



Geneseo High School



December 2015

The following are some statistics to be aware of before you read the information regarding the GHS Building Leadership Team (BLT) reviewing D228 graduation requirements:

- 30 years ago, 80% of American jobs were unskilled, today 12%.
- 65% of today's school children will eventually be employed in jobs that haven't been created.
- Examples of projected jobs in 2025 = applicant tracking system, employee motivation, pre-employment testing, talent management, performance appraisal personality traits testing, augmented reality architect, waste data manager, 3-D printing engineer, smart dust programmers, privacy manager.

The Geneseo Building Leadership Team (BLT) has a goal this year of reviewing the graduation requirements for Geneseo High School students.

The world, and the economy that our students are going out into has changed a lot in the past ten years.

The current GHS graduation requirements for students entering 9th grade are:

- eight semesters of language arts
- six semesters of mathematics

- four semesters of science
- four semesters of social studies
- two semesters from music, art, foreign language, or vocational education
- one semester of health
- seven semesters of physical education
- two semesters of consumer education

Students must earn forty-two credits total. Students earn one credit for every semester class.

It has been at least ten years since the last time that the GHS graduation requirements were reviewed. The last two major changes to the graduation requirements were:

- raising the requirement from thirty-eight credits to forty-two credits to graduate
- eliminating the requirement for Keyboarding.

The State of Illinois has recently passed legislation making "Civics" a graduation requirement, but they have not defined exactly what that means. We know that next year's freshmen, the class of 2020, will have some form of a "Civics" requirement to graduate.

Until the state more clearly defines exactly what that means, we are not addressing it in the GHS Course Description Guide (CDG).

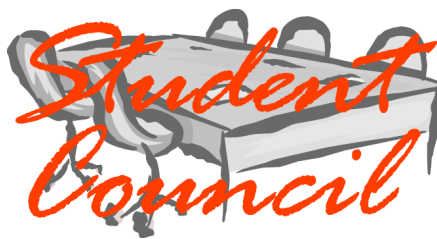
Many school districts through the United States are going through a similar process. Everyone has a goal of having their students prepared to meet the challenges for 21st century college and careers. Listed below are some of the new requirements that school districts across the United States are enacting:

- Some form of community service, or service learning projects.
- The taking of at least one on-line course before graduating.
- Differentiated graduation diplomas for different tracks of learning.
- The taking of a Civics class.
- The taking of a Computer Science or Coding class.
- Because of financial constraints, many schools are eliminating the requirements of daily Physical education and behind the wheel driver's education. Many of those same schools are just reducing the number of total credits required to graduate to save money.

The goal of the BLT is to engage as many of our D228 stakeholders as possible prior to making any recommendations to the GHS Handbook Committee and School Board. One of the last actions the BLT will take before

making any recommendations is sending out a district wide survey via Skyward. Listed below are some of the times and places that BLT members will be engaging D228 stakeholders prior to sending out the survey.

- January 5th, 2016 at 6:30 pm - Northside PTA meeting.
- January 8th, 2016 - GHS Skyward school messenger sent out.
- January 12th, 2016 at 6:00 pm - Southwest PTA meeting.
- January 12th, 2016 at noon - Rotary meeting at the Geneseo Community Center.
- January 13th, 2016 at 11:30 am - GHS Student welfare & advisory meeting.
- January 19th, 2016 - GHS Skyward school messenger sent out.
- January 20th, 2016 at 6:30 pm - D228 parent forum at GMS.
- January 27th, 2016 at 7:30 am - Geneseo Chamber of Commerce meeting.



Student Council: Student Council will keep very busy in December as they will be sponsoring a “Hat, Mitten, Scarf” collection. For each item donated, students can

have their name entered into a drawing for a \$50 Visa gift card. And to put everyone in the Holiday Sprit, the Student Council is sponsoring a Christmas Spirit Week, December 14-18. Dress-up days have been selected

for the student body to have a little fun before final exams. Monday: Blizzard Day—White Out. Tuesday: The Great Outdoors Day-Dress for hunting, wear camouflage & blaze orange. Wednesday: Christmas Character Day-Dress as Santa, an Elf, or Reindeer. Thursday: Flip-Flop Day-Students dress as teachers, and teachers dress as students. Friday: Ugly Christmas Sweater Day.

From the Guidance Office: Freshmen will receive help with final exam preparation through small group presentations during ASAP on either December 3rd, 4th, or 7th. Counselors will assist students with study skills and mapping out their “plan of attack” to finish strong during the last fourteen days of the quarter.

The December Counseling Newsletter will provide more information about: Final Exams, Financial Aid Night, FAFSA Completion Days, What’s Next Illinois, Applications for Junior Firefighters, and more information about the new EMT program.

Counselors encourage parents to begin talking with their child and his/her counselor about choosing classes for the 2016-17 school year.

Classroom Happenings:

- The Geneseo PE department is very excited about its new “Health Club” curriculum. The PE department has implemented the shift to emphasize individual fitness and health. GHS students have the opportunity to choose a PE game or activity from a

couple of options as their base activity for a four-week unit. However, students participate in a general fitness activity day once a week and a weight room strength building activity once a week. The general fitness day incorporates many options, including cardio, flexibility, and strength activities. Many options are used, including fitness apps, popular exercise programs, guest instructors, and many creative ideas from each individual teacher. The PE department has also changed some of its grading policies to fit in with the shift in our society to personal fitness. The PE department no longer grades students on knowing the “rules of the game,” but instead, students are assessed on their daily fitness participation and on information related to the core components of fitness.

- Life Skills students traveled to the Festival of Trees in November and The Happy Joe's Special Needs Christmas party. Both of these events were opportunities provided by the generosity of local businesses.
- Some Studio Club members are volunteering at the Smith Gallery for the Christmas Walk in Geneseo. They will be teaching children how to make a holiday ornament.

Student Spotlights:

- Haleigh Jacocks was selected to audition to sing the National Anthem for

an IHSA event. The auditions will take place in January and results will be announced in early February. Congratulations, Haleigh!

- The Student Library Advisory Panel used recycled books to fold into decorated holiday trees for the library.
- The All-State Choir, Band, and Orchestra have been announced. Congratulations to the following students.
Instrument: Emily Gentry, Bass Clarinet – Morgan Miller, Bb Clarinet – Evan Sammons, Tenor Sax – Orchestra: Haley Beert, Bb Clarinet – Emma Benjamin, Trombone – Chorus: Lindy Couch, Honors All-State, Alto II – Haleigh Jacocks, Honors All-State, Soprano I – Luke Johnson, Honors All-State, Tenor I – Andrew Roseman, Honors All-State, Bass I – Rachel Sears, Honors All-State, Soprano II – Henry Cravens, All-State, Tenor II – Logan Raschke, All-State, Alto II – Wyatt Wade, All-State, Bass I.
- Congratulations to juniors, Haleigh Jacocks, Cassandra Talbott, and Renee Troutwine, whose essays on the topic of “What the Constitution means to me and my family” qualified as winners in the Rotary Club’s annual contest. These students will be recognized at the Rotary Club luncheon on December 15th.

New Staff: Mrs. Kathy Buysse began her career in education teaching elementary stu-

dents in the Lincoln, Illinois area. For the past seventeen years she has been a school counselor in the Sherrard District. She says that working with students to navigate through high school is rewarding, and she is excited for the opportunity to work with the students of GHS.

Upcoming Dates of Importance:

- 12/3 Guidance counselor presentations to freshmen about finals in ASAP (also 12/4 & 12/7)
- 12/3 Class ring order delivery
- 12/7 Link Crew leader training during ASAP
- 12/9 Link Crew meetings
- 12/11 PSAE level II open campus lunch
- 12/12 National ACT test day
- 12/17 Student of the quarter ceremony
- 12/18 Semester exams begin
- 12/21 Day 2 of Semester exams
- 12/22 Day 3 of Semester exams
- 1/4/16 First day of attendance for Sem. II

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