



**GREAT MILLS HIGH  
SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 2009  
HANDBOOK FOR  
GRADUATION**

## Class of 2009

**Class Flower:** Yellow Daylily

**Class Motto:** "We came here as strangers, we stay as friends, we leave with memories that will never end"-unknown

**Class Song:** "Seasons of Love" from Rent

**Class Colors:** Green and Gold

**Class Sponsors:** Ms. Sandra Denham and Ms. Deborah Kole

**Website:** <http://schools.smcps.org/gmhs/class-2009>

## GREAT MILLS HIGH SCHOOL ALMA MATER

*Great Mills High, we pledge to thee  
Evermore our loyalty.*

*You have guided us in youth,  
You have taught us ways of truth.  
Now accept the praise we bring thee  
In our joyous song we sing thee.  
Alma Mater, to thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

### After Graduation Ceremonies

All graduates, guests, faculty and staff are invited to take photo opportunities at St. Mary's College of Maryland after the ceremony. Students are to return to GMHS to board the buses for Project Grad with their invited guests. First departure for Project Grad is at 9 p.m.

### Announcements

Please remember that announcements tell the recipient you are going to graduate. **THEY ARE NOT INVITATIONS TO THE GRADUATION CEREMONY!** Your announcement should include your personal name card. Students who have not purchased announcements through the school, and desire announcements, need to contact Josten's directly at <http://www.jostens.com/graduation/index.asp>. Jostens will be at GMHS on March 30th to distribute announcements.

### Awards Assembly

The Senior Awards Assembly will be held Tuesday, May 26th, 2009, at 8 a.m. in the Auditorium. Dress in Sunday best. Seniors will report directly to the Auditorium.

### Behavior

Due to the formal nature of the ceremony, graduates and guests are required to conduct themselves with dignity and respect at all times. This is a special time for all of you, so please do not ruin it for a "moment of fun." There should be no wearing of sunglasses, gum chewing, or eating once you have taken your place in line. Incidents of misbehavior will result in dismissal from the ceremony!

### Caps and Gowns and Senior Pan- oramic

Caps and Gowns are paid for by your Senior dues. Your Senior dues must be paid in order for you to receive your cap and gown. Graduating seniors will receive their cap and gown at the end of graduation practice on Thursday, May 28th.

Gowns should be hung on hangers as soon as possible. They may be ironed with a **cool** iron or may be steamed to remove wrinkles.

The Senior Panoramic will be taken during rehearsal at 10 a.m. at GMHS on May 28th. Please bring order forms and checks to any of the practices.

**Certificate of Merit**

CM designation is determined by the counseling department. A list is posted in the counseling department. CM cords will be paid for by the senior class and distributed at the rehearsal on May 28th, 2009.

**Code of Dress**

Your gown should be kept on a hanger. The gown should extend down to the mid-calf area. Gowns from previous years are from different dye lots and are not to be used. Nothing extra will be permitted to be hung, pinned, or attached in any way to either the cap or the gown.

On the night of graduation, women are to wear white or black dress shoes and an appropriate dress or pant suit. Classy, not tacky! High heels are discouraged but not prohibited (**no slip-ons or platforms**). Men are to wear a white dress shirt, a dark tie, dark dress trousers, dark socks, and black dress shoes. **Please do not wear denim trousers, jeans, tennis shoes, or sandals.** You will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony if you are improperly dressed!

**Debts Owed to GMHS**

All money owed to the school must be paid no later than 1 p.m. on Friday, May 15th. Any students who owe money will not be permitted to participate in graduation practice and therefore will be unable to participate in the commencement exercises. Please make sure to have checks written to GMHS.

**Guest Seating**

In order to be admitted to graduation, all guests must have a ticket (this includes children and infants).

Due to fire and safety regulations, all guests must be seated during the ceremony. Guests should remain in their seats until all graduates have exited. Walking areas and ramps must remain open during the entire ceremony.

We ask family and friends to refrain from leaving their seats in order to gain access to graduates as they are returning from the stage.

**High School Assessments**

Seniors taking courses with High School Assessments or who have not taken the HSA for HSA courses completed must complete the test as a graduation requirement. Test dates are set by the state and may not be altered. There are no waivers for students not taking the test.

**Location**

Graduation ceremonies will be held at St. Mary's College of Maryland in the Athletics and Recreation Center. The SMCM Main Arena will accommodate approximately 2000 people including graduates, guests, faculty, staff, the school band and chorus. The ceremony will be broadcast to the Auxillary Gymnasium which has a seating capacity of 1000. Many guests find that the Auxillary Gymnasium's less crowded atmosphere provides a more relaxing way to enjoy graduation.

**NHS Stoles**

Stoles may be purchased from the NHS Sponsor, Mrs. Illingworth. Cost is \$18.00 payable to the school bank. Stoles may be borrowed from the NHS Sponsor with a refundable \$18.00 deposit.

**Parking**

Parents and guests are asked to park in the SMCM parking lot in designated areas via Mattapany Road. Whenever possible, guests are asked to carpool to the ceremony. The graduation ceremony will take place in the Athletics and Recreation Center at SMCM. All Graduates are to report to GMHS where they will be shuttled to SMCM. The mandatory shuttle is for Graduates only. After Graduation, students must find their own transportation back to GMHS.

Board of Education members and school invited guests will be provided with VIP parking tickets. They will park adjacent to the building.

Faculty will be admitted to the Staff Parking Lot at GMHS. A shuttle will be provided for staff to and from SMCM.

Special parking and seating arrangements will be made for handicapped individuals. Please speak with Mrs. Schrader for special seating and parking arrangements prior to May 27th.

## Photographs

Persons wishing to take pictures of a graduate must do so from their own seat. No one will be allowed to block the view of others by standing in the aisles.

A professional photographer has been contracted by the school. Each graduate will have his or her picture taken while receiving his or her diploma. Proofs will be mailed to each student so that orders may be placed.

## Project Graduation Party

All members of the Class of 2009 and one guest per member are invited to the Chemical Free Graduation Party to be held at the Drill Hall on Base. The contract must be signed by both you and your guest (no one over the age of 21) and be returned to Mrs. Kole by Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:45 p.m. All rules on the contract must be followed or dismissal will occur for both you and your guest. Also, once you have turned in a contract, guest names cannot be changed. **All students should fill out and turn in a Project Grad paper whether they are attending or not. You must submit one in order to walk at Graduation.**

You must find transportation from SMCM to GMHS in order to board Project Grad buses.

Transportation for Project Graduation will depart from AND return to GMHS. The first bus departure is at 9 p.m. Buses will depart from 9 p.m. until 11 p.m. The first bus returning to GMHS is at 2 a.m. \*If you miss the 11 pm bus, there are no other opportunities to attend.

## Rehearsals

Attendance at all graduation practices is mandatory for those planning to participate in the graduation ceremony. Mrs. Heibel is in charge of all rehearsals, and only she may excuse a senior from a rehearsal, but this is rarely done. Plan your recreation and work schedules now in order to avoid conflicts. Any extraordinary circumstances must be cleared well in advance. All students are required to ride to Graduation and practices on the buses provided by the school. Students are NOT permitted to drive personal vehicles to the practices.

## Reporting Time

Assuming that you have been present at the rehearsals, you must be at Great Mills by 4 p.m. on May 29th if you intend to participate in the Graduation Ceremony. Secure any valuables in your car, and then report to your assigned room. Nothing can be left in the school. Please stay in your assigned area.

## Smoking

Smoking on school grounds is prohibited by law. This applies to the general public both at GMHS and SMCM.

## Tickets

You will be issued tickets at the rehearsal on Wednesday, May 27th. Each student will be issued Main Arena tickets and Auxillary Gymnasium tickets. Ticket numbers depend on the number of Graduates.

Mrs. Seek, (main office) will keep track of extra tickets. **If you have more tickets than you need, return them to her so they can be given to those who need them.** If you need extra tickets, you must submit a letter to Mrs. Heibel (the Principal) by May 1st, explaining for whom and why the extra tickets are needed. The letter must be handed to Mrs. Seek in the main office before the end of the day on Friday, May 15th. Extra tickets will be given at the end of practice on Thursday, May 28th. These tickets cannot be guaranteed, since their existence and quantity depend on the return of unneeded tickets.

## Video Tape

Video cameras will be allowed, however, all videotaping must be done from the seats. Because of space limitations, guests are asked not to bring tripods into the gymnasium. At this time, there is a provision for the purchase of commercially produced videotapes.

## Wearing of the Tassel

During the processional and throughout the awarding of the diplomas, the tassel is worn on the right side of the mortar board (cap). After the diplomas have been awarded, and on the rehearsed signal, the tassels will be shifted to the left side of the cap.

# PREGRADUATION CALENDAR

Wed, April 15	Senior information day with Grad Coordinator
Fri, April 17	Prom , Hollywood Firehouse 7-11PM “ Masquerade” *checkout at noon with note from home
Mon, April 27	AP testing pre-registration
Fri, May 1	Extra Ticket Requests submitted (end date May 15)
Mon, May 4	Government AP exam
Tues, May 5	Computer Science, Spanish, Statistics AP exams
Wed, May 6	Calculus AB, BC AP exams
Thurs, May 7	English Literature AP exam
Fri, May 8	Studio Art AP exams
Mon, May 11	Biology, Music Theory, Physics B AP exams
Tues, May 12	Chemistry, Environmental Science, Psychology AP exams
Wed, May 13	English Language, Art History AP exams
Thurs, May 14	World History AP exam, AP Ice Cream Social Senior Exam English, World Languages pt 1
Fri, May 15	Dues and Debts due to bank in order to walk Extra Ticket Deadline Senior Exams English, World Languages pt 2
Mon, May 18	Senior Exams Social Studies, Science, PE/ Health pt 1
Tues, May 19	Senior Exams Social Studies, Science, PE/ Health pt 2
Wed, May 20	Senior Exams CTE, Fine Arts, Mathematics pt 1
Thurs, May 21	Senior Exams CTE, Fine Arts, Mathematics pt 2
Fri, May 22	Project Graduation Forms due in order to walk Last Academic Day for Seniors. Attendance required for seniors. Senior Grades Due
Mon, May 25	Memorial Day-No School
Tues, May 26	Senior Awards Assembly *Sunday best dress Senior check out after Awards Assembly
Wed, May 27	Graduation Practice GMHS *Mandatory / Auditorium (Tickets and Parking Passes Distributed) 8 AM -1 PM *follow announcements for names and times
Thurs, May 28	Graduation Practice GMHS *Mandatory / Auditorium Senior Panoramic 10 AM (Extra Tickets and Parking Passes Distributed, Cap and Gown Distributed) 8 AM -1 PM *follow announcements for names and times Senior Picnic at the Blue Crabs Stadium 1-5 PM
Fri, May 29	Graduation Practice 8 AM - 1PM *all students to report at 8 AM **Mandatory / Auditorium Mandatory shuttle to SMCM for Seniors
Graduation Night	Report to GMHS at 4 PM *Report to check in Mandatory shuttle to SMCM for Seniors Commencement Exercises 6 PM Athletics & Recreation Center, St. Mary’s College of Md Mandatory Bus to Project Graduation First bus departure from GMHS at 9 PM Last departure from GMHS at 11 PM *no alternatives First bus return to GMHS at 2 AM

Questions? Email Mrs. Schrader gmschrader@smcps.org

Graduation Website:

<http://schools.smcps.org/gmhs/graduation-2009>