WILLIAM A. SHINE GREAT NECK SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

341 Lakeville Road, Great Neck, New York 11020

"Our Orange and Blue starts with an Extraordinary You"

Dr. Christopher Gitz, Principal (516) 441-4800 cgitz@greatneck.k12.ny.us

July, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year. I hope that you have had an enjoyable summer and are ready to begin a new school year with renewed enthusiasm for engagement in our school and our community. Our new school motto, "Our Orange and Blue starts with an Extraordinary You" reminds us all to remain focused on being our most extraordinary self in order to be successful academically and socially. I encourage you to keep our motto in mind when you begin the school year. The following information should ease the transition back to school when it opens on **Wednesday**, **September 5**, **2018**. We will follow an "A" Day schedule. In addition, please urge your child to check his/her South High School e-mail account regularly because we send a lot of information to students this way throughout the year. The school e-mail account is the one students should use for anything school and/or college related (Entering 9th graders will sign in to their e-mails in September).

SCHEDULES

Schedules are available in the student portal. If your child does not have a schedule, please contact our Guidance Office (441-4820). We have done our best to provide your child with the courses he/she selected. If there is an error and/or a need to correct the schedule, appointments for schedule changes will be scheduled using the Student Portal on the Great Neck Public Schools website (www.greatneck.k12.ny.us). Directions for requesting an appointment are provided below. Appointments will be 15 minutes in length. Please arrive 10 minutes early so you are assured of having the full time allotted to you. Appointments will be assigned randomly on the dates listed below. In order for this procedure to work, it is crucial that scheduled times be honored. Please stay within your allotted time slot. Schedule changes for grades 9 through 12 will be by appointment only on Monday, August 27th through Thursday, August 30th. There will be no schedule changes the first day of school. While we encourage you to come in person on your assigned date and time, if your appointment is scheduled at a time when you are not in town you can call in from wherever you may be in the world at your designated time. New students only should call the Guidance Office (441-4820) to schedule their appointments.

Below are instructions as to how to request an appointment for a schedule change. Additionally, a link to a video can be found on the South High website to walk you through this process.

Between **Wednesday, August 1**st **through Wednesday, August 15**th, you will log into the Infinite Campus Student Portal. To do this you should:

- Go to the Great Neck Public Schools website and click on "Campus Student Portal" (If parents are doing this for their child, they must be logged in as <u>each child individually</u>).
- You will need your student number in order to log on. You can find your student number on your schedule, as shown below. This information also appears on your Student ID card and report card. The information will appear with the upcoming school year and data.

10-11

William A. Shine - Great Neck South H.S.

341 LAKEVILLE ROAD, GREAT NECK NY 11020
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Student Schedule For South High, Test Student

Grade: 11 Student Number: 990142111

Courses enrolled: 12

Mailing Address: 343 Lakeville Rd., Great Neck, NY 11020

• In the box labeled "User Name", enter your student number.

- Your Password is a combination of the first initials of your first and last name (in lower case) and your birth date expressed by a 2-digit day, month, and year. For example, if your name is Jane Doe, with a birthday of 1/1/94, you will type in "jd010194". Please follow directions above.
- After you have logged in, you will see an Inbox with a "Request Schedule Change Appointment" link.
- When you have clicked on this link, a survey page will appear. Select the reason for the schedule change. Click next page for your confirmation.
- When you have entered all the required information, click "Complete Survey".
- Starting on or about **August 20th**, check the South High website to find out your scheduled appointment time as well as the name of the counselor with whom you will be meeting. Appointments will be listed by student number in numerical order. Your name will not appear on this list.

*Please note that only students with an appointment will be seen and that appointments will be made only through this system (appointments will not be made over the phone). Students will be limited to one appointment per student. Only scheduling related concerns will be addressed.

*All students must be enrolled in at least six credits plus PE each semester. We urge each student to schedule a lunch period each semester, we believe it is important for each student to have time built in to the school day for rest and reflection.

The NYSITELL (New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners) and a math placement test will be administered on Monday, August 27th. Students must arrive at Great Neck South High at 8:00 a.m. and report to the Guidance Office. They will then be taken to the testing room. Test administration will run approximately 3 to 4 hours. Students should call home at the conclusion of test for a ride home. In addition, students should bring a pen and pencil, and water and a small snack to the test. Before leaving the exam, students will receive the date and time for their counselor meeting where they will receive their South High schedule.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

We are very proud of our athletic teams and we urge student participation in them as well as other activities. Student athletes who were not examined by the school physician in June must take a physical examination according to the following schedule. For private doctor physicals, **the doctor must complete all medical information requested, stamp, sign and date**. Submit completed A & B forms to the Nurse's office, by **August 13th**. To get these forms, more information and/or if you have any questions please refer to the South High Athletics and **Nurse's Website**. Also check the Nurse's website for her summer hours.

Monday, August 20, 2018 – 9:00am – East Gym Football Players Monday, August 27, 2018 – 9:00am – East Gym All Other Fall Sports

A copy of the student's schedule must be given to the coach at the first day of tryouts.

SENIOR PORTRAITS

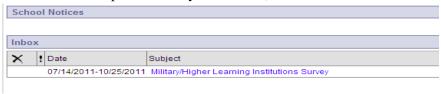
Senior portraits will take place from Monday, August 27th through Thursday, August 30th. Make-up dates will be October 1st, October 2nd, and October 3rd. All seniors will receive an appointment card from Prestige Portraits in the mail two weeks prior to their appointment. Read all instructions carefully. Photos will be taken in the auditorium. If you are not able to make your appointment you might be able to be seen as a walk-in. The Senior Class group photo will be taken on Wednesday, September 12th at 9:30 am. The price for the 2019 Vista Yearbook is \$125.00 plus tax. Payments can be made by credit card online to Jostens by going to the South High School's Homepage and clicking on the Yearbook link. Order your yearbook by November 30th online and personalize your child's cover with his/her name for only \$7.00 extra. Payments can also be made by check or cash. Bring checks, payable to Vista, or cash to the library.

SENIOR DRIVING AND PARKING

Senior Parking is a privilege reserved for those seniors with good attendance and behavior. Please note that parking is limited and carpools are given priority. Only authorized Seniors are permitted to drive on campus. Students cannot drive to school with a junior license. All Seniors who wish to register for parking permits must attend a required informational 1st quarter parking meeting on Thursday, September 6th at 2:45 p.m. in the auditorium. The annual Driving Safety Meeting for seniors and juniors and their parents will be held on Tuesday, September 4th at 7:45 a.m. in the auditorium. We remind you that all students, except for approved Seniors are not allowed to drive on campus. Please check the Driving page of the dean's web site for more information.

RELEASE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION FOR GRADES 11 & 12

Section 9528 of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act, requires our School District to provide the names, addresses and telephone numbers of our secondary school students to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, upon their request. However, that law also gives you the right to request that such information not be released without our first receiving written parental consent that we do so. We have provided a survey through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal which allows you to respond to this question. Simply log on to the Parent Portal. You will see a link in your Inbox below School Notices titled "Military/Higher Learning Institutions Survey" as shown below. Click the link and follow directions. Alternately, you can download and print the form available on the South High School website. It can be found under the Quick Links tab in Letters from the Principal. Complete this form and return it to the Principal's office by October 19, 2018.



STUDENT I.D. PICTURES – Grades 9-11

Students in grades 9-11 will be called from Social Studies classes on **Wednesday**, **September 12**th **and Thursday**, **September 13**th for student I.D. cards and also as part of the P.T.O. picture day. A flyer will be sent in a separate mailing. **Make-up** day will be **Friday**, **October 26**th.

OPEN HOUSE

This year Open House will be held on **Thursday, September 27th at 7:00 p.m.** We are hoping that you will join us that evening and meet your child's teachers. Please try to arrive early and to carpool if possible, as parking is at a premium. Parents will follow an abbreviated version of their child's program. An important ENL meeting will take place prior to Open House, at 5:45pm in room 210.

PARENTAL INQUIRIES

Parental inquiries regarding student performance in class are always welcome. Often conversations between parents and teachers are the most effective way of helping a student optimizes her/his success. Call the Main Office (441-4800) with your request to contact a teacher. The department heads are also available to answer any departmental question, or to deal with unresolved concerns that you might have with an individual teacher.

Please notify the department head by phone or e-mail if your attempts to reach a faculty member have not been successful. If you have e-mailed a faculty member and not heard back after a couple of days, please call the Main Office and leave a message.

Your child's guidance counselor is here to support your child and is available to answer any concern, personal or educational. The two assistant principals can help you with almost any aspect of your child's experience at South. Please feel free to contact them (441-4800). Mrs. Sharon Applebaum works with students A through K, and Mr. John Duggan works with students L through Z. All questions regarding extracurricular activities and use of school facilities should be directed to our Dean Mr. Peter Gottfried (441-4805). Contacting the right person will lead to a more speedy resolution.

PARENT PORTAL

Information regarding your child's grades, health history, attendance, etc. is available through the parent portal. You can inform us about absences or early dismissal, through the parent portal as well. Students have their own limited portal so please update your parent password and keep it private.

COURSE EXPECTATION SHEETS

Course Expectation Sheets will be available online for each course in which a student is enrolled. Parents are expected and encouraged to review these sheets so that they are aware of their child's responsibilities for each course and can support them in their efforts. These will also be available to parents at Open House.

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION

We encourage all parents to pay their PTO dues of \$25 per family. The PTO is a vital part of our school community and contributes money to pay for many important programs that enhance our students' education and overall high school experience. You can pay your dues online with a credit card, debit card or PayPal account at gnshs-ptsa.org. That website will give you more information about how you can get involved and what the PTO does for our school.

SECURITY

It is essential that students feel safe within the school building. It is for this reason that students are urged **NOT** to bring valuables or large amounts of cash to school. Students are urged to maintain strict security of their locker combinations; this information should not be shared with anyone. Very often students give the combination to friends. This immediately breaks down the security of the lockers. Students should also try the lock to make sure that it is secured and the locker door is completely shut. In spot checks, we discover many lockers left open. Students must have their personal belongings with them when they are not locked up. Please remind your child that he/she should be aware of his belongings at all times. Ideally, no one would take something that is not theirs. However, unattended valuables can sometimes serve as a temptation.

Students who bring valuables to school for a specific reason are encouraged to bring them to the Main Office for proper security in our safe. This may include items such as cameras, musical instruments, money, sporting equipment or whatever else the students deem valuable. Calculators should have a student name on it. While cell phones are allowed in school, they should only be used as directed by the teacher in class.

Also, we ask that parents dropping students off at school take the time and care to let their children off at the curb. Please do not double park and/or let passengers out beside another car, as this is extremely dangerous.

I am very excited for the 2018-2019 school year to begin. We are committed to doing everything we can to continue to meet the needs of all of our students. I look forward to our collaboration in that effort. Please take a moment to look at our South High Calendar on the South High School website under the Calendars tab. It will give you an understanding of all the events going on at school. We urge you to participate in our events with your child.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher Gitz

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Principal

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IMPORTANT DATES -- PLEASE SAVE

Monday, August 27 th – Thursday, August 30 th	Grade 12 Yearbook Portraits by appointment only. Students will receive a mailing from the photo company with details.
Tuesday, September 4 th	Driver Safety Meeting for Grade 11 and Grade 12 Students and their Parents – 7:45 a.m.
Tuesday, September 4 th	Grade 9 Student Orientation – 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 5 th	1 st Day of School
Thursday, September 6 th	1 st Quarter Parking Meeting for Grade 12 Students – 2:45 p.m.
Friday, September 7 th	Clubs & Activities Fair – 2:15 p.m.
Wednesday, September 12 th	Senior Class Photo – 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, September 12 th – Thursday, September 13 th	Photo Day for Grades 9-11. Photos taken for Student I.D. Cards.
Thursday, September 13 th	Grade 12 College & Financial Aid Night for Students and Parents – 6:00 p.m.*
Monday, September 17 th	Grade 9 Parent Meeting – 7:15 p.m.* P.T.O. Meeting – 8:00 p.m.*
Thursday, September 27 th	ENL Parent Information Session – 5:45 p.m. Open House for Parents – 7:00 p.m.

^{*} Translators will be available