

GONZAGA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

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OFFICE OF
THE HEADMASTER

AMDG

July 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that rest and relaxation are on the docket for these summer months and that you and your sons find some relief and respite from the hectic pace of the academic year. Life on Eye Street is as vibrant as ever. Summer service trips, the alumni Father-Son Irish Trip, the Summer Learning Program and summer athletic camps are either already complete or in full swing. We are eagerly awaiting and preparing for the return of students in August and for our newest students, freshmen and transfers alike, to officially join us.

Next academic year promises to be a busy and exciting one at Gonzaga. As a faculty and staff, we'll be tackling some issues that have arisen over the past few years. First, we all want to improve classroom attendance. Students already miss class for important Gonzaga activities such as retreats, service, field trips and athletics. Couple that with the number of times an average teenager is sick each year and one reaches the ten-absence mark fairly quickly. We need the cooperation of parents in making sure their sons are in school, when healthy, each and every school day. For whatever reason, we have seen a more cavalier approach to absences in the past few years. We wish to foster the awareness that attendance is important for issues beyond mere mastery of content or any grade, that presence in class is also a gift to other students, and that we learn best as a community.

We'll also be taking a critical look at "grading" at Gonzaga. Asking ourselves such questions as: Do our tests and quizzes measure what we intend them to measure? Are we using sufficient formative assessments throughout the curriculum as opposed to purely summative assessments? Are our grades reflective of what our students learn or are we merely reporting how well they can perform on tests?

Lastly, we'll be discussing how to better facilitate the academic schedule during AP exam weeks. In a testament to the hard work of all of our teachers in preparing our students for the next level, we have seen a 33% rise in AP participation in the last 8 years. Now, just about 50% of all students take at least one AP course. Because of that, we may be reaching the tipping point where running the standard schedule during AP weeks is impractical.

Gonzaga, like any good institution, is a work in progress. Through the models of discernment and reflection provided us by St. Ignatius, Gonzaga will always be a place full of *contemplatives in action*. We invite you to share in our communal discernment as we best decide how to address these and other important issues.

As always, in the pages that follow you will find critical information from many offices around the school.

I look forward to another wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Thomas K. Every II
Headmaster

Welcome

I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to the outstanding young men who now make up the Bicentennial Class of 2021 and to the new students who are transferring to Gonzaga. Please join me in welcoming them to the Gonzaga community. All students and parents new to Gonzaga this year are invited to a welcome picnic (see enclosed flyer) on Tuesday evening, August 22. I hope to see you there!

General Information

Enclosed with this newsletter, you will find:

- A school calendar for the 2017-18 academic year
- A school telephone directory
- A student planner/ *Student-Parent Handbook*
- Various important announcements and flyers

Students, parents, and guardians are required to acknowledge that they have read the *Gonzaga Student-Parent Handbook*. **The acknowledgement form for parents and guardians will be completed via Gonzaga's new website and should be done by August 11, 2017.** You will receive an email during the summer explaining how to log into the new website and that the acknowledgement form is ready for use. Students will sign an acknowledgement form in their homerooms at the conclusion of the first week of school. Please spend time this summer reading and familiarizing yourself and your son with the *Gonzaga Student-Parent Handbook*, which is also available on Gonzaga's website under Campus Life.

For returning students, class schedules can be found on NetCommunity beginning on June 19, 2017. Incoming students will be able to access class schedules when Gonzaga's new website launches on July 18, 2017. Instructions on how to log into the new website and access schedules will be provided later this summer.

This newsletter contains a detailed listing of upcoming events and dates. Please note that student orientation begins Tuesday, August 22, and classes begin Thursday, August 24. Detailed orientation schedules will be emailed to families prior to the start of school. Normal school dress code (collared shirt, dress pants, shoes, socks, and belt) will be in effect during the orientation days. For more complete listings of activities and events around school, please regularly consult the calendar posted on the school website. Beginning in August, athletic and other event schedules are updated on a weekly basis.

A Note from the Admissions Office for New Students:

The Gonzaga community eagerly anticipates our new students joining us in the fall! As per the acceptance letter received by each student, registration is not complete until Gonzaga receives your son's final official transcript from his previous school. Parents should make this request directly to the previous school. The school then should send the transcript directly to the Office of Admissions at Gonzaga. A Transcript Request Form was in each acceptance packet, but if you need a new form, or if you have questions, please contact the Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, Mr. Andrew Battaile, at (202) 336-7101 or abattaile@gonzaga.org.

Academics

Check your son's class schedule. If any student has questions or concerns, he can contact Mr. Michael Howell, the Academic Dean at (202) 336-7166. Please do so before the end of July.

Summer reading tests this year will be administered in each respective class during the first week of school. Students should have their reading complete before classes begin. Reading lists and study guides are available on the school website. Please be alert to the importance of these tests in getting the year off to a good start. Academic deficiencies in the first quarter can sometimes be linked to failing grades on the summer reading.

Faculty and Staff News

It is said that Gonzaga never sleeps, even in the summer. Teachers continue their studies toward a Master's degree: Mr. Paul Buckley (NC State), Mrs. Maureen Garvis (UMUC), and Mr. Devon Leary (UVA). Ms. Rose Eberhardt will study the Harkness discussion technique at the Phillips Exeter Humanities Institute in New Hampshire. Mr. Allan L'Etoile will participate in a week-long AP English Literature seminar while Mr. Luis Chaffo attends one in AP Spanish Literature. Mr. Brandon Cowan will study best practices in teaching Latin at the American Classical Leagues' summer seminar in Hamilton, Ohio. Ms. Shelly Farace (formerly Pate) will study leather-working and book-making at the Savannah College of Art and Design. Lastly, Ms. Peggy Metcalf and Mr. Joe Viola will attend the Advanced Placement Annual Conference held in Washington, D.C. this year.

I am also pleased to introduce the newest members of the Gonzaga faculty and staff: Ms. Zane Cribbs (Assistant Athletic Trainer), Mr. Daniel Freedberg (Science), Ms. Teresa Clancy Jackson (English), Ms. Larissa Jakubow (Learning Specialist), Ms. Acacia Komelasky (Spanish), Mr. Matthew Lopez, S.J. (Religion/Campus Ministry) and Mr. Jonathan Spencer (Assistant Educational Technologist).

Working in the Alumni Service Corps this year are three Gonzaga alumni and recent college graduates, Mr. Aaron Clark '13, Mr. Michael Hickey '13, and Mr. Andrew Wood '13. We welcome them to Eye Street and wish them a successful year.

Books

You can purchase your textbooks online from efollett.com, our textbook vendor again this year. Textbooks will become available on July 20, 2017. Simply follow the link on Gonzaga's website or point your browser to www.efollett.com and follow the links to the Gonzaga section. The whole process takes 15 to 20 minutes, and you will need a major credit card. Do not wait until school has started to obtain your books; order them early and come to school prepared. A few texts and workbooks are published by Gonzaga and may be purchased through the Gonzaga Bookstore. Please note that the school store maintains limited hours during the summer. Call ahead if you have questions (202) 370-5350.

Gonzaga Dramatic Association

This fall the Gonzaga Dramatic Association will be performing the Kaufman and Hart comedy classic, *You Can't Take It With You*. Auditions will take place during the week of September 5 - 8. Performances will be November 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11. If you are interested in auditioning for the show or being a part of the stage crew, please email Mrs Meghan Goldsmith at mgoldsmith@gonzaga.org.

Gonzaga Poets & Writers

Gonzaga Poets & Writers finished last school year with several activities. A group of nine Gonzaga poets went to Malcolm X Elementary School in Washington, D.C. to conduct a poetry workshop for a fifth grade class. They had a great time and the fifth graders did too. You can read an article about it

in the last issue of The Aquillian. The annual Senior Slam was held on May 11 and 20 seniors read their poetry and "signed the banner" in Kohlmann Hall, Room 22, as poets before them have done. Two Gonzaga seniors were honored at our Charter Day celebration by winning the Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ Poetry Award: Deion Williams and Jirhe Love. These two poets wrote strong work all year.

When we come back to school in August, Gonzaga Poets & Writers will continue to meet every Thursday at 3pm. They discuss poetry, review their own work, and plan poetry events for the school. All are welcome to the meetings!

Campus Ministry

Attention parents of all *seniors*: To graduate, each senior is required to complete 20 hours of community service during the summer following his junior year and then twenty more during his senior academic year. Your son has already received a summer service packet explaining how the hours can be acquired and a listing of some local service sites in the metropolitan area. This service should be offered in support of the poor and/or marginalized (i.e. elderly, sick or hospitalized, disabled, or homebound). It is the student's responsibility to make the contact with the service sites in order to set up a volunteer schedule. Students who have questions concerning their summer service requirement should consult the Class of 2018 Canvas page and open the link for Summer Service Requirements. This link furnishes all related materials necessary before beginning any service. These are essential to finding acceptable service sites, and that will guide each senior as they prepare to complete their summer reflection essays.

At the start of next year, seniors who have not made a Kairos retreat are encouraged to sign up for the first fall retreat that will be offered Tuesday, October 24 to Friday, October 27. Applications are due well in advance of the retreat and will be made available to seniors in August. Several new initiatives will be offered to Kairos alumni, seniors and juniors, with the hope of helping this group bring the retreat home. News of these initiatives will be available in the fall. Juniors, when they receive the school calendar, should begin to evaluate when in the year is most suited to their making the Kairos retreat by considering their course work, team schedules, and other extracurricular commitments. Sophomores will make their retreat in the fall according to a schedule organized by homeroom; this schedule is also posted on the Campus Ministry Retreat site.

Our annual freshman retreat will be held over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend in January. The freshmen arrive on campus by noon on Friday, January 12, and retreat activities continue through mid-day on Sunday, January 14. This retreat is designed for the entire freshman class and is a mandatory part of Gonzaga's curriculum. Parents of freshmen, please mark your calendars now to avoid a scheduling conflict.

Campus Ministry and the Modern and Classic Languages Department aim to make available the Camino de Santiago independent tutorial to interested students for a third year. The course will meet twice a week before school during the second semester, include making 100 kilometers of the pilgrimage in Spain over spring break, and culminate in a small course project bringing the fruits of the trip back to Eye Street. Students learn about the history of this pilgrimage, make their own, and have a rich encounter with Ignatian spirituality. The approximate cost is \$2000. If your son is a Junior or Senior and is interested in this independent tutorial please contact the instructors, Mr. Szolosi

(sszolosi@gonzaga.org), Director of Campus Ministry, or Mr. Ariel Laguilles (alaguilles@gonzaga.org), Chair of Modern and Classic Languages.

Counseling Notes

If your rising junior/senior son was evaluated for a learning difference during the summer months and qualifies for testing accommodations, please send a full copy of the evaluation to your son's Counselor as soon as school begins, preferably by August 21.

If you are looking for some summer reading related to parenting and teenagers -- here is what some of the Counselors have read in the last few years:

Masterminds and Wingmen by Rosalind Wiseman

The Broken Compass by Keith Robinson and Angel L. Harris

Boys Adrift By Leonard Sax, M.D., Ph.D.

Snooze... or Lose!: 10 "No-War" Ways to Improve Your Teen's Sleep Habits by Dr. Helene A. Emsellem, M.D. and Carol Whiteley

Brainstorm: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain by Daniel J. Siegel, M.D.

The Gonzaga Library... more than just books!

Our librarians, Ms. Patty Tobin and Mrs. Pam Valeiras, welcome all new and returning students! The library is located on the 2nd floor of Dooley Hall, just above the chapel. The official hours are 7:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Thursday and 7:00am to 3:00pm on Friday; however, on most days, the library is open by 6:00am for students to relax, study quietly or take a nap.

Mark your calendars now for the following first quarter Library Special Events:

- **Ping-Pong Tournament:** September 13, 14, and 15 (during long lunch periods)
- **Movember Speaker Series** (*focuses on Men's health issues*): November 6, 7, and 8 (during long lunch periods)
- **Chess Tournament** (all levels welcome!): November 17, 20, and 21 (during long lunch periods)

Freshman parents, please encourage your sons to sign up for these activities. It's a great way for your son to get involved and meet new friends and faculty. The library also sponsors a vibrant student-run **Book Club**. Students should contact Mrs. Valeiras (pvaleiras@gonzaga.org) to join.

The library stays open late for **Back-to-School Night** and **Parent-Teacher Conferences**. In addition to teaching the freshman library curriculum and assisting with various class research projects, the librarians are available to help students with all of their school-related needs.

The library's unique collection includes: formal dress clothing, sports equipment, calculators, various computer and phone chargers and other miscellaneous items in addition to books, DVDs, magazines and databases. The library offers computers, copiers and a printer for students use.

Whatever your son's needs, tell him to "Just Ask a Librarian!"

Students can learn more about the library through their Library Canvas Course. Be sure to check out our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter @GZlibrary

Athletics

Congratulations to the following athletes who received All-Met honors from the Washington Post this spring:

Baseball

Honorable Mention: Teddy Blumenauer, Will Thomas

Crew

1st Team: Richard Hrdy, Joe Johnson

Best Boats: First Eight, Second Eight, Light Eight

Honorable Mention: Jack Kiyonaga, Stephen Ponticello, Thomas Vasquez

Golf

Player of the Year: Teddy Zinsner

1st Team: Pudge Williams

Honorable Mention: Matt Barnes, Pieter DeGroot

Lacrosse

1st Team: Brian Townsend

2nd Team: Jack Myers, Will Rock

Honorable Mention: Ben Finlay

Tennis

Honorable Mention: Sal Simpson

Track

Honorable Mention: Harry Monroe

The *Fencing Club* is proud to announce that Bryan Walther (11') will replace Coach Frank Kelley as he retires as head coach. Bryan has fenced épée for nine years between Gonzaga and Xavier University. He became the first captain of the Gonzaga College High School Fencing Club. At Xavier University, he served as President of the Fencing Club his Sophomore and Junior years. He notably led the Xavier's Men's Epee team to an 8th place finish as their captain, and finished in the top 16 individually in the 2016 Midwestern Conference Championships. Welcome, Coach Bryan!