From the Principal

This year has been a busy one! While we have had some transitions this school year, including transitioning to a 5 period, trimester schedule, a new cell phone rule (of which several area high schools and have asked me about), and more support for Advanced Placement (AP) classes, students at GK continue their tradition of involvement to make the school a great place. Our Band, Choir, Orchestra, and Theater programs all had successful shows in the fall and early winter. We had a great fall sports season, including a deep playoff run for football and a 3rd place state finish for Volleyball.

I know it may be difficult, but I encourage students to think about life after high school. I encourage parents to have conversations with their students about the steps they will need to take to reach their goals. I recommend students visit the Career Center to learn more about their options after high school. We also are continuing our partnership with University of Washington Tacoma through their Pathways to Promise program. This program ensures that Bethel School Districts admission to UWT by meeting the entrance requirements. If you would like more information I would advise visiting the Career Center during lunch time.

Mr. Yarkosky
Principal

ACT Test for All Juniors

This year, Graham Kapowsin High School will be offering ACT testing for free to all juniors. Juniors will be taking the test at Graham Kapowsin High School on February 25th during the school day. Calculators will be provided for each student. All juniors at Graham Kapowsin High School will be scheduled to test on this day. There will be more information in the upcoming weeks about this test.

GK Booster Club

The GK Booster Club is a non-profit organization committed to supporting coaches, students, school clubs and programs at Graham-Kapowsin High School. We encourage anyone interested in supporting GK students to attend one of our meetings on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the GK Career Center. If you have any questions, would like to receive our newsletter, or would like to purchase GK Spirit wear, email us at gkboosterclub@hotmail.com / www.facebook.com/GKBoosterClub/ www.gkbooster.org
Student Transfer Requests for 2020-2021

First consideration **deadline** for accepting student transfer requests for the 2020-21 school year will be **March 6, 2020 for all grades, K through 12**. Requests received after the deadline *may* not be considered until the week of August 24. **Requests submitted after August 24 will be reviewed after September 18 when actual enrollment counts are in.** A student transfer request form may be completed and submitted online from the district’s website beginning January 6, 2020. **All transfer requests for 2020-21 will be done electronically.**

If the request is submitted by **March 6**, parents will be notified by **April 15** if the request has been approved or denied. Approval or denial of transfer requests will be based on established criteria outlined in board policies and procedures 3131 and 3141. **Parents will provide transportation for students who voluntarily attend a school outside their attendance area.** For more information, call Mary Ann Mulloy-White at 800-6012 for secondary or Rayna Messer at 800-6014 for elementary.

Students who are currently approved for in-district student transfers **do not have to** complete a new form unless they are **changing from elementary to middle school or middle school to high school.**

Missing Textbooks & Fines

Many students have fines and missing/overdue textbooks. Students are able to view checked out and overdue books by logging into their “MyBethel” account and selecting the library link. Fines may be paid online by visiting the GKHS website and using the “Pay Online” link. Your student’s seven-digit ID is their “Student Number” and the password is their last name in all caps.

**Please remember, students will not be permitted to attend dances (Senior Prom) or participate in the graduation ceremony until all fines and fees are paid in full.**

Juniors: **NOW is the Time**

Juniors, this message is for you! As we rapidly move toward the end of the school year, it is NOW time for you to start preparing for your senior year and your life beyond graduation. The following are a few things that you might want to start doing NOW:

1. Decide which pathway you want to take after high school: college, military, apprenticeship, work force, etc. There are many different paths. Decide NOW which one you want to take, and make a plan on how to get there.
2. If attending college, identify the characteristics you are looking for in a college NOW. Make a list of colleges that you want to consider attending. Begin making a pros and cons list for each of these colleges; this is a good way to help you narrow your options. You may want to consider doing some college visits during Spring Break.
3. Begin NOW to study and prepare for the SAT and the ACT tests. To sign up for the SAT visit: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). **The ACT will be administered to all Juniors free of charge on February 25th.** To Learn more about the ACT visit: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). Both of these sites have information on how to register for the tests and how to best prepare to take the test. Two other websites that can help you prepare are: [www.majortests.com](http://www.majortests.com) and [www.domesatreview.com](http://www.domesatreview.com). If you plan to attend a four-year college, you will want to sign up to take one of these tests NOW.
4. One of the most important things that you can do NOW is to sign up for senior year classes that will help you to prepare for college. NOW is the time to make sure that you have all you need to meet high school requirements for graduation. NOW is the time to take challenging courses that will prepare you for attending college.
5. You can begin NOW to search for scholarships. Do some research and find out what is available. A website that you might want to sign up for NOW is: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com).
6. For those of you interested in pursuing a career in the military, take some time to investigate each branch and decide which one you want to join. Consider talking with a recruiter NOW in order to gather more information.
7. For those of you who may find yourself to be credit deficient, NOW is the time to take credit retrieval classes. **NOW is the time to make sure that you are also currently passing all of your classes.** There is no time to waste; **NOW is the time!**
Second Trimester

We are finished with one semester and are in the middle of the second. Each student should challenge himself or herself to do better than they did last semester. To be fully prepared for college and life after high school, students should be engaged everyday, both in class and at home, as they prepare for their classes. Students should actively plan their daily schedules around the demands of their coursework. There are many things that a student can do to better their academic standing. Suggestions to improve academically:

- Use Study Support time responsibly. Access teachers for help and use the time to complete homework.
- Complete your assignments on time.
- Review past assignments.
- Practice problems.
- Catch up on reading.
- Read ahead.
- Make flash cards and use them to quiz yourself.
- Treat school like a job.

Remember that just like any job some aspects require more effort than others.

- Ask teachers for help when needed.
- Check Family Access regularly.

Have a great spring trimester!

AP Testing Dates

AP testing will occur May 4-8 & May 11-15. Students who earn a 3 or better may earn college credit.

If your student is currently enrolled in an Advanced Placement class, taking the test is required as part of the class. The Bethel School District is covering the cost of all advanced placement tests for all students. The College Board requires us to order AP exams in October 2019; therefore, any students who do not show up to take their test will be assessed a $40.00 unused test fee. If a student is allowed to drop the course after tests are ordered, the $40.00 fee is still assessed. This fee is waived if a student transfers schools and drops an AP course.

Dress Code Reminder

Just a reminder to parents and students about the GK dress code. Students attending GK are also expected to respect the school community by dressing appropriately for the K-12 educational, professional environment. Student attire should facilitate participation in learning as well as the health, safety, and security of students and the adults who supervise them.

Clothing guidelines: Students are encouraged to demonstrate school pride by including orange and blue in some of their attire (especially on Fridays). Students wearing the following will be addressed and ask to change. A change of clothes will be provided if students do not have access to alternatives.

- Not allowed: bare stomachs/midriffs; excessively short garments or those with slits/holes unreasonably above mid-thigh; see-through apparel; excessively tight garments; excessively low-cut garments; strapless garments; clothing with vulgar, lewd, or inflammatory content.

Head Wear: All headwear (hats, hoods, head coverings, etc.) must be removed upon crossing the threshold of any building, district-wide, and remain out of sight until you exit the threshold at the end of the day. Hats worn or seen in building will be confiscated.

Feet: Footwear must be worn at all times and be appropriate to the activity. Strapless shoes, flip-flops, and high heels are discouraged for safety reasons. Soft soled slippers and house shoes are not allowed.

Other Guidelines: Clothing that promotes drugs, alcohol, tobacco, violence, is sexually suggestive, or displays inappropriate images or writing is prohibited. Any clothing identified as gang-related is prohibited.

More detailed information is available in the student handbook available online at http://www.bethelsd.org/gkhs.
Graduation Information – June 16th, 1:00 PM at the Tacoma Dome

The following page and a half contain important information for the Class of 2020, including information about graduation and graduation requirements. Seniors, make certain you read the information carefully.

Bethel School District Criteria for Walking in Graduation Ceremonies

Students in the Class of 2020 must meet the following four criteria to walk at graduation:

1. Complete REQUIRED 24 CREDITS
2. Complete a CULMINATING PROJECT (Student–Led Conference and Careers Credit)
3. Pay all fines and fees
4. Complete STATE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Cap and Gown Orders

Cap and gown payments are coming due. If you have not already placed your order, contact Rick Morton at Jostens at mortonoffice@jostens.com. Students must have a cap and gown in order to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Tickets

Each graduate who meets the criteria below will be issued five tickets to the graduation ceremony. Students will receive tickets if they:

- have a status that predicts graduation requirements have been met
- have paid all fines and fees owed to the school and the district
- have a cap and gown ordered

Five additional tickets may be available to all seniors who successfully complete requirements ON TIME. More information to come. Tickets will be distributed to seniors the morning of graduation practice on June 15.

Each person who attends the ceremony, with exception of the graduate, must have a ticket – young children and babies count and need tickets.

Additional tickets may be purchased at the ASB office for $5.00 each beginning May 26.

Dress Code for Graduation

All graduates must have a cap and gown.

Gradsuates Should Wear:

- Dresses/Skirts/Dress pants and appropriate dress shoes
- Dress shirts and ties – appropriate slacks and dark dress shoes

Gradsuates May NOT Wear:

- Jeans
- Shorts
- Casual sandals or flip flops
- Tennis shoes or running shoes
- Decorations of any kind with the cap and gown other than medals and honor cords awarded through GKHS. Leis, flowers, sashes, etc. may be worn after the ceremony for pictures with family and friends.

Gradsuates who are dressed inappropriately will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Senior Fines

Seniors, please check and pay your fines at the ASB office or online by visiting the GKHS website and using the “Pay Online” link. (student ID number is their account name and password is last name.) Mrs. Fjeld is available during school hours for you to make payments. You may also check your fine status at the ASB office or online.

Students may not attend prom or walk in graduation, and scholarship transcript requests will not be processed until all fines/fees are paid. This includes AP testing fees.

Take care of your fines early!

Graduation Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 25-27</td>
<td>Spring Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>Senior Awards Night. 6:30pm</td>
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<td>June 6</td>
<td>Senior Prom at Pioneer Park Pavilion, 8pm</td>
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<td>June 12</td>
<td>Seniors Last School Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>Senior Breakfast &amp; Graduation Practice, 8am</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>Graduation – 1:00pm at the Tacoma Dome</td>
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Scholarship Information

For the latest information about scholarships, go to the GK Counseling Center web page. To access the page, log on to www.bethelsd.org/gkhs. Click the “Academics” tab and then “Counseling Center.” Finally click the link on the left titled Scholarships. Apply for the B.E.S.T. Scholarships at www.best.dollarsforscholars.org and click on Students and Parents. These scholarships are local and exclusive to GK students.

Also, check out the “College/Career” tab on the GKHS main page for great post high school assistance and information.

Senior Prom Dress Code

The Senior Prom is coming up 8pm June 6th at the Pioneer Park Pavilion in Puyallup. As seniors make prom dress and attire purchases this spring, please be certain to follow the dance dress code below. If unsure, see an administrator for approval prior to purchase.

Formal Dance Dress Code

- Tuxedo, dress suit or slacks, and dress shoes. No jeans or tennis/athletic shoes.
- Shirts are to be worn at all times.
- Formal dresses or gowns may be strapless or feature spaghetti straps.
- Exposed backs are acceptable; however, bare stomachs or bare midriffs are not permitted.
- Dress shoes or sandals must be worn.
- Undergarments should not be visible. See-through apparel and gowns or dresses with slits that are above mid-thigh are not permitted. Extremely tight or extremely low-cut garments are also unacceptable.

Parent Information about Vaping

“Vaping,” “Juuling,” or smoking via electronic cigarettes is becoming a daily problem among teenagers nationwide. Just do an internet search regarding teenage smoking and most of the articles that pop up will be about the increased number of teens engaging in this behavior. What are parents to do about it? Do you have all the information? The administrative team at GKHS seeks to help inform you and provide additional resources.

Vapes have become much smaller and easier to conceal over the last few years. Vapes that were confiscated two years ago typically included a large battery pack and would have looked like a walkie-talkie in a pocket. Students had much more difficulty concealing these devices. Fast forward to the invention of the Juul, a device that resembles a USB drive and is about the same size. (see photo, next to the pencil). Juul cartridges are pre-loaded with flavor/nicotine and contain the equivalent amount of nicotine as a pack of cigarettes, averaging about 100 “puffs.” These are tiny and easy to conceal; see the photo included for examples of the small parts and size of “pen” style vapes. The pen style vape, in particular, is easily modified to smoke “dabs,” which is a concentrated and sticky form of marijuana.

Looking for more information? Resources? Try these!

- https://www.nbcnews.com/health/kids-health/why-juuling-has-become-nightmare-school-administrators-n860106?cid=related (information specific to the Juul)
- https://publichealthinsider.com/2018/08/14/tips-from-teachers-how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-vaping/ (tips for how to talk to your kids about vaping)
- https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/tobacco-nicotine-e-cigarettes/nicotine-addictive (the truth about nicotine addiction)
- Ask your student about social media – particularly videos they are watching on Instagram (try looking up #vaping and see millions of posts of teenagers vaping) and Snapchat on this topic. These social media giants are perpetuating the problem, and we need your help in combating it, by talking with your kids.
Bethel School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all federal rules and regulations, including Title IX, RCW 28A.640, RCW 28A.642 and Section 504. Bethel does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any disability, or use of a trained service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Contact the Assistant Director of Human Resources at (253) 683-6023 or the Executive Director of Special Services at (253) 683-6921 with any questions or complaints.

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