail and/or a \$4,000 fine. You can be sued if you give alcohol to anyone under 21 and they, in turn, hurt someone, hurt themselves, or damage property.

Things you can do as a parent:

Call Tarrant County Challenge at 817-336-6617 and join the coalition, Communities for Alcohol Free Youth (CAFY), working to reduce underage drinking in Fort Worth.

Be clear: Underage drinking is never O.K.! Set rules, enforce them, and monitor your teen.

Create alcohol-free opportunities and activities in your home so teens will feel welcome.

Report underage drinking by calling the anonymous, toll-free hotline at (888) 843-8222.

What Every Parent Should Know About Alcohol and Their Teen:

The adolescent brain is at risk. Underage drinking should NOT be a "rite of passage". The adolescent brain is EXTREMELY vulnerable to damage that can be irreversible. Drinking teens have been found to have a 10% smaller hippocampus (the area of the brain that is responsible for learning and memory formation), and perform 10% poorer in memory recall tasks. The prefrontal cortex is important in personality development and is the brain's chief decision maker. This area undergoes the most change in adolescence and is extremely vulnerable to alcohol.

Do YOU really know?

Youth in Fort Worth are drinking on average at age 11 (2 years younger than the national average)! When asked in a national study, only 1% of parents reported that their children drank 5+ drinks in the past two weeks, while over 20% of youth reported to have done so. It is likely there are no visible signs of early use.

Talk to your teen:

Parental disapproval is the #1 reason youth report they abstain from drinking alcohol, yet 20% of Fort Worth 4th, 5th, and 6th graders report that they do not know how their parents feel about underage drinking. Abstaining from alcohol during adolescence will greatly improve your teen's chances of leading a healthier, happier life, both now and in the future.
