



PTSA Newsletter

VOLUME II, ISSUE I

JANUARY 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Scholarship Corner
- Teacher of the Year: Mr. Napoles!
- A Day in the Life of a Band Member
- Words of the Term
- Academy Feature: AO-AE

Want to become a member? Interested about becoming active in the PTSA? Contact us!

- <http://high-sptsa.wordpress.com/>

Upcoming Meetings:

- Wednesday, January 26th, 2011 (PTSA General Meeting)
- Wednesday, February 23rd, 2011
- Wednesday, March 30th, 2011
- Wednesday, April 27th, 2011 (PTSA Elections/General Meeting)
- Wednesday, May 25th, 2011 (Annual PTSA Meeting)

Meetings are held in the library and begin promptly at after the EESAC meetings, which begin at 6:30pm.

Principal's Message:

By: Dr. Louis Algaze

Dear Gladiators,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Hialeah Gardens High School. Hialeah Gardens strives to be the premiere high school in the district. To that end, we have developed our school so that it revolves around the varied needs of our students.

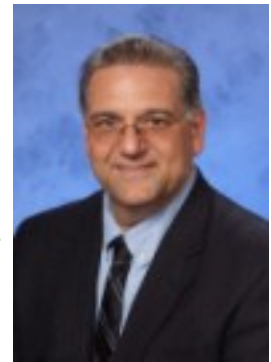
We have partnered with the National Academy Foundation (NAF), a national network of high school academies, and developed several career focus academies that will prepare you for college and the world of work - locally, nationally, and internationally. These academies include our Academy of International Finance; Academy of Information Technology; Academy of Hospitality & Tourism; Engineering Academy; and the Fine Arts Academy. Within these academies, students are free to explore strands related to their field of interest. Furthermore, students can take advantage of our Advanced Academic offerings.

Our school offers courses that will not only meet your graduation requirements, but also provide new broader educational experiences for you as you prepare yourselves for the future. In addition, we offer many activities and sports with which our students can become involved.

You will see that we have something to offer everyone and we cater to varied tastes. Take advantage of the myriad clubs, teams, and classes available and make your high school years the memories that you will treasure while preparing yourself with a world-class education for a global economy.

Together - students, parents, faculty, staff, and community - we can look forward to a rewarding and exciting 2010-2011 school year! Please do not hesitate to call our school with any questions you might have.

Go Gladiators!



President's Message:

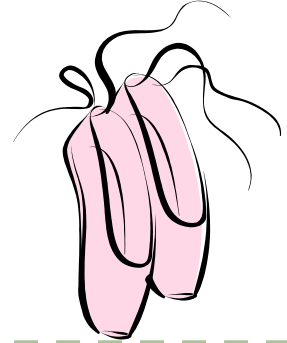
By: Dorinda Segovia



It has been almost three years since I began my journey as a Gladiator parent. During this time, I have had the pleasure to witness growth in our school, our faculty and most importantly our children. I have enjoyed seeing the students embrace the Gladiator spirit in the classroom, in the fields, in their community and in their personal lives. I rejoice in the school's staff commitment to greatness as we make history this year graduating our first seniors, the Class of 2011, and I urge you to take an active part of this growing school community. As students, you are beginning a life long journey of endless possibilities; enjoy the ride! As parents, you are the most powerful and vital conduit of your child's education, and as such, do not just watch the bus go by; hop in and ride along. As educators, you tirelessly pave the road that lies ahead and we thank you. Through all of you, and your direct connection, commitment, enthusiasm, passion, voice, time, talent and treasure, we give Hialeah Gardens the "CAN DO" attitude to advocate for our school community.

Spotlight on Academies: AOAE

The Academy of Arts and Entertainment offers challenging curriculum designed to meet the needs of the students interested in the performing and visual arts. HGHS engages its students through a variety of classes offered to nurture their talent in dance, music, theatre, and visual art. Graduates of the fine arts academy are prepared for entrance into leading to colleges and universities or they may choose to immediately enter their respective professional field.



“As our band director, Mr. Napoles, always reminds us, we are our best and worst critics, and only we know how much better we could have performed and how much harder we could have pushed ourselves.”

Student’s Message:

By: Natalie Obregon, Junior

Commitment is a huge part of this activity and anyone in it could surely agree. As a member of our school's marching band since the beginning of Hialeah Gardens High School, I can earnestly say that I never believed we would be as successful and I never thought we would be as competitive as we are this early into our existence. The spirit of a true gladiator is found inside every member of our school's band. The time we invest throughout half of a year in practices all comes to play when we go out to a competition and perform our hearts out. We rehearse for so many hours, to in the end, march an eight minute show that is never truly complete. What so many people outside of our walls can't truly grasp the concept of is the satisfying, victorious feeling that we get when we know that the effort we put into a performance has allowed us to put out the best product that we possibly could give. As our band director, Mr. Napoles, always reminds us, we are our best and worst critics, and only we know how much better we could have performed and how much harder we could have pushed ourselves. At the risk of sounding any cheesier, I must admit that being in an extracurricular activity like the marching band in high school truly gives you a sense of what responsibility really is.

At this point in the marching season, the band has already gone to four competitions, and at the first one, we qualified for semi-finals. Score ratings are given out of a maximum of 100 points, and at our first competition this season, we scored a 71. But like Mr. Napoles always tells us, scores are just a game that all bands and their directors play- it's always going to be about how well we did according to no one but ourselves.

Now, let's talk about the more personal side of being part of something as large an organization as a marching band. I didn't think it was possible for so many people to get to know each other as well as we have in a relatively short amount of time. It's eye-opening to see how much of a family we truly have become. I found the answer to my question not that long ago though; as we're all working for the same motive, we relate more and more to each other, and in turn we bond because of that one goal.

Until you step onto our grounds and spend a day with the band, you can't understand the struggles we face every single day to improve and allow ourselves to perform at the best of our abilities. Many of the band members entered this activity in 2009 blind-folded and hands tied back with nothing to lose, and all to gain. It's almost unbelievable how far spirit and a heart in the right place could take a group of high school students to bring us the success we have had. At the end of the day, however, it's not about competitions, placements or any of that, it's all about everything that you learn from being in such a demanding activity and the friendships and connections you create with people that you already have found common ground with.

Scholarship Corner: Dec. –Jan.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam Walton Community Scholarship: 12/1/10; \$1,000 • American Essay Contest: 12/1/10; \$2,000- \$10,000 • Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarship: 12/1/10; \$1,000- \$15,000 • American Liberty Scholarship: Varies; \$5,000 • AXA Achievement Scholarship: 12/15/10; Varies • Colgate– Palmolive Company and Hispanic Scholarship Fund’s Haz La U Essay Contest: 12/31/10; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gen and Kelly Tanabe Scholarship: 12/31/10; \$1,000 • Gates Millennium Scholars: 1/10/11; Full amount tuition • Washington Crossing Foundation: 1/15/11; \$500-\$5,000 • Get Out of Debt Scholarship: 1/15/11; \$500 • University of Miami Ronald A. Hammond Scholarship for Minority Students: 1/15/11; Full-tuition • Ford Salute to Education: 1/25/11; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Princeton Prize in Race Relations: 1/31/11; \$1,000 • HGHS PTSA Scholarship: Unknown; 8-\$250 (one per academy.) • Other FL PTSA Scholarships can be found at http://www.floridapta.org/Scholarships.html Dates and amount may vary. |
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For more information on these scholarships and upcoming opportunities, see your CAP Advisor, Mrs. Abesada.

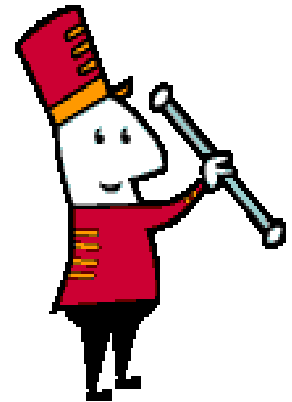
Gladiator Words of the Term:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abash: to make ashamed or uneasy. • Abate: to reduce ; diminish • Abide: to remain, continue, stay, or endure. • Ablution: a cleansing with water or other liquid especially as religious ritual. • Abstract: difficult to understand. • Accountable: expected to answer for one’s actions. • Accrue: to accumulate over time. • Acme: the highest point. • Addict: to devote oneself habitually or compulsively. • Adherent: a follower of a leader. • Adroit: skillful; deft; talented. • Aesthetic: having to do with artistic beauty. • Agog: highly excited by eagerness. • Ambivalence: indecision; experiencing contradictory emotions. • Ambulatory: of or for walking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancillary: providing assistance; secondary. • Animated: having life; enthusiastic. • Animosity; having a feeling of ill-will. • Annals: descriptive record, history. • Annex: an addition. • Apex: acme; highest. • Appease: to please; pacify. • Armament: army supplies. • Ascribe: assign. • Asinine: stupid, silly. • Assail: attack. • Atone: express remorse. • Attrition: weakening of resistance. • Augment: to change or make larger. • Baleful: full of menacing or wicked influences. |
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Congratulations, Mr. Napoles!

Every year, a special teacher at HGHS is chosen as the Teacher of the Year. This teacher possesses leadership qualities for their cohorts to learn from, and also inspires students to want to be their best. They not only possess this quality, but show their passion for their occupation by going beyond the call of duty, and helping students strive. This year's choice, not only fulfills these qualities but has made HGHS band history; Mr. Rafael Napoles, the man behind, "Gladiators lead the way! Huh!" Mr. Napoles has been a part of the Gladiator family since its days at the middle school. There is where he first touched the lives of students, showing them what it means to be a part of the Gladiator family.

Since its commencement, Mr. Napoles has led the band to many victories. From local competitions, all the way to states in Tampa this year. Well done, band, and well done, Mr. Napoles!



Brought to you by the PTSA:

2010-2011 Executive Board

President: Dorinda Segovia

1st Vice President: Daysi Garcia

2nd Vice President: Soraya Guerra

Recording Secretary: Niurka Davis

Corresponding Secretary Open

Treasurer: Gilbert Soles

School Administrator: Louis Algaze

Membership Chair: Johana Macias

Volunteer Chair: Open Position

Legislative Chair: Alexandria Segovia

Community Service Chair: Amanda Trompeta

Resource Development: Jacqueline Leon

Awards and Recognition: Cynthia Prado

Public Relations: Ashley Orozco

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everychild.one voice.

Attention C/o 2012!
Juniors! Don't forget: Ring
Ceremony is Thursday, Feb-
ruary 3rd.

Congrats to all Honor Roll Recipients!

Principal Honor Roll:

09TH GRADE STUDENTS	9
10TH GRADE STUDENTS	13
11TH GRADE STUDENTS	14
12TH GRADE STUDENTS	20

Superior Honor Roll:

09TH GRADE STUDENTS	37
10TH GRADE STUDENTS	43
11TH GRADE STUDENTS	42
12TH GRADE STUDENTS	57

Regular Honor Roll:

09TH GRADE STUDENTS	63
10TH GRADE STUDENTS	94
11TH GRADE STUDENTS	66
12TH GRADE STUDENTS	82