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GIRLS ATHLETIC LEADERSHIP SCHOOLS

A Note from Executive Director, Carol Bowar:

Hello GALS Families!

Welcome to Winter! Kicking off the second semester at GALS always brings a deeper sense of community, engagement in subject areas, and development of friendships. Our students in middle level and high school to some extent may start to work on autopilot for school routines, but they have a deeper sense of who they are, and are more comfortable in their skin and actions.

At this time, the skills, habits and values your student develops and nurtures will have a critical lifelong influence toward a successful and healthy future. These are the times where a really engaged home life can critically support the success of students both academically, and personally.

As our second round of conferences approach (February 14-15), take the time to ask simple questions about what your student is learning, how they feel they are doing in classes, what is easy and what is hard, why they think they are learning what they are learning...this engagement and interest in their learning can be such a boost to their determination, critical thinking, and success. If you can, take the time to celebrate the growth and change in your students; academically, physically, personally...we all only get to have one adolescence, let's make it a great and positively memorable journey!

With Warmest Regards,
Carol

Parents and Families!
Please consider joining us for our GALS Denver Learning Energized Luncheon, February 26, 2019 from 11:30 - 1:30 at the Seawell Ballroom.

GALS News

Below are announcements broken out specifically for middle/high school followed by news for all grades!

Announcements for Middle School Families:

Shakespeare: LAST CHANCE TO JOIN SHAKESPEARE IS THIS WEEK! There is still room in the after school theatre class for interested students! There are two separate classes, so you can take your pick between Tuesday or Thursday. Mr. Benson is taking students to the Shakespeare Festival in April, and will continue the adventure in improv for the remainder of the semester. Get your sign-up sheet and details from the front office.

Dress Code: Please be sure to check your middle school student for dress code on the way out of the house in the mornings! As a reminder, students should be wearing all GALS on top (including sweatshirts, hoodies, and jackets), athletic bottoms (no writing larger than a name tag), and sneakers. As the weather gets colder, students may wear boots, jackets, hats, scarves, etc. to school but must have dress code gear to change into once they get to school.

Cell Phone Policy: As a reminder, we are continuing our cell phone policy of having phones turned in every morning. We did that all last quarter and many students did such a beautiful job of following the process. Per GALS policy, we have always said that phones need to be off and put away. With our new policy, we believe that phones are actually SAFER given that they are locked away in the Dean's office all day. In order to celebrate the students who have been consistently meeting expectations, we will start doing biweekly dress down days for the wellness squads who have the greatest percentage of phones turned in. We recognize that not all students have phones and would never punish a student for not having a phone to turn in, so we will be looking at percentages to determine which wellness squad has the greatest numbers of phones being turned in.

Announcements for High School Families:

HS Conferences: Winter Conferences are coming up! Please sign up for a time through our electronic sign up. Winter Conferences start Wednesday, February 13 after school dismisses and run through Friday, February 15th. We dismiss at noon on Thursday, the 14th and there is no school Friday. [Click here](#) for English sign-up and [here](#) for Spanish.

GALS Improv: Calling all audiences! It's time for our GALS High School improv troupe, D3, to perform for you again. Curtain goes up at 6:30 pm on Thursday February 7 and Friday February 8. "Derek and the Eight Addictions" will only be here these two nights, so don't miss out. Come both nights for the full experience; general admission tickets are just \$5 and students get in for \$2! Family friendly for ages 8 and above. Younger kiddos also welcome.

PSAT & SAT: We held our 2nd PSAT & SAT Practice Exam this Wednesday, the 30th. Reminder that the PSAT & SAT Practice Challenge is on! We are encouraging students to practice on Khan Academy at least 1 hour outside of school each week until the week after spring break. Practice helps you get better! Students are also practicing at school but the more practice, the better.

Announcements for ALL families

Feeding the teachers! As promised last week-we are sending along the link for signing up to help feed the teachers during conference days which are very demanding for them (2/13-15). There are many options for what you might bring and if you are short on time, you could also just donate some money to the cause through this pay-pal link: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=V7NGDX8AN93T8

Here is the link that connects you to the online sign up: <http://signup.com/go/nEVrWvD>
If you have any questions, please reach out to Jen Derosby at jennifer.derosby@galsdenver.org

Thank you so much for your support!

Tours of our new building! Please plan on staying for an extra few minutes at the end of your conference hour next week! We will be offering student and staff led tours through our new space with special attention to how we are using our new space to enhance our programs in both the middle and high schools. It won't take long and will be very informative. Questions: reach out to Jen Derosby at jennifer.derosby@galsdenver.org.

School Closure Due to Emergencies or Bad Weather: This is a reminder that GALS will always align with DPS for emergency or snow day closures. If DPS closes due to bad weather, GALS/The Boys School will also be closed. Under certain circumstances, GALS/The Boys School may decide to close when DPS doesn't, but we will always notify families prior to 6:30am

if that happens. It is best practice to monitor the local news stations for school closures when the weather is bad.

GALS Support: We are looking for laundry support for some of our GALS families in need. If you are interested in donating laundry services (monetary or gift card) or detergent and dryer sheets, please reach out to Amber Brydon, School Psychologist at amber.brydon@galsdenver.org or call 303-282-6437 x115.

Luncheon: Each year we have a large fundraiser luncheon (700+ in attendance last year!) in February to raise money for GALS and BOYS Denver. [Click here](#) for more information and/or to buy a ticket!

Intent-to-Return Forms: We will soon be asking all families to complete an 'intent to return' form to understand if you intend to return to GALS for the 2019-2020 school year. Knowing ahead of time helps us with budgeting, scheduling, and planning. Thanks in advance for your help!

Student Safety around morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up: The safety of our students is very important to us at GALS! Dropoff and Pickup will continue to be on Fox and Galapago using the same entrances we've used in the past.

Students will not be allowed to enter the building before 7:40am, and may not stay after dismissal unless they are enrolled in an afterschool activity. We will use our discretion when it's below freezing to allow students into the building before 7:40am. However, no students will be allowed to enter the building (regardless of the weather) until the office opens at 7:30am. Students may not be unsupervised in our building at anytime before or after school. Please see Dismissal and School Hours Policies below.

2018-2019 Dismissal Policy - Reminder: For the 2018-2019 school year, the Girls Athletic Leadership Schools will dismiss all students at 3:50 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. After-school activities dismiss at 5:00pm. On Wednesday, school is dismissed at 1:45 p.m. After-school activities dismiss at 4:00 p.m. If your student is not picked up within 15 minutes of dismissal, the Girls Athletic Leadership Schools cannot assure ongoing supervision of students, undertakes no responsibility for after-hours supervision of students, and will have no costs or liability arising from events that may occur as a result of lack of supervision. However, students will be held accountable for their behavior.

Students who have not been picked up after regular dismissal by 4:00pm; or after after-school activities by 5:15pm (MTThF) or by 4:15pm (W); may go to the Boys and Girls Club located at 808 Inca St. for homework help and quiet reading time. Students may also walk individually to the Byers Branch Public Library at 7th and Santa Fe. Staff members are not responsible for drop off at the library or Boys and Girls Club.

Supervision is only assured until 4:00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 1:55 p.m. on Wednesday. If an employee of Girls Athletic Leadership Schools elects to remain with a student past the 15 minute window for pickup that does not reflect a practice of the School and does not guarantee that supervision will be provided on any future occasion. Your child's safety is in your responsibility, beginning 15 minutes after the end of their daily schedule at GALS.

School Hours - Reminder: GALS' academic school day begins promptly at 8:00am with a rolling drop-off beginning at 7:40am. Students will not be supervised, nor will the building be open to students until 7:40. Students will need to remain outside of the building until GALS' staff open the doors. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, school ends at 3:50pm. Wednesdays are early release days, and students are finished with school at 1:45pm. Please note that students will be engaged in learning activities until the end of their school day, and it is of the utmost importance that they are in school, on time, all day, every day.

Street Smarts: We would also like to remind you to please emphasize to your student(s) the importance of the use of crosswalks when walking to school in the mornings or leaving the building after school. Please drop off and pick up on the north bound sidewalk of Galapago Street, or the south bound sidewalk of Fox Street. Avoid dropping off or picking up in the opposite lanes and having student(s) cross in the middle of these busy streets. We will do our best to encourage students to use the crosswalks, but your support with getting this message across is crucial.

Lost & Found: The GALS lost & found is in the bathroom of the nurse's station right off the front office. Some teachers keep a lost and found bin in their classrooms with the hope that students are more likely to look in some place they visit daily. Lost jewelry, glasses or other items of value are held by front office staff in a more secure location. The lost & found already has stuff in it - including binders, pencil cases and clothes. As we approach cooler weather, the lost & found becomes overwhelmingly full quickly. The school policy at these times is to remind girls to check it because unclaimed items are taken away at the end of each week. Dress code worthy items are put into the dress code bins. Other items are donated to charity. The kind parent who

tries to help us stay on top of lost & found does try to hold onto more valuable coats for longer, but eventually her house gets full too.

Please put your students' name in items of value. We do try to look for names. Please be aware that even sharpie can bleed and fade and sometimes names are not legible. We do feel it is the student's responsibility to try to find their gear. Parents are always welcome to come dig through the lost & found bin or ask about a specific item. We cannot take responsibility for finding the owner of unclaimed items. Thanks for your support!

Upcoming Events

2/13-2/15: Parent/Teacher Conferences

2/26: GALS Luncheon 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

GALS Denver | 303-282-6437 | [Email Us](#) | [Website](#)

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