

GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL

2010 COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Gloucester High School: Striving For Greatness

Located on an island lined with white sandy beaches and breathtaking rocky shores on beautiful Cape Ann, only 40 miles from Boston, Gloucester retains a strong sense of community and pride in its heritage. Known for its artists and artisans and home to many business executives and academic and technology researchers, Gloucester is America's oldest (1623) and one of its busiest fishing ports and a popular vacation destination. Gloucester offers visitors fine dining, whale watching, deep-sea fishing, museums of art and history and one of the most famous regional theaters in the country.

A centerpiece of Gloucester is its renovated comprehensive high school where 1140 students choose from a wide array of academic, vocational, and fine and practical arts programs. Academics are supported by 47 clubs and organizations, as well as a full program of interscholastic and intramural sports activities.

Dedicated teachers (78% of whom hold an advanced degree) with an average class size of 17 students and an average student-teacher ratio of 13:1 guarantees a close, personal relationship between faculty and students.

The community's vision is for GHS to be one of the most extraordinary high schools in Massachusetts where students are educated today for the world of tomorrow; where they gain knowledge and experience both inside and outside the classroom to help them do their best and be the best.



GHS in the News

Funded by a one million dollar grant from a local family foundation, a unique collaboration between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Gloucester Public Schools has been established to develop programs in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math. The three-year grant, secured by the Gloucester Education Foundation, has provided exciting opportunities for teachers and students to participate in science programs at MIT and to bring new programs into the Gloucester Public Schools.

This grant encourages Gloucester's youth to pursue ground breaking innovations and discoveries following in the footsteps of Gloucester inventors Clarence Birdseye (the process of freezing fish and vegetables) and John Hays Hammond (the father of radio control).

Public School Opportunity in a Personalized Setting

Gloucester High School has succeeded where many mid-sized and large high schools have failed. Although a public school, it feels in many ways like a private school. Administrators and teachers have created a warm, caring, community-oriented atmosphere that embraces students of diverse backgrounds, interests and

abilities. Students and faculty work together to help one another succeed both on and off campus.

GHS offers 175 different courses to meet the needs of all students and also offers dual enrollment at local colleges. Students are encouraged to mix and match courses based upon their interests and abilities.

A student taking college prep or advanced placement chemistry or math may also participate in a rigorous auto repair, carpentry, child study, culinary arts, electronics, or machine technology program. This results in well-rounded graduates who are prepared for life's challenges.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Unrivaled Pride for GHS

Parents throughout the state lament the fact that their towns do not exhibit the pride routinely displayed by students, parents, grandparents, and graduates of Gloucester High. Whether it's competing for the state football championship in a fierce snowstorm at Gillette Stadium, the state championship in baseball, sold-out art and music performances at the high school, or even the district-wide arts festival in May, people turn out in droves to support and to cheer. One parent from Duxbury - with a sister in Gloucester - recently asked "What is it with Gloucester? If GHS students were competing in a hot dog eating competition, 500 people in maroon and white would fill the stands. We'd be hard pressed to get 50 people to show up."

Marines March on Daytona

The Gloucester High School Junior ROTC, a nationally recognized USMC program for 2009-2010, competed at the National High School Drill Team Championships in Daytona Beach in April. Gloucester's "Scarlet Thunder" squad faced 56 teams from around the country in different events. In addition, the JROTC air rifle team competed for the national championship at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Something to Cheer About

The GHS Cheerleaders all girls squad (shown below) won the 2010 Winter State Championship. Under the leadership of coach Eric Bichao, the Gloucester cheerleaders worked hard to overcome a disappointing 4th place in regionals just 2 weeks prior. Scoring 18 points higher in their state championship performance for a total score of 180.5 - Gloucester was crowned Grand Champions - making this their 11th winter title. In recent years, our cheerleaders have won three national championships and five coed state titles.

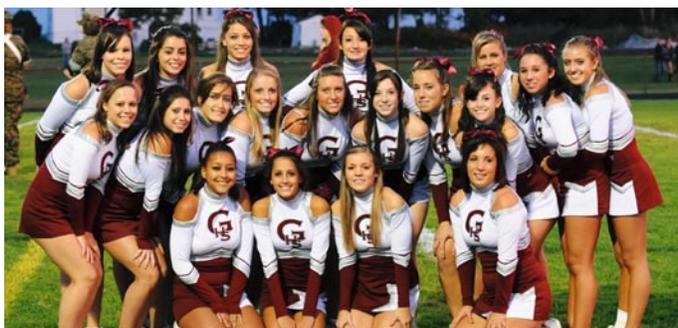


Photo by David Cox

GHS Travels Abroad



EUROPEAN STUDY

Gloucester High School students have extensive opportunities to travel to and explore Europe. World Language Department Director Celestino Basile organizes annual trips for his classes in order to provide a more enhanced familiarity with foreign languages and culture. In 2008, Basile traveled with 30 Gloucester High School students to Italy, exploring cities from Venice to Sicily. In 2009, Basile led 25 GHS students - shown above - on an exploration of Spain's principal cities and coastal attractions. Next spring they will be visiting France.

GERMAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

For the last four years, students from Frau Colleen Mocer's German class have been hosts to exchange students from Germany and Switzerland during the Fall semester. The German students stay in the homes of GHS students for 10 days. In the Spring, students from GHS are given the same opportunity in Germany, staying at a student's home, site seeing and visiting their host student's school.

In addition, two GHS students will be participating in Rotary International's foreign exchange program for the 2010/11 year. One student is heading to Equador and another to Spain.

GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL

ACADEMICS

Graduation Honors

25% of the classes of 2008 and 2009 graduated "cum laude" (with honors) and 20% of both classes were named to the prestigious National Honor Society.

92% of all graduates last year who had taken at least one Honors/AP class went on to enroll in college full-time. Using this criterion, Gloucester High compares favorably to the very best high schools in the state.

Among these college bound seniors, SAT scores for the classes of 2008, 2009 and 2010 were above the state average in verbal and mathematical aptitude.

12% of Gloucester students opted to take advantage of the four fully-accredited vocational programs at the high school, enabling them to enter a business, trade or technical college following graduation.

Over 400 diverse scholarships were awarded in 2009 at graduation. Dartmouth, Harvard, St. Michael's, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Bausch & Lomb among many other organizations recognized top scholars with awards.

Many Gloucester High School grads in 2008 and 2009 went on to attend elite colleges and universities including Amherst College, Boston College, Boston University, Bowdoin, Colgate University, Dartmouth College, Georgetown University, Glasgow (Scotland), Hofstra, Harvard University, The University of Michigan, Middlebury, MIT, Stanford, The University of Massachusetts at Amherst, The University of Pennsylvania, Tufts, Wellesley, Wesleyan, William and Mary, and The University of Vermont.

College Prep at GHS

Gloucester High School can compete with any private or public high school in the state in terms of the variety and sophistication of its college course offerings. GHS offers 51 Honors and Advanced Placement courses which is more than many public and private schools on Boston's North Shore.

In any given semester, students can take classes in Accounting, Algebra, American Authors, Anatomy, Business Management, Comparative Religions, Computer Art, Drawing, Earth Science, French, German, Geometry, Global Issues, Great Books, Italian, Journalism, Keyboarding, Marine Biology and Aquaculture, Marketing, Mass Media, Ocean Studies, Painting, Pre-Calculus and Calculus, Physical Science, Physiology, Psychology, Robotics, Sociology, Spanish, Trigonometry, Women in Literature, Woman's Issues, and World Regions and Cultures.

Advanced Placement at GHS

The AP program gives students opportunities to take one or more college level courses while they are still in high school and makes them eligible for college credit at colleges and universities. Some students have schedules which revolve around Honors and Advanced Placement classes; others take one or two depending on their skills and interest level. Gloucester High School offers Advanced Placement courses in:

American History	English Language & Literature
Biology	Macro/Micro Economics
Calculus	Physics
Chemistry	Statistics

Transfers Welcome

GHS welcomes transfers from Manchester-Essex, Rockport, St. John's, Bishop Fenwick, Pingree, Waring, and other neighboring high schools. Students searching for the right blend of high powered academics in the arts and sciences, vocational classes and the opportunity to play on a championship team are encouraged to apply. Conor Ressel, a transfer from Rockport, is a perfect example of a successful GHS transfer student. An honors student, he topped the league in yards gained and touchdowns scored in the 2009 football season.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

And the Tony Award Goes to...

Drama Department Director Sophi Hopkins has in recent years transformed Gloucester High's Theater Program into one of the best in the state. This Fall, short plays written and directed by students were performed to sold-out audiences. In June, the students will be performing Meredith Wilson's rousing musical *The Music Man* with sets built by students taking carpentry classes. Ms. Hopkins' thespians will also travel to New York City to see shows, take walking tours and participate in workshops taught by professionals. In an exciting new development, GHS students are offered intern opportunities to work with award-winning actress Heidi Dallin at The Gloucester Stage Company, one of the most prestigious regional theaters in the nation. Students intern in acting, stage & production management as well as set design, thereby providing a unique real-world professional theater experience.

Docksiders at Pearl Harbor

The Gloucester High School jazz band, the *Docksiders*, spent spring break in Hawaii. The 26 talented students who make up the *Docksiders* performed at the Polynesian Cultural Center, the Hard Rock Cafe in Honolulu and aboard the USS Missouri in Pearl Harbor. Band director David Adams was presented with the American flag that flew over the Missouri as a gesture of appreciation for the band's performance that day. This is an honor typically reserved for visiting dignitaries.



Photo by Jeff Tarr

A Surprisingly Great Restaurant

Few parents know that there is a great new restaurant on Cape Ann and it is in the high school. Managed by Patrick Reardon, the Director of the Gloucester High School Culinary Arts Program, students spend the week designing and planning the menu that is prepared and served on Fridays in the GHS Cafe.

Arts are Thriving at Gloucester High

Performing arts, musical arts, visual arts and industrial arts are important components of the curriculum at all Gloucester Schools -- particularly the high school. From our annual "Broadway" production to the acapella group, the marching and jazz band to the Spring Arts Festival featuring students' stage performances, paintings, drawings, photography and pottery; there is a broad range of arts opportunities for every student.

The 2010 Arts Festival featured work by Gloucester High students and was on display throughout downtown Gloucester.



Consider the case of GHS Graduate and Harvard University freshman Courtland Kelly. As a student at GHS, Kelly received the American Vision Award from The Boston Globe for her artistic talent. This prestigious art award was given to only five students in Massachusetts last year. Courtland, a National Honors Student, also served as a GHS Student Council Representative on the School Committee. Nine other GHS students and two Middle school students won prizes as well.

GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL

SCIENCE

Practical Science

EXCITEMENT AT SEA

An exciting collaboration between MIT, the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center, and the Gloucester Educational Foundation has opened new vistas for students, teachers and staff in science, technology, engineering and math. Students and teachers visit MIT and the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center where they are exposed to world-class resources and participate in summer science classes. Last summer, students built remotely operated underwater vehicles and visited the Haystack Observatory in Weston.

MARKETING SCIENCE

The discipline of marketing is quickly moving from an art form where practitioners use their gut and intuition to make business decisions to an emerging science balancing judgement with rigorous analysis of hard data. Students at GHS who participate in the DECA program, led by teacher Ann Grassetti, are learning to apply the principles of this new science and turn them into practical solutions of real-world problems grounded in marketing research. Students compete as individuals and teams. Winners move on to statewide and national competitions.

SEARCH FOR GENETIC "FINGERPRINTS"

Students are being introduced to biotechnology in Eric Leigh's first year biology class. Funded by a BIOTEACH grant from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation, students are able to use the technology seen on the *CSI* television series to study DNA samples. Maybe someday they will use these lessons to solve a crime themselves or find the cause of a disease.

Robots are Climbing the Walls at Gloucester High

Thanks to physics teacher, Kurt Lichtenwald and grants from NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), Bomco, C.B. Fiske, Comcast, and The Gloucester Education Foundation, robotics has become a "white hot" class and popular after school activity at Gloucester High. Robotics is also being used to provide fundamental background in the first year physics curriculum. Students with different academic concentrations from math to physics to automotive maintenance are coming together, in some cases for the first time, to design, build and operate highly sophisticated multi-functional robots. In its first regional competition held at Boston University, The Gloucester team won the prestigious "Judges' Award for Curiosity."

To quote the judges: "The winning team is steeped in robotics. Working with a dedicated teacher-mentor, the students integrated the principles of science with the practice of engineering. The result is an incredible, curiosity-driven program. Taking robotics into their academic curriculum, the students built robots that roll and robots that float, robots that climb stairs, and even a cool robot tow vehicle."

At the recent Home & Garden Show students demonstrated robots that can be used to power wheel chairs for the handicapped. The high schoolers used this robotic technology to tote delighted younger students around the auditorium igniting their interest in this new field. The robotics experience has inspired new paths for some team members, who instead of joining the workforce after high school, now plan on attending college to pursue science and engineering careers.



GHS students searching for genetic fingerprints

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SPORTS HEADLINES

If any high school is better at sports than the Fishermen of Gloucester High, then it's a well kept secret. GHS is arguably the best in the state across a spectrum of different boys and girls' sports. Gloucester High School athletics is particularly appreciative of the Gloucester Fisherman Athletic Association (GFAA), a non-profit that raises money to defray rising student athletic expenses and fees.

GHS Sports in the News



Photo by Marc Vasconcellos/Cape Ann Beacon

GHS WINS SUPERBOWL AGAIN

Coached by Paul Ingram, the "Fighting Fishermen" clinched the title as State Champions in 2009 and earned the elite status of undefeated in regular season play for the third year in a row. In a blinding snowstorm, Gloucester crushed Bridgewater-Raynham in the Division 1A Superbowl played at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, despite being one of the smallest schools enrollment-wise in their division.

A SOCCER POWERHOUSE

Over the past four seasons the GHS soccer team, coached by James Cook, has become a team to beat in New England soccer. In 2006, the Fishermen went 16-3 and won the NEC title for the first time. In 2007 and 2008 they repeated as champions, becoming the first school in the Commonwealth to do this in more than a decade.

The girls' soccer team, coached by Ali White, also showed promise, making it to the State Championships this Fall.

The Greatest Team

The 2009 baseball season ended with many observers commenting that this was the greatest team in city history. Coming into the Division I North state tournament as a number 4 seed, the Fishermen defeated Waltham, Lawrence, and Lincoln-Sudbury. Led by the coaching of Joe Orlando, the amazing pitching of Dylan Maki and the equally amazing batting of senior captain Ryan Cusick, Gloucester went on to defeat the perennial powerhouse St. John's Prep 8-7 in the finals.

Running Past the Competition

The cross country team, coached by David Dunsky and the track and field team, coached by Jim Munn, outdistance all other athletic programs in accomplishments. These programs have won more state titles and graduated more Division I athletes than any other school of our size in the Commonwealth. The trophy case at Gloucester High is a testimony to their accomplishments.

More Championships

Gloucester prowess in sports is not limited to football, soccer, baseball and track. Our field hockey team, coached by Athletic Director Kim Patience, has had 15 state berths in a row, has won 5 NEC titles and has been in Division 1 North State Finals twice. Our girl's basketball teams have been state finalists and have an NEC title. The boys hockey team has won 3 NEC titles in the past 5 years and the State Championship in 2006. The Gloucester High tennis team will be a contender in 2010 while the lacrosse team, under coach Drew Dominick, is overwhelming its competition this year.

The Gloucester High School Community Briefing was created and published by The Gloucester Education Foundation as a public service to inform the Cape Ann community about the offerings, opportunities and accomplishments of our high school. GEF is solely responsible for the bulletin's content. For comments and contributions please contact 978 282-5550 or thinkthebest.org. GEF is a volunteer organization and all funds raised support the Gloucester Public School District. For GHS enrollment information please call 978 281-9870