

**GHS PTSA General Meeting
15 November 2016**

Navigating Student Life: Student Leaders and Student Panel - Isabella D, Barnaby W, Elise, Jonathon L, Isabel, Franklin S P, Bailey A, Sophia B F, Nico W

- *What are a couple things you like best about Garfield?:* Teachers, supportive environment, diversity, One Garfield bringing different students together, desegregated classrooms, strong alumni, social, opens your horizons
- *What is one thing you would like to improve upon?:* It is a diverse school, and we need to bring more people together
- *What class is a must take or surprised you the most?:* AP History w/Mr. Simoneaux, Leadership/ASB, Oceanography (ecology, global warming), Contemporary World Problems (discussions of ideas), Music (excellent programs, school pride), Latin (tough but great teacher), AP Government (mock courts, mock elections), Electives (ceramics, photography, video production, weight training, yoga), Journalism - The Messenger, Environmental Science, AP Biology, AP Computer Science (related clubs, Girls Who Code, Robotics)
- *What should students take advantage of?:* Clubs, programs, field trips, HOST outdoor trips
- *Why are you involved in ASB?:* To help with student activities, community issues. ASB is passionate, works hard, helps the school with fundraisers, food drives, the walkout, promotes social equity and inclusions. To be a role model

Treasurer's Report - Steve Orser - Americorps volunteer for PE has left so \$10K is available to be used as grants (large and small). Approx. PTSA budget is \$273K, around \$100K from annual fund, \$110-\$125 from auction. Vote to return this money approved.

Honors for All Update - Mr. Simoneaux, npsimoneaux@seattleschools.org (History) and Mr. Zimmerman, tzimmermann@seattleschools.org (Language Arts)

- No plan to extend Honors for All to 10th grade
- Same rigor and challenge as previous 9th grade honors classes
- Goal is to create same opportunities for all students. Very little movement into Honors or AP classes from Gen Ed students in the past
- Teacher collaboration: same units, grade norming, support. All classes now uniform, no differences from teacher to teacher. Teachers meet Thursdays at lunch, all meet after school Fridays to collaborate
- History lessons all linked to AP World History standards
- English Language Arts writing rubric is now aligned: quarterly essays, 6 traits of writing, annotating texts
- First time core academic classes reflect the complete student population
- Don't see much difference between HCC and Gen. Ed. students' performance in class
- Complex instruction make students interdependent, working in small groups, discussions, taking on different roles

- Language Arts is a skill-based course, History is content-based. So pedagogical goals are different
- Interpersonal skills are developed, the ability to listen to others
- Students may feel less academic anxiety and pressure over these classes

What Needs Improvement in Honors for All?

- More teacher collaboration time
- Tutoring is sparsely attended. Monday-Thursday after school in room 204 from 3:30-4:30, snacks provided. Implementing changes
- Need more complex instruction, more project-based learning. History will do role-playing lessons such as ancient Rome, creating museums
- Need more community building among students, in and out of class
- Roll-out hurt by controversy, there were mistakes in not talking to parents earlier, process needed to be more transparent. Teachers are now trying harder
- How to push kids to be challenged? Have frank conversations, get feedback, get kids to self-evaluate and set goals

What are ways you can support the program?

- Books in Language Art
- Support the study sessions
- Be proactive about your student's work and schoology
- Come be a supporter for 9th grade report card conferences

January 11 talk by Carol Burris on de-tracking is planned

Counseling Office - Daniel Lee, dwlee@seattleschools.org, Head Counselor

- Counseling office provides 3 services: academic, course changes/graduation requirements (12th grade meetings), social/ emotional
- College and Career Center, Rachel Collins
- It is a challenge to get to know students with only 5 counselors. 400 students per counselor vs. optimal number of 250
- Focus groups: each counselor has a grade (Alston 9th, Lee 10th, Thomas 11th, Courtney 12th). They are visiting classrooms to offer lessons, hear from students, target interventions

Health - Danielle Bock (Certified Prevention Professional Student Assistance Specialist), [Stephanie Tschida, sgtschida@seattleschools.org](mailto:sgtschida@seattleschools.org) (Healthy Youth CAN), [Miller Scherling, mhsherling@seattleschools.org](mailto:mhsherling@seattleschools.org) (School Nurse)

- Danielle Bock: Garfield alcohol and marijuana use is highest in district, and Washington state. According to 2014 Healthy Youth Survey alcohol for 10th graders (one drink in past 30 days) is 35% GHS vs. 25% district vs. 21% state. Alcohol for 12th graders (one drink in past 30 days) is 43% GHS vs. 35% district vs. 33% state. Pot use in last 30 days for 10th graders is 32% GHS vs. 23% district vs. 18% state. Pot use in last 30 days for 12th graders is 33% GHS vs. 30% district vs. 27% state. **Please refer to Healthy Youth Survey document for details, including comparisons with other SPS high schools**

- Danielle offers an 8-week Health curriculum, referrals, discipline options, liaison with agencies, mental health prevention. Must change school climate and social norms
- The Teen Health Center contracts with Children's Hospital to provide students with free care, including mental health care with "minor consent" which gives students privacy from their parents. Parents can also sign them up for appointments
- Miller the school nurse works for SPS and also provides care
- Students should learn how to be their own savvy health-care consumers
- Stephanie is an intervention and prevention specialist and coordinator for the Healthy Central Area Network
- For drugs and alcohol she uses whole-child prevention, encourages healthy choices, pro-social activities
- Must change social norms, how to overcome factors such as poverty, family influences, favorable attitudes toward pot
- Anti-use campaign includes creating a brand message, a hip hop piece, mural, video, billboard
- No shame, but harm reduction, individualized message
- Compelling new brain research on harm to adolescent brain due to substance abuse
- The high level of use at GHS can be accounted for by favorable norms, "party school" reputation, hazing, proximity of Uncle Ike's, parents too busy or in denial, academic pressure felt by students
- Don't minimize the risks of use, including going on to harder drugs, cognitive development, and consequences as an adult