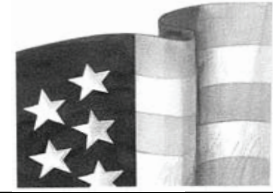




PTSA
everychild.onevoice.

Sept. 2010

Gavit Middle/High School
PTSA Monthly Newsletter
1670 175th Street
Hammond, IN 46324
219-989-7328



God Bless America

<http://www.gavitptsa.org>

Gavit News

From the Principal:

I would like to welcome you to another school year. This is the year where we raise the bar even higher. Our expectations for attendance, behavior, and academics have always been high. However, this year we will expect bigger and better things from our kids. As the world becomes a more competitive place, we need to meet these challenges by preparing our students. Over the past couple of years we have challenged our kids to get involved with school and activities so they can take ownership and develop a sense of pride, and I am very proud of how they've responded. This year we're raising the bar higher, and we fully expect our kids to accept this new challenge. It's our goal to expect the very best from our students, and it's our responsibility as parents and educators to assist them as they prepare for their future.

To illustrate some of our higher expectations for the 2010-2011 school year, we will be offering more Advanced Placement courses. We will be launching a Work Ethic program to help prepare students enter the world of work. This year we will implement an expectation of Good Standing in order to be eligible to participate in our extracurricular activities. In addition to these higher standards we will continue to provide opportunities for students to get involved. Whether through clubs, athletics, or arts there's room for everyone.

Last year we saw gains in our ISTEP tests. This is very encouraging, but we can do even better. We will continue to see academic gains through our 6+1 Writing and Plugged Into Reading Programs. This year at the middle school we will utilize a highly successful diagnostic assessment tool called Acuity. Acuity is an online assessment created by the authors of the ISTEP test. As we measure the academic growth of our kids, teachers will receive instant feedback that will measure the effectiveness of

IMPORTANT DATES

- Sept 6**—Enjoy your Labor Day Holiday
- Sept 7 Ice Cream Meet & Greet** PTSA Meeting. 6:30 in café.
- Sept 14** Market Day Sale (orders due by Noon Sept 10)
- Sept. 13-17** Homecoming Week
- Sept 17** Homecoming Game
- Sept. 23** Open House/Back to School night 6-8 p.m.
- Oct. 8** First grading period ends
- Oct. 28-29** Fall Break (no school)
- Nov. 9** 6:30 pm, Café, PTSA Program TBA
- Nov. 23** Second grading period ends/end of term
- Nov 24** Teacher Work day (Students off)
- Nov. 25-26** Thanksgiving (no school)

Join PTSA!

[Find us on Facebook!](#)
Gavit MS/HS PTSA

their lessons and student weaknesses can be addressed right away. Being that Acuity is research based and so well correlated to the ISTEP test, we are excited to use this tool to improve our academic program.

I hope you are as excited about the new year as I am. Good things happened last year, and I expect good things for this year. Let's build upon that momentum and continue to move forward. Join us by becoming involved. Take ownership in the decisions that you make today, and understand the impact they will have in your future.

Steven R. Peterson, Principal

Gavit Middle/High School



My name is Susan Taylor and I am your new Gavit PTSA President. I cannot believe that summer is over and the school year has begun. I am very excited to tell you that on the first day of school we were already over one hundred members strong. We talked to many students and parents during registration days and at the first football game and many joined.

Our first meeting is Sept. 7 @ 6:30PM in the Cafeteria. We are having an ice cream social. We hope you will come, enjoy ice cream and learn more about PTSA. Last year we helped Gavit Student organizations raise funds for activities and hope to do the same this year. Our organization speaks out for the rights of children and does great things. We hope that you will come and help support our school and our organization.

I am pleased to announce that Mr. Peterson has granted TWO jean days to PTSA student members. I hope that more students will join this year. PTSA is only strong when we have members. All Gavit students may join as well as parents, family, and friends. I hope to see you all at our meeting and Open House. I welcome your input. Please feel free to email me at president@gavitptsa.org.

Susan Taylor

Gavit PTSA President

Useful websites

School City: <http://hammond.k12.in.us/>

Gavit MS/HS: <http://www.hammond.k12.in.us/GavitHS/>

Gavit PTSA: <http://www.gavitptsa.org>

National PTA: <http://www.pta.org>

STI HomePlus (password required, contact the school): <http://hammond.k12.in.us/stihomeplus.htm>

21st Century Scholars: <http://www.scholarsparents.info>

College Bound: <http://collegebound.gohammond.com/>

ATTENTION: Our new nurse: Sarah Dumbauld is requesting some help from our parents who have time during school hours. She needs us for Health Screenings this month. Please contact her if you can help by phone, 989-7328 Ext. 1305 or email: SCDumbauld@hammond.k12.in.us Thanks.

IMPORTANT TEST DATES

GQE Retest (11th & 12th graders) - Sept 14-16

PSAT (all 10th graders) - Oct. 14

ISTEP+ Writing Exams Begin February 28

GQE Retest March 8-10

ISTEP+ Writing Exams End March 9

Parents of

Juniors & Seniors

Please ask your student if he/she is eligible for the 2011 PTSA Scholarship. Eligibility includes being a member of the PTSA for a minimum of their Junior and Senior years; volunteering in a group outside of school (church, city or YMCA etc.) **and** being part of service activities with a school organization; maintaining a "c" average; and attending a college or vocational school. Please see Mrs. Bolger or contact the PTSA with any questions.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please read the Flyer inserted in this newsletter as the information is very important:

Parents register now for the Parent University space is limited.

Students: Did you know that there is a homework hotline?

Check out the second side of the flyer for how to get homework help

Be a parent *in-the-know!*

Attend School Board Meetings:

Second and Fourth Thursday of every month. Visit the school board website for the next meeting date and location.

<http://hammond.k12.in.us/index.htm>

**Next Meeting—Monday, Sept 13
School City Administration Bldg—6 PM**

JOIN PTSA

Use this form to sign up yourself, your spouse, your family, and most of all your students for the 2010-2011 PTSA. Each member is \$6. All students in grades 6 and up are eligible to be full members of the PTSA, as are their moms, dads, guardians, grandmas & grandpas, aunts & uncles and older brothers and sisters! JUNIORS & SENIORS PLEASE NOTE! In order to be eligible for a PTSA scholarship, you must be a member for both your Junior and Senior years. JOIN TODAY!

Name(s) _____

Student Grade(s) _____ **Student 1st Hour Teacher** _____

Email(s) _____

Address _____

Return this form with \$6 per person to the PTSA mailbox in the Main Office. Please contact Kelly Brogden at membership@gavitptsa.org if you have any questions.

GAVIT IN THE NEWS— GO GAVIT

Gavit Nationally Recognized for PLTW

Gavit High School is now a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Certified School. This certification is a national recognition. It honors schools that successfully implement the rigorous PLTW program, and it allows students to apply for college credit for the PLTW classes in which they are enrolled.

This certification is the result of a great deal of work done over the past year by our partnership team. The partnership team consists of Gavit PLTW teachers and administration, representatives from colleges, businesses, and industry, and also parents and other community members. A thorough self-assessment was completed, a site visit and evaluation was done in May, and our final certification report was received just this month.

This certification also reflects Gavit's commitment to excellence in teaching and doing what's best for our students. Not many schools implement the ambitious PLTW pre-engineering program. Far fewer are recognized for meeting and exceeding PLTW's high standards.

If you have any questions or want more information about Project Lead the Way and the classes Gavit offers, the following teachers would love to speak with you:

Connie Romano, Introduction to Engineering Design (IED) teacher

Shaun Kun, Principles of Engineering (POE) teacher

Maureen McGrail, Digital Electronics (DE) and Civil Engineering and Architecture (CEA) teacher



Welcome back!!

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Editor: Pat Taylor
Email: ptaylor@gavitptsa.org

Check out our web page!

www.gavitptsa.org

Newsletter also available online.

**Got a question about Gavit
or School City of Hammond?
We'll find the answer!
Contact us!**

JOIN TODAY!

Membership in PTSA

Support your child and have your child be a part of Gavit PTSA. Remember that \$1 of your dues goes to the Gavit PTSA Scholarship Program. Membership is \$6.00 per person/student. Membership is open to all. For some of the benefits of being a member of National PTA, please visit www.pta.org.

JEAN DAYS

Gavit PTSA has been granted 2 jean days in the coming year. Students who join PTSA by our November Jean day deadline will be able to wear their jeans to school twice this year.

Did you know that you can receive announcements by email? Visit the [Daily Announcements](#) link on our web page for more information. When these are being sent to the webmaster, they will be sent to anyone on the announcement list.

Join now to be sure you are eligible for the chance to wear your jeans to class.

November deadline is November 11th with Jean Day on November 12th.

School Wear Guidelines The objective of these dress guidelines is to provide an appropriate educational environment while allowing students to dress comfortably within limits to facilitate learning. Students' attire can have a positive or negative effect on the learning process, contribute to students' success, and generate a safe and positive learning environment. We expect students to maintain the type of appearance that is not distracting to students, teachers, or the educational process of the school. All students are expected to comply with these school wear guidelines each day. There is appropriate and inappropriate attire for all of life's activities. Parents and children are equally responsible for the appearance of the child. Keeping these ideas in mind, please help your student adhere to these guidelines. **Students should arrive at school prepared and ready to attend class with all the necessary materials to successfully reach their greatest potential.**

Free math and science help offered by Rose-Hulman's Homework Hotline

Multimedia tutoring service guides students through tough homework

Sometimes, after a long day at school learning tough subjects, students get home and unexpectedly, the homework doesn't make sense. But, fortunately help is available. In the evenings, Indiana students in grades 6-12 can turn to Rose-Hulman's Homework Hotline for free math and science homework help.

The Homework Hotline is a toll-free multimedia tutoring service that helps Indiana middle and high school students better understand math and science concepts and improve their problem-solving skills.

The Homework Hotline is open September through May for students needing math or science homework help. Students may call toll free at 1-877-ASK-ROSE – from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time), Sunday through Thursday, or as questions online at www.AskRose.org.

Homework Hotline tutors are Rose-Hulman college students specially chosen and trained to work with middle and high school students of all academic levels. Tutors have access to math and science textbooks used by Indiana students. Homework Hotline tutors help students work through their homework problems and guide them in learning more about a subject. Tutors do not do the work for the students nor give them the answers. Instead, tutors help students arrive at the correct solutions. Last year, tutors answered more than 44,000 calls and more than 3,000 online tutoring sessions.

“It's a great program and I call almost every day of the week. The tutors do a great job breaking the problems down into smaller parts so it's easier to understand,” said one student caller in a survey conducted by the Homework Hotline.

“I really like how they didn't just give me the answers, but they really helped me to figure out how to do the problem,” another student said.

Students who call the Homework Hotline will be asked to give their first name only and the name of their school. They should have the following items handy before calling the Homework Hotline:

- Homework assignment
- Textbook (if available)
- Paper
- Pen or pencil
- Calculator (if needed)

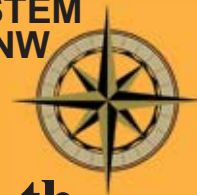
Students may also access the Homework Hotline Web site at www.AskRose.org. The site offers free educational resources and helpful educational links. Students can submit math and science questions on the Web site, and a tutor will respond during the Hotline's hours of operation.

So the next time math or science homework is a problem, don't worry! Homework help is just a phone call or mouse click away by contacting the Homework Hotline toll-free at 1-877-ASK-ROSE or www.AskRose.org.

The Homework Hotline is sponsored by Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and Lilly Endowment, Inc.

PARENT UNIVERSITY

I-STEM
NW



Saturday September 18th, 2010

ONE-DAY EVENT HELPING PARENTS
HELP THEIR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

Where: Purdue University Calumet
Student Union and Library Building
in Founders Hall

Time: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Cost: FREE!

What's It About? Science, Technology Engineering, and Math (STEM)

Who Should Come? Parents who want to help your child be more successful in school

What will I be doing that day?

A variety of breakout sessions which includes these topics.

- ◆ Insights into how to stay positively involved with your child's education
- ◆ Resources to help you and your child
- ◆ Taking the mystery out of Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics
- ◆ How to help your children prepare for college. They need to start now!
- ◆ How to pay for college
- ◆ How to help your child cope with the changing environment of Middle School

Register Now: Limited to 200 Parents

email: ParentU@purduecal.edu **or call** 219-989-2060

Please include: Your Name

Grade and Name of School your child is enrolled

For additional information go to <http://webs.calumet.purdue.edu/istem/parent-university/>

SPONSORS

