



GSMST Newsletter

January 16, 2018



Mark Your Calendars

- February 9 - Student/Teacher Holiday
- February 17 - International Night
- February 21, 22 - GSMST Cyber Days (K-8 Early Release)
- March 1 - Curriculum Night, 7:00 PM

Inclement Weather Procedures

In case of inclement weather, please refer to [our website](#), Facebook page, eCLASS page, and WSB channel 2 news. GCPS will also post something on their main website as well. As soon as any type of cancellation or early release is communicated with the local schools, we'll be sure to let you know!



Science and Engineering Fair

Parents, please join us at GSMST from 7-7:30 PM on Thursday, January 25th to view submissions to our Science and Engineering Fair. We hope you can join us!



PSAT Score Reports and FREE SAT Practice

9th-11th graders received their PSAT Score Reports this past week. **We encourage you to look at this very informative report with your student!**



Students can view/download their PSAT score report via <https://studentscores.collegeboard.org/home>. **Students must create a College Board Student Account if they have not already done so.** The score report shows the Total Score, a breakdown of subscores and cross sections, and a listing of all problems. Students can see which problems they missed, the level of difficulty, and an explanation of how to get the correct answer. Students should look at their percentiles to see how they performed compared with other test takers in their grade level.

The VIEW DETAILS button on the report shows students in which areas they need to strengthen their skills to be ready for college. Students should click on the Khan Academy link: <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat> on their report, create a Khan account, and grant permission for Khan to access their PSAT scores. They will then receive a **free, personalized SAT practice** focusing on specific skills they need to strengthen.

If students don't see their scores after logging in, they should click the "Add Scores" button and provide the Access Code from the front cover of their PSAT Score Report.. Make sure the year of administration is set at 2017. If students

still cannot access their 2017 scores, they need to contact the College Board at 866-433-7728 or psathelp@info.collegeboard.org.

[Click here for a short video about Understanding your PSAT Score Report.](#)

GSMST PSAT Average Scores

Grade	2017 Mean Total	County Mean Score	Mean EBRW	Mean Math
9th	1133	1045	559	563
10th	1230	931	607	623
11th	1323	1032	658	665

The max PSAT score is 1520 with a 760 max score for Evidence-Based Reading & Writing score (EBRW) and a 760 max Math score.

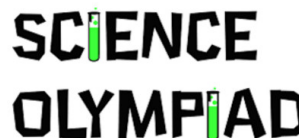
Student Transcripts

All GSMST students received a copy of their GCPS transcript last Wednesday during Advisement. This transcript includes all high school courses your student has completed through the end of last semester.



Congratulations Science Olympiad

SO placed 3rd this past Saturday among 60 teams from 35 schools at the Brookwood Invitational Science Olympiad Tournament. The following students earned medals:



- Daniel G. - 4th place in Write It/Do It, 5th place in Astronomy
- Elly R. - 5th place in Experimental Design, 2nd place in Ecology
- Faris E-K. - 1st place in Game On, 5th place in Hovercraft
- Frank H. - 5th place in Experimental Design
- Gloria V.N. - 4th place in Forensics, 5th place in Astronomy
- JJ C. - 5th place in Experimental Design, 5th place in Hovercraft, 1st place in Game On, and 4th place in Rocks & Minerals
- Joseph Z. - 2nd place in Dynamic Planet, 2nd place in Ecology
- Joshua C. - 2nd place in Mousetrap Vehicle
- Jun Ho Y. - 4th place in Forensics
- Leo W. - 4th place in Write It/Do It
- Shawn Z. - 2nd place in Dynamic Planet, 4th place in Rocks & Minerals

Way to go, SO!

International Night is Coming Soon

SATURDAY, February 17, 5:00-9:00 PM

Join GSMST students and PTSA for International Night, an evening filled with cultural food, activities and talent. We look forward to your participation in volunteering, donating food, decorations etc.



Parents, without your cooperation this event cannot be successful. Each region will have samples of food for you to munch on throughout the evening. Prepare your favorite regional dish to share, [sign up online](#) and your student can receive volunteer hours for each donation.

Thank you in advance for helping make GSMST's biggest event a huge success!

Parent Health Survey

The state DOE calculates our annual climate rating based on survey results and we humbly ask you to take a few minutes and complete the 24 ratings in [this survey](#).



GSMST Speaker Series

Call for Speakers!

As a parent of a GSMST student, you know that part of our unique curriculum includes student participation in a multi-tiered career readiness and internship program that spans all four years of the GSMST high school experience. That program begins in the 9th grade with our quarter-annual Speaker Series.



Do you work in a STEM field? Do you have a unique or interesting career story? Did your college experience teach you many lessons that you would like to pass on to our students? Then, maybe you would be interested in being a speaker at one or more of the events!

The dates for the remaining Speaker Series events this year are Thursday, February 15th and Friday, March 30th. The event itself lasts for approximately an hour and a half on each of these dates (from 12:00-1:30pm). The full schedule, as well as other important information and details about the events, is explained in the Speaker Series Executive Summary on [our website](#).

If you are interested in one, many, or all of these series' dates, or know someone who may be, simply write to kerri.napoleon@gsmst.org to find out more!

Spring Semester Exam Exemption for Seniors

Exam exemption applies only to second semester graduating seniors. Exam exemption does not apply to state end-of-course exams nor to local school performance exams. In order to exempt a final exam in the Spring, graduating seniors must meet the following criteria:



Academics

- At the end of first semester, seniors who have a cumulative numerical GPA of 90.0 or greater (GPA not rounded) may be eligible to exempt all exams if they meet the attendance and behavior criteria;

OR

- As of May 14, 2018, seniors who have an average of 90.0 or greater (not rounded) in a specific course may be eligible to exempt an exam in that course if they meet the attendance and behavior criteria.

Attendance

Seniors will not be eligible to exempt an exam in a class if they have more than three (3) absences in the class for the Spring semester. All absences, except school sponsored activities, count toward the total of three. Students will be counted absent from class if they miss more than half a period.

Behavior

Seniors who have been suspended in or out of school during their final semester will NOT be eligible to exempt exams. Also, students must not have any outstanding fees, fines, or monies owed. Seniors who are eligible to exempt an exam must turn in textbooks and laptop prior to the exam day. Students must have clearance from the Student Research Center, the Technology Office, and the Attendance Office showing they have no outstanding issues or fines.

Seniors who are eligible to exempt an exam may choose to take the exam without the risk of lowering the final average. The exam can improve the average, but cannot lower it.

Summer 2018 Junior Fellowship Experience

Mandatory Attendance Dates: May 29-June 1 and July 23-July 26
Approximate Summer School Enrollment \$100

- Summer JFE is by choice and through approval. Students must be in good academic standing to participate in a summer JFE. It will otherwise be scheduled for 7th period either fall or spring semester.
- If more students apply than there is space available, grades and attendance will be used in the acceptance process.
- Opportunity postings with application directives will be available through eCLASS beginning in February.
- Students will need reliable internet access to submit work through eCLASS throughout the summer.
- ALL summer JFE students are required to attend the mandatory attendance dates listed above. Only students who are participating in a residential academic program will be excused from one of those weeks and these students will still be required to submit work on time. Other absences will result in the student being dropped from the summer roster. No refunds will be disbursed for students dropped due to non-attendance on a mandatory date.



There will be a JFE information session for students and parents on Curriculum Night, Thursday, March 1st.

BYOD for Your Student

If you are considering purchasing a laptop or tablet for your student as part of the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) initiative, GCPS has information to help guide your purchasing plans.



This information can be found [here](#).

Study Abroad Information

Costa Rican Animal Sanctuary

Ms. D'Antonio and Ms. Santana will be leading a school trip to Costa Rica for a week of study abroad from 3/31/18-4/7/18. [Click here](#) to learn more information about this wonderful opportunity!



Parking Permit for Students

Student Parking is now \$30 for the remainder of the year. Students must bring the money along with [this completed form](#), drivers license, and proof of insurance to the Attendance Office.



Before school and after school supervision, please provide transportation.

Please ensure the safety of your student and others by not:

- dropping off in the faculty lot of GSMST
- dropping off in the faculty lot of Maxwell
- unloading your child in McElvaney Lane
- unloading your child in the serpentine lines
- picking up your child in any location above.



Only students taking a zero period can be dropped off in the front parking lot.

On Mondays, students must be out of the building by 3:15 PM since all teachers are in school-wide meetings. On Tuesdays-Fridays, students must leave the building as soon as the SRC closes (4 PM) or as soon as their activity ends. Please be at school, ready to pick up your child when the activity ends. Students will have to stand outside to wait for their ride and cooler weather will be coming soon. Students are not allowed to enter the building before 6:15 AM. Thanks for your help.

MyPaymentsPlus

MyPaymentsPlus is a one stop shop for all your back to school needs. Visit the site [here](#) to pay for parking permits, lockers, lunches, etc. or you can pay for parking and lockers in the Attendance Office.



Infinity Cafe

[Click here](#) for free and reduced lunch information. You can find what is on our menus [here](#). For information on the GCPS charge policy, please [click here](#).



School Spirit!

Hoodies & Laptop Bags Now Available!

Order your spirit wear and accessories online at the [GSMST School Store](#) 24/7 and pick up your order in the GSMST front office anytime between 7:00 AM-3:45 PM on school days.



GSMST Important Reminders

- NO cost for breakfast for all students!
- Visitor badges must be worn while visiting, volunteering, etc. This is to keep our school safe.
- GCPS and GSMST Student/Parent [Handbooks](#)
- GSMST [Bell Schedule](#)

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STAY CONNECTED



GSMST, 970 McElvaney Lane, Lawrenceville, GA 30044

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