



Gilmer

High School



Class of 2020

Resource Guide

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Welcome to Gilmer High School!

We are so glad that you are here today for our 2016 Fish Camp. Gilmer High School continues to be recognized as one of the best comprehensive high schools in the state of Texas.

The school spirit and pride at GHS is strong and the future depends on the unity and strength of our underclassmen. We encourage you to challenge yourself both in your academic course work and in your investment in extracurricular activities. Take an advanced course in your favorite subject area. Get involved. Students who are connected to the school by participating in extracurricular activities, stay engaged in their classes, and are generally more successful in school. We hope you are as excited about the opportunities that await you in the next four years of high school as we are about watching you continue the tradition of excellence here at Gilmer High School.

“It’s a great day to be a Buckeye.”



ACADEMICS AT GILMER

The academic expectation at Gilmer is that all students have a sense of purpose; all students are college and/or career-bound. You are preparing for either a university, a community college, or an on-the-job training environment where you will find the work you love and enjoy a rewarding career.

As an incoming freshman, you must set your own academic goals and make a plan for achieving them. We want to provide you with the information and support you need to be successful. Below are some suggestions to consider as you step into the halls of Gilmer High School.



Buckeye Bits:

- * **Tips that will help you find your way at GHS**
- * **Collect them as you read through the handbook**
- * **Understand their value to your success**
- * **Apply them daily to your academic approach**
- * **Develop them throughout your time here at GHS**



Balancing the Workload

Expect homework every night.

Set aside a time and place to study. Think in terms of study time, break time, and back to your studies.

Do not fall into a pattern of putting your work off for later.

Up front, you should plan for two hours of study each week night and four hours over the weekend. Of course, this can be expanded.

Do not fall into the trap of allowing your evening to be frittered away by video games, texting, TV, and social media. Take charge of your time!

Plan around extracurricular activities.

If you have extracurricular activities such as sports, band, dance, drama, you must plan accordingly. Do not let your study time be squeezed out of your busy day.

Balancing the Workload



Classes a day =

Homework

essays

tests

Projects

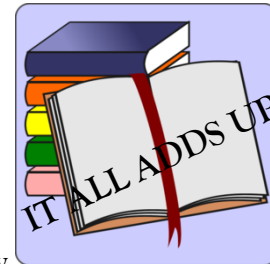
tutorials

study time

Extracurricular activities

Think ahead.

For example, you know you have a vocab quiz in English, a big World Geography test coming up on Friday, and you also know you have a football game Thursday night. Make flashcards for the vocabulary words and study them in your free time all week long. Complete the reading and studying for World Geography on Wednesday night so on Thursday night, after your game, you can simply review. Do not wait until the last minute! When a major project is due, work on it over the weekend.



Balancing the Workload

Keep your binder organized.

Place handouts and all important notes neatly in either a pocket spiral notebook or a three ring binder with pockets. Choose the system that works best for you. Staying organized is a key element to your academic success. (A sad fact is that some freshmen perform poorly because they come to high school and abandon the organizational strategies they used in Junior High.)

Buckeye Bit #1

- * The moment you find yourself feeling lost or unsure about how to do a math problem or confused about a concept in science, or baffled by how to write an analysis of a poem – plan on talking to a teacher. Arrange a specific time with your teacher to work together on your problem.
- * Your teachers are here to HELP you. But, YOU must take the initiative.



Balancing the Workload



Absences are the biggest cause of failures.

Do your best not to be absent from school. If you are vomiting, running a fever, or if you are coughing nonstop and have a sore throat, then you need to see a doctor. But if you wake up and feel tired- that is not a reason to stay home from school. Be wise enough to manage your own little aches and pains and come to school! Staying home only puts you behind and makes more work for you in the long-run. There is no substitute for being in class!

As a rule of thumb, if you find yourself with two absences during the first Six Weeks, then you must really watch out! Texas Education Code states students must be in attendance at least 90% or more of the time a class meets, per class, per semester to receive credit.

Buckeye Bit # 2

If you are absent bring documentation to the attendance clerk. Contact your teachers to discuss make-up work and/or missing assignments. You are in charge; take the initiative!

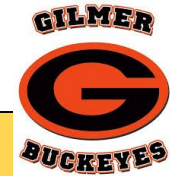


Balancing the Workload

A black silhouette of a balance scale is positioned behind the word "the" in the title. The scale is tilted, with the right pan being lower than the left pan.

Never hesitate to talk to your counselor about anything that is troubling you...grades, your schedule, students, teachers, parents, money problems, lunch problems, your health. Any problem that you cannot stop thinking about because it is troubling you is a problem that you need to discuss with your counselor or a teacher or administrator.

Self-care will play an important part in your academic success, so if you are feeling stressed or overwhelmed, **talk to someone.** Your teachers, counselors, and administrators are here to help.



Buckeye Bit # 3

You can find helpful information on the Gilmer High School Website under the Counselor 's Corner tab. The website includes counseling resources, study skills resources, graduation requirements, college and career information, and much more!

Grading Periods

The school year is divided into 6 six-week marking periods. The first 3 six-weeks make up the 1st semester and the last 3 six-weeks make up the 2nd semester.

FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Six-weeks	Six-weeks	Six-weeks	Six-weeks	Six-weeks	Six-weeks
Aug. 22-	Oct. 3-	Nov. 7-	Jan. 2-	Feb. 20-	Apr. 17-
Sept. 30	Nov. 4	Dec. 16	Feb. 17	Apr. 13	May 25

Semester averages are determined by averaging the 3 six-week averages and the semester final exam.

The final exam counts as 1/7 of the semester average. The only grade that appears on your high school transcript is the semester average.

If you have a low grade one six weeks, work to bring up your overall semester average by earning higher grades the following six-weeks periods.



Category Weights

Each course may have a different approach to categorizing grades and may apply different percentage weights to those categories. Introduction handouts, course syllabi, and teacher websites will list the grade breakdown for each class.

Major Grades

Regardless of the course, major grades will always count as the largest percentage of your overall average and will include fewer grades than the other categories.

For example, a course might divide grades into MAJOR (60%) and DAILY (40%).





Beware of the Killer



Mathematically, it is extremely difficult to recover from a zero—especially for a major grade.

Zeros will kill your average. Even partial credit for an assignment is better than no credit.

View the grade scenarios in the chart below and notice the impact of the killer zeroes on the six weeks average.

	Andy	Betty	Charlie	Debbie
Major	85	95	75	85
Grades	85	95	75	0
60%	85	0	75	0
Daily Grades 40%	0	95	0	85
	85	95	0	85
	85	95	75	85
	85	95	75	85
	85	95	75	85
	85	95	75	85
	85	95	75	85
	85	95	75	85
Average	82	76	69	62



The GHS Exam Exemption Policy is designed to reward students for good grades, near-perfect attendance, and good behavior throughout the year. The following criteria, similar to other high-performing high schools, were developed to encourage behaviors that lead to student success in high school and beyond. There are no exceptions to the exemption criteria.

A student may obtain an exemption by meeting the following:

- 1) Have 3 or fewer absences.

All absences, including illnesses, count in exemption policy, with the following exceptions:

- *College Day visits (TWO PER YEAR) with verification from the college
- *Religious Holidays
- *Partial-day medical and dental appointments (the student must provide documentation of the appointment).

Buckeye Bit # 4

Work toward exempting finals by:

- * Keeping absences low
- * Keeping grades high



TRACKING GRADES

ONLINE

Parents and students should monitor grades throughout the six weeks to identify strengths and weaknesses in each course.

One of the most convenient tools for monitoring grades is through the districts online system, **Skyward Parent Portal**. The Parent Portal serves as a resource for both parents and students to keep track of grades and due dates.

Parents will receive a Parent Portal letter that contains the Portal ID necessary to login. **Skyward Parent Portal** is found on our GISD website under Quick links. Directions on completing the login process can be found under this link. If parents have questions they are encouraged to contact the GHS Registrar's office.

*Freshmen coming from GISD Junior High School who already have access will continue to use the same login information.

Progress Reports and Report Cards

Progress reports are distributed to students during 3rd period after the conclusion of the third week, each six weeks.

Report cards are distributed to students during 3rd period at the conclusion of each six weeks.

Buckeye Bit # 5

Watch your grades closely and get help as soon as you see them dropping. Don't wait for someone to come to you. YOU are in charge of your education!



COURSE SELECTION

Personal Graduation Plan

Counselors will meet with students towards the end of the school year to determine course selections. Students can follow the graduation plan outlined in the Gilmer High School Course Selection Guide given to each 8th grade student, or access the guide online on the GHS website under Counselor's Corner.

Advanced Classes

Taking Advanced, AP, or Dual-Credit courses will provide you with advanced knowledge and skills. Not only will these courses prepare you for standardized tests and future college courses, they will enhance your transcript and resume, and in some cases, allow you to earn college credit.

Buckeye Bit # 6

Challenge yourself and take advantage of the opportunity to accelerate your education and improve your resume with advanced classes!



ACADEMIC (A+) RECORD

GPA stands for Grade Point Average which is used to determine your class rank. A final calculation of GPA and class rank is determined at the end of the senior year and will be reflected on the final transcript which is sent to colleges.

Gilmer High School uses a 4.0 grading scale.

The chart on the next page shows the GPA points earned dependent on the level of the course taken. You can also find this information on page 17 of the Gilmer High School 2016-2017 Course Selection Guide and on the Counselor's Corner website.



Buckeye Bit # 7

Your GPA starts with the first assignment you complete as a ninth grade student. Focus on making good grades from the moment you enter Gilmer High School!



Gilmer High School GPA Scale

Numerical Grade	AP/Dual Credit Weighted GPA	Unweighted GPA
100	5.0	4.0
95	4.5	3.5
90	4.0	3.0
85	3.5	2.5
80	3.0	2.0
75	2.5	1.5
70	2.0	1.0

Transcripts



Your high school transcript is a permanent record of your academic achievement.

Have you ever seen an actual high school transcript?

Did you know your STAAR scores appear on your transcript?

Look for the following:

Class Rank

GPA

STAAR scores

Semester Grades

ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS

Gilmer High School hosts a variety of activities for your involvement and numerous different clubs and organizations to consider when deciding how to get involved. Below are a few of the many activities, clubs, and organizations offered here at GHS.

Art Club

Band

Stars

Cheerleading

Choir

Debate

Drama Club

FCA

FFA

Interact

National Honor Society

Spanish Club

Theatre

Yearbook/
Newspaper/
Photography



Athletic Training

Baseball

Basketball– Boys

Basketball– Girls

Cross Country

Football

Golf

Softball

Swimming/Diving

Tennis

Track- Boys

Track– Girls

Volleyball

Powerlifting-Boys & Girls

Air Force JROTC

Student Council

UIL

Buckeye Bit # 8

Get involved with a club or organization that addresses your interests, hobbies, and talents outside the core curriculum.



Winning Ways After High School

Graduation may seem far away, but a common misconception amongst freshmen is that preparation for life after high school doesn't begin for a few more years.

The reality is, everything you do in high school will either help you move closer to, or further from your goals. Use your resources and begin planning now to be successful.

Begin Building Your Resume

Every student will benefit from collecting information for a college resume during freshman year.

- Begin logging community service hours
- Keep a record of achievements and awards (honor roll, athletic awards, etc.)
- Monitor semester grades and standardized test scores which will appear on transcripts
- Ensure that all courses taken meet the requirements of your graduation plan

Buckeye Bit # 9

Begin typing a resume now and add to it at the end of every semester.



Resources For Success

One of the wisest habits to develop at this point in your high school career is the habit of utilizing resources!

Consider these resources when you need information or guidance:

- **Online:**

District website: www.gilmerisd.org

High School website

Counselor's Corner Tab on High School website

Teacher's websites

- **Staff:**

Administrators

Counselors

Teachers

- **Parents and other family members**

- **Peers**



Buckeye Bit # 10

All administrators and teachers want to help you find success while here at Gilmer High School.



Montgomery High School Administrators & Counselors

Principal

Brian Bowman

Assistant Principal

Jeff Hamilton

Assistant Principal

Jasmine Cunningham

Counselor (A-F)

Missy Rice

Counselor (G-N)

Leah Erickson

Counselor (O-Z)

Susan Gilbert

Registrar

Sharon Sosbee



August, 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September, 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October, 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November, 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December, 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January, 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2016-2017 Gilmer ISD

First Semester 77 days
Second Semester 97 days

Start Dates: Staff 8/8 Students 8/22
End Dates: Staff 5/26 Students 5/25

Staff Days: 8/8-8/19
Comp/Waiver Days: 8/8, 11/21, 11/22
Early Release: 9/14, 10/19, 12/15, 12/16, 1/13, 5/25

Reporting Periods	Days
1st Six Weeks	29
2nd Six Weeks	23
3rd Six Weeks	25
4th Six Weeks	34
5th Six Weeks	34
6th Six Weeks	29

Total Student Days	174
Staff Development	10
State Waiver Days	3
Total Days	187

School Bell Times

GHS & BJH INT & Elem
8:00 - 3:50 7:45 - 3:00

Early Release Times

GHS&BJH-12:00 INT&Elem-1:00

Student Holidays

Labor Day Sept. 5
Yamboree Days Oct. 20, 21
Thanksgiving Nov. 21-25
Christmas Dec. 16-Jan 1
MLK Day Jan 16
Spring Break Mar. 13-17
Good Friday April 14

Codes

- School Holiday
- Begin Six Weeks
- End Six Weeks
- Staff Dev. Student Holiday
- Early Release

Contract Dates

10 Month Aug 8 - May 26
11 Month July 25 - June 9
12 Month Days July 1 - June 30

February, 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March, 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April, 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May, 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June, 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July, 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**Gilmer High School
Bell Schedule
2016-2017**

1.) 8:00 – 8:51

8:51 – 9:01 (2nd Chance Breakfast)

2.) 9:01 – 9:52

3.) 9:56 – 10:47

4.) 10:51 – 11:42

5.) 11:46 to 1:12

6.) 1:16 – 2:07

7.) 2:11 – 3:02

8.) 3:06 – 3:57

A Lunch: 11:42 to 12:12

B Lunch: 12:12 to 12:42

C Lunch: 12:42 to 1:12

GILMER HIGH SCHOOL

School Mascot: *BUCKEYES*



Fight Song:

On ye Buckeyes, On ye Buckeyes,
Fight right through that line
Down the field and through the tackle
Touchdown sure this time
Rah, Rah, Rah
On ye Buckeyes, On ye, Buckeyes,
Fight for future fame,
Fight Buckeyes, fight, fight, fight
And win this game!

