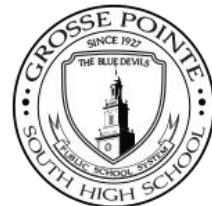


# Welcome

CLASS OF  
2026



Parent Orientation





# Welcome

CLASS OF  
2026



## Parent Orientation

# Agenda

*Welcome*

Mr. Joseph Spryszak – 9th/11th grade Assistant Principal

*Opening Statement*

Mr. Moussa Hamka – Principal

*TFC and Clarity*

Ms Cindy Parravano

*High School Transition*

Mrs. Beth Walsh–Sahutske, Mrs. Jennifer Vick– Counselors

*High School Attendance*

Ms. Cindy Parravano – 10th/12th grade Assistant Principal

*Student Activities*

Mrs. Melissa Petz

*Mother's Club*

Mrs. Beverly Bennert – President

*Athletics*

Mr. Brandon Wheeler – Assistant Principal/AD

*Athletic Boosters*

Mrs. Jennifer Koeppen– President

*Freshman Class Advisor*

Mrs. Nicole Westfall

*Link Crew Advisor*

Mr. Andrew Taylor



# Follow Us...



**GP South School:**

**Principal Mr. Hamka:**

**Asst. Principal, Mr. Sprysak (gr: 9 & 11):**

**Asst Principal Ms. Parravano (gr: 10 & 12):**

**Asst. Principal, Mr. Wheeler (Athletics):**

**@GPSouthHS**

**@Hamka\_Moussa**

**@JoeSpryszak**

**@Cindy\_Parravano**

**@GPSouthAD**

**GP South Counseling Center:**

**GP South Student Activities:**

**The Mothers Club:**

**GP South Athletics:**

**Class of 2026:**

**Class of 2025:**

**Class of 2024:**

**Class of 2023:**

**Grosse Pointe Public School System:**

**@gps.mental\_health\_coalition**

**@gpsouth\_studentactivities**

**@mothersclubgps**

**@gpsouthad**

**@gpsouth\_2026**

**@gpsouth2025**

**@gpsouth2024**

**@gpsouth.2023**

**@gppschoools & @1gppss**





# Opening Message

— Principal Hamka —



# TFC and Clarity

Ms. Parravano



# Transitions

Mrs. Walsh-Sahutske  
Mrs. Vick

# What's the problem? I went to high school

- Life IS transition and change is *uncomfortable*
- Students might start to feel overwhelmed, intimidated by the environment or academically more challenged than they have before South
- Social landscape is changing and this may be difficult to navigate





# 5 Major Components of *All* Transitions

## Academic (Professional)

- Finding the sweet spot of challenge

## Social

- Building relationships, making friends, dating relationships, professional relationships

## Emotional

- Acknowledging all the “feels” and coping with them in a healthy way!

## Physical

- Logistics of navigating a new (big) campus space and the larger bubble

## Financial

- Part of the equation but not necessarily at the forefront now



# How to Navigate Each Transition

## Places

- Identify three places where you are comfortable (may already have them)

## People

- Find your five people

## Patience

- Getting comfortable takes time
- We are an instant gratification society
- Recognizing the discomfort and working through it pays dividends!



# Places

ID (at least) three places where you are comfortable

- Find connections
- Develop community
- Build support network
- *Examples:* clubs, sports, school organizations & activities, spiritual community groups, IMs, academics

Need multiple *options* to support values and growth

---

**Without “places”** students may: panic, hide, retreat to comfort zone



# People

For every problem there are five people who can offer support and guidance

- In your corner are:
  1. People who are paid (teachers, counselors, administrators, coaches ...)
  2. People who volunteer (club advisors, peer mentors, peer tutors, spiritual guides)
  3. People who are enlisted (people who are engaged to help and support – parents, friends, mentors)
- Recognize the value of diverse perspectives



# Patience

- This can be SO hard because in most cases finding comfort doesn't happen right away
- *Getting comfortable with the uncomfortable means setting realistic expectations*
- Allow time to find people and places
- Developing patience will build resilience, determination, persistence and all of those great **GRIT** characteristics we hope to engender in our kids



# Impact!

- Students with **three places** connected with the campus community are engaged, empowered and able to make stronger choices in alignment with their values
- Students with **five people** in their corner are supported and prepared to face unexpected challenges. They are equipped to be leaders in their community
- Students who are **patient** do not panic, run, hate, hide, attack, or make excuses. They give themselves permission to get comfortable with the uncomfortable and work at a more forgiving pace.
- Connect. Support. Allow room for independent growth and development.





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# Attendance

— **Ms. Parravano** —

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# Student Attendance

*Every day*  
**COUNTS!**

A stylized icon of a person with a teal head and blue torso sitting at a yellow desk with an orange top. The person's right arm is raised, holding a teal object.

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School success starts  
with attendance





# Absence Reporting

- Please call our attendance phone line

(313)432-3501

- As soon as possible on the day of the absence OR by 10 am the following day
- Must be before the student leaves the building
- Students must sign out in attendance before leaving



# Absences

- **Capped absences**
  - Unexcused absence- no parent phone call (capped at 4)
  - Excused absence-parent phone call (capped at 10)
- **Non-capped absences**
  - Exempt (with appropriate documentation - funeral, appointment, college visit, legal appointment, field/athletic trips)
- **6+ minute tardy to 1st period**- becomes an unexcused absence
- Extenuating circumstances/meetings with students
- Interventions





# Student Activities

Mrs. Petz

# Student Activities

- Clubs and activities are the heartbeat of our school and our students are the ones that make it happen!
- Student-centric, student-lead and student-empowered!
- Last school year we had approximately 70 clubs and activities. With approximately 50% newly chartered by students within the last 2 years.
- It allow students to find their passions and talents, develop a robust sense of self and improve their self esteem, learn how to be a leader and how to support each other.
- They can have fun, let their hair down, create friendships with like minded people and have conversations that they don't have in the classroom



# Student Activities x Mental Health

- Studies found that adolescents who participated in extracurricular activities demonstrated higher levels of satisfaction with life and optimism and lower levels of anxiety and depressive symptoms.
- Research shows that students' involvement in extracurricular activities can have a meaningful influence on their mental health and social and emotional well-being (Palen & Coatsworth, 2007)

# Student Activities Required Fee

**Required Fee:** The Grosse Pointe Public School System requires a \$75 fee to be a member of any Student Club/Activity per student per school year. This covers your student for one club or all 70 of them!  
Some individual clubs require additional fees and/or fundraising.

**Financial Hardship:** If your student is on the Free/Reduced lunch program, these fees are waived. If you have any issues or questions concerning this fee or have a situational hardship, please discuss with the club advisor, Student Activities, counselor or administrator

## **So what does it cover...**

National membership dues, honor cords, administrative costs to support the clubs, training for club advisors/students, busses/transportation, lunchtime games for students to check out, snacks/food, support outreach activities/programs, Senior activities pool/collection, student agendas, student leadership training, Link Crew, Freshmen Orientation, Welcoming new upperclassmen events, various parent and back to school nights, Homecoming, Spirit Weeks... multiple spirit weeks, competitions and festivities, North/South Tailgate, National Honor Society and other Honor Societies, Wellness Week planning, grant writing/awarding and executing, crazy fun Virtual Holiday activities last year, GPPSS 100 Year Celebration, Graduation, Senior Celebration Week, Senior Honor Night planning and executing, rising freshmen festivities, Student Association initiatives and so much more.



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# The Mother's Club

— Beverly Bennert —

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# What is Mothers' Club?

## It's Grosse Pointe South High School Parent Organization

- Founded in 1928
- Raises nearly \$100,000 annually
- Supports 3 main initiatives:
  - ***Preservation*** of our landmark school buildings
  - ***Enrichment*** in the classrooms
  - ***Scholarships*** to deserving South Seniors





# Mothers' Club

**We have 400+ members annually:**

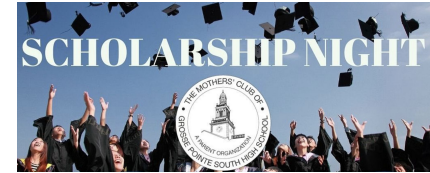
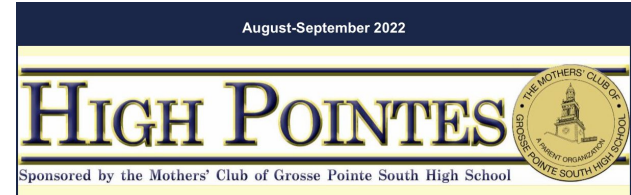
- **200+** volunteers
- Classroom enrichment grants totalled **\$12,350**
- Scholarships to **71** graduating seniors (totally over \$60,000)
- Preservation Projects:
  - Currently Restoring the Cleminson Hall Doors



# Mothers' Club

## Other activities we support:

- High Pointes Newsletter
- The School Store
- Support Homecoming Activities
- Faculty Luncheons
- Annual Spring Fundraiser
- Host the All Night Party for the Seniors
- Social Media Platforms and Website



GROSSE POINTE YACHT CLUB  
May 7th @ 6pm



# Mothers' Club

- **Join us!** Become a member either through the K12 pre-registration webstore or directly from our website [MothersClubGPS.com](https://MothersClubGPS.com) (click on Become a Member).
- **Follow us!** On Facebook (@GPSMothersClub), Instagram (@MothersClubGPS), and Twitter (@GPSouthMC)
- **Volunteer!** There are many ways to get involved that fit different interests, backgrounds and time commitments. It's a great way to meet new friends and be a part of your child's high school experience.
- **Visit Us!** We have a membership table in the hallway, volunteers to answer questions, spirit wear for sale, and the School Store is Open!





# Athletics

Mr. Wheeler

# South Athletics



# Grosse Pointe South Athletics

36 Sports · 57 Teams · 60% Participation, 31% Participate  
in Multiple Sports

## Fall Boys

Cross Country  
Football  
Soccer  
Tennis

## Fall Girls

Cheerleading  
Cross Country  
Field Hockey  
Golf  
Swim/Dive  
Volleyball

South Athletic Office 313-432-3541

<http://gpschools.schoolwires.net/domain/408>

## Winter Boys

Basketball  
Ice Hockey  
Swim/Dive  
Wrestling

## Winter Girls

Basketball  
Competitive Cheer  
Dance  
Figure Skating  
Gymnastics  
Ice Hockey  
Synchronized Swimming

## Spring Boys

Baseball  
Crew  
Golf  
Lacrosse  
Sailing  
Track

## Spring Girls

Crew  
Lacrosse  
Sailing  
Soccer  
Softball  
Tennis  
Track



# South Athletics 2021-2022 Highlights

- Finished among the top 20 most successful athletic programs in the state -MLive
- Boys Soccer Final Four
- Girls Ice Hockey Final Four
- Girls Tennis Finished 4th
- Boys Swimming Finished 3rd; All-American Relay Team; State Champion Diver
- Girls Swimming Finished 2nd
- Crew qualified for Nationals
- Boys Tennis Doubles State Champions
- Sailing State Champions
- Field Hockey State Champions
- 18 college signings





# South Athletics





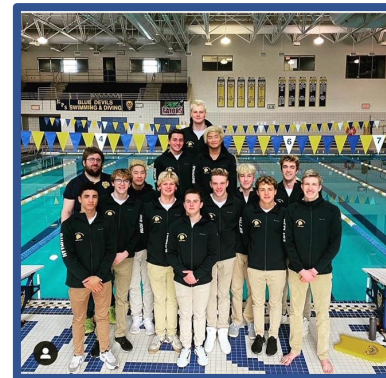


**GROSSE POINTE SOUTH  
ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB**

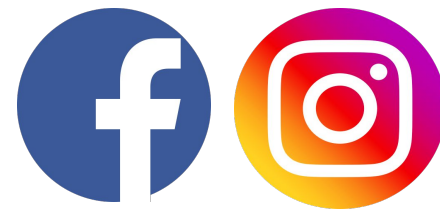
# Athletic Boosters Club

President:  
Jennifer Koeppe

# Athletic Boosters Club



*email: [gpsathleticboosters@gmail.com](mailto:gpsathleticboosters@gmail.com)*



# 2022-2023 Athletic Booster Club

**President – Jennifer Koeppen**

**Vice President – Bob Tiderington**

**Secretary – Kelly English**

**Treasurer – Todd Hutchinson**

## Directors

- Kathy Agnone
- Tony Agosta
- Chris Bernard
- Barry Cameron
- Stephanie Harris
- Sue Rauh
- Julie Ricci
- Kathy Smith
- Brian Stidham
- John Van Syckle

# Who We Are and What We Do...

## *The Athletic Boosters Mission:*

**To support our student athletes and athletics at Grosse Pointe South.**

- **We are parent volunteers who support all 57 teams across 36 sports.**
- **How do we support athletics?**
  - **Uniforms**
  - **Safety equipment**
  - **Infrastructure**
  - **Team equipment**
  - **College scholarships**
  - **All-State Athlete Portraits**
- **Over the past four years, the Athletic Boosters have provided over \$240,000 to GPS athletics.**



# Primary Sources of Funding

## Coaches Club

- ❖ Free admission for the entire family to all regular season home games
- ❖ Complimentary car stickers and gift
- ❖ Join at registration now in the South webstore OR visit [www.gpsathleticboosters.com](http://www.gpsathleticboosters.com)
- ❖ Brian Stidham ([stiddy98@yahoo.com](mailto:stiddy98@yahoo.com))

## Run the Pointe: Saturday, October 1, 2022

- ❖ Starts and finishes at the high school
- ❖ 5K & 10K run or 2-mile walk
- ❖ Opportunity to donate funds directly to sport of choice
- ❖ Visit [www.gpsathleticboosters.com](http://www.gpsathleticboosters.com) to register and select your sport.
- ❖ \$25 entry fee

## South Scramble: Monday, October 3, 2022

- ❖ Lochmoor Country Club

## Booster Bash: January 2023

- ❖ Silent auction and raffle items
- ❖ Great social event and a fun way to meet other South families

Other: shopping events (local or otherwise), etc.



# WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

## JOIN THE COACHES CLUB

- If you've already joined, THANK YOU!
- If you would still like to join, go to [www.gpsathleticboosters.com](http://www.gpsathleticboosters.com)

## RUN THE POINTE

- Please sign up to participate. 100% of the proceeds go back to athletics.
- We need sponsors! If you're interested in sponsoring this event, contact John Van Syckle at [jrvansyckle@gmail.com](mailto:jrvansyckle@gmail.com)

## SOUTH SCRAMBLE

- CALLING ALL GOLFERS!

## INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE ABC?

- E-mail us at [gpsathleticboosters@gmail.com](mailto:gpsathleticboosters@gmail.com)

## PARTICIPATE IN OUR EVENTS!

***AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, SUPPORT OUR STUDENT ATHLETES!***



**GROSSE POINTE SOUTH  
ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB**





# Freshmen Student Council

— Advisor: Mrs. Westfall —

Two horizontal blue lines are located at the bottom of the page, below the advisor information.

# Mrs. Westfall Contact info:

Advisor: Nicole Westfall

Contact:

[westfan@gpschools.org](mailto:westfan@gpschools.org)

Room:

S- 184

Instagram:

[@gpsouth\\_2026](#)

Parent Facebook: GPSOUTH 2026 Parent Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/972030070161608>





# Want to Stay Updated?



For parent updates join the  
GP South Class of 2026 Facebook  
group!

Go to facebook.com -- Groups -- Search:  
“GP South 2026 Parent Page” and click  
“Join”.

For updates on Class of 2026  
news, events, and more,  
*encourage your freshmen to join:*



**Instagram**  
Follow the account  
@gpsouth\_2026

Sign up to donate on the SignUp Genius in weekly email or Facebook group

# Spirit Pack Information

Spirit Packs are ordered during registration.

If you did not order one then, please go to the online school store– it closes Fri Sept 9th

Students may pick *up the spirit pack* before school, during lunch, or after school in Cleminson Hall on Wednesday, September 29th.



# Student Involvement!

*All Freshmen Students welcome!*

*If your freshman is interested in getting involved with*

*Class Council or float parties have them email*

*Mrs. Westfall or just show up!*

*608 Lakepointe*

*Hosted by Jenni and Fred Nazarko*



# Parent Involvement!

*Our class is in need of more parent sponsors*

*We need float chaperones*

*We needs someone to help with the Spirit  
Pack distribution– painting the rock-  
posters, banners,etc...*



# Mrs. Westfall Contact info:

Advisor: Nicole Westfall

Contact:

[westfan@gpschools.org](mailto:westfan@gpschools.org)

Room:

184

Instagram:

[@gpsouth\\_2026](#)

Parent Facebook: GPSOUTH 2026 Parent Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/972030070161608>





# Link Crew

Advisor: Mr. Taylor





LINK CREW  
class of  
2026





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# Thank You!

