



Welcome to Gaither High School!

Class of 2024!

Welcome Message From the HEAD WRANGLER Mr. Morrill

I would like to welcome all freshmen and families to Gaither High School! Several of you have come from different schools, possibly different counties and states, and perhaps from a different country. You all are now “COWBOYS” and will quickly acclimate to our COWBOY way of work and play, just like I did back in 1985. I am a proud graduate from the second class of all time, the Class of 1987! Our motto is “Commitment to Excellence” and I believe if you put in hard work, you will later get rewarded. Use your time wisely and remember why you are here; to get the best education and to graduate from high school to enter post secondary education, a career field, or military service. We will help you get there and will challenge and stretch you along the way to make you grow. It is ok to fail and it is only human. We learn and grow from our mistakes which makes us stronger and better than before.

Don't forget to wear your mask at ALL TIMES to protect you and others from viruses and to stay healthy. See you all on the ranch and come say hello or send me an email! Best wishes for a great school year and GO COWBOYS!

Gaither Administration

- Mr. Thomas Morrill, Principal
- Ms. Becky Wickham, APC
- Ms. Jackie Eisenhauer, APA
- Ms. Rubye Dunn, AP Student Affairs
- Dr. Lee Williams, AP Student Affairs
- Mr. Kedric Harris, AP Student Affairs

Top Keys to Success

- ABCs – Good Attendance, Behavior, Master the Curriculum – B’s or higher only!
- Come to school daily, eat breakfast, and drink plenty of water/juice. Just like a car needs gas, oil, and other fluids to operate well, your body and mind does too! You will not function at your best if you do not take care of your needs.
- Read and understand your Student Handbook Online – sdhc.k12.fl.us
- Dress appropriately, with good taste and modesty
- Attend every class, arrive early. If you are on time, you are already late.
- Behave, follow the rules and procedures (be respectful, don’t spread rumors or gossip, ESPECIALLY ON SOCIAL MEDIA. Others will copy what you post and it eventually ends up in the principal’s office)
- Be organized, your cell phone has a calendar and reminders app to input important due dates and information.
- Pay attention by actively listening to the teacher and to your peers. “Track” the teacher with your eyes to show you are paying attention. Listening quietly is better than talking.

Top Keys to Success

- Participate in class by completing assignments and by asking questions.
- Develop good note-taking skills; review your notes for at least 10 minutes each day.
- Go to tutoring, it is free
- Join a club, athletic team, band, or other extra curricular activity
- Meet a new friend (s) who is/are focused academically and behaviorally, invite him/her/them to sit with you at lunch, form a regular study group. Students who form and use study groups consistently receive better grades than those who do not.
- Meet with your counselor at least twice during each quarter, review your transcript
- You are responsible and accountable for your actions. Failure is not an option!
- Attend, Behave, Grades, Test Scores!
- Be NICE to others, even if you are in a bad mood. Your mood determines the mood of others.

Believe in yourself and find your purpose and passion!

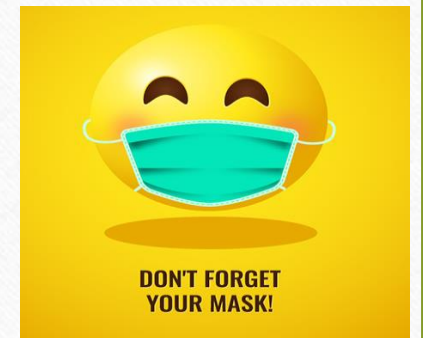
High school matters!

Graduating high school affects your whole life:

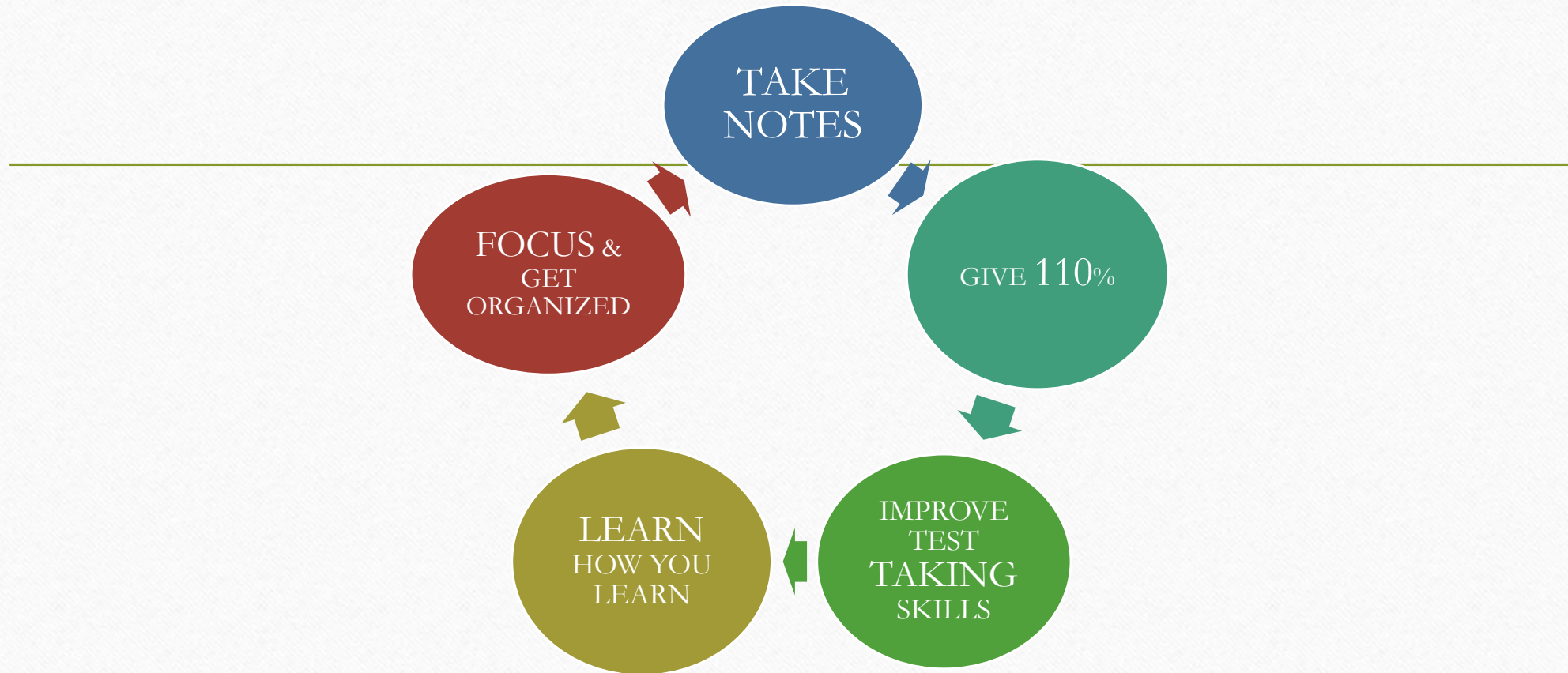
- You'll have better job opportunities
- You'll feel proud of your accomplishments
- You'll be able to attend college or technical school
- You'll earn higher wages at work
- You'll be more likely to stay employed and avoid chronic unemployment

Develop Healthy Habits

- ❖ Get enough sleep! The average teen needs 9 ½ hours of sleep every night. Lack of sleep can lead to academic troubles, stress, anxiety, and depression
- ❖ Eat healthy foods – especially breakfast
- ❖ Practice having a positive attitude
- ❖ Participate in exercise
- ❖ Reach out for help when you need it (friends, parents, counselors, etc.)



FRESHMAN YEAR



WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER INTERESTS?



- What do you enjoy doing?
- What job/career interests you most?
- Which colleges offer degrees in these areas?
- Which high school courses can help you explore and prepare for earning a degree at these colleges?

Choices

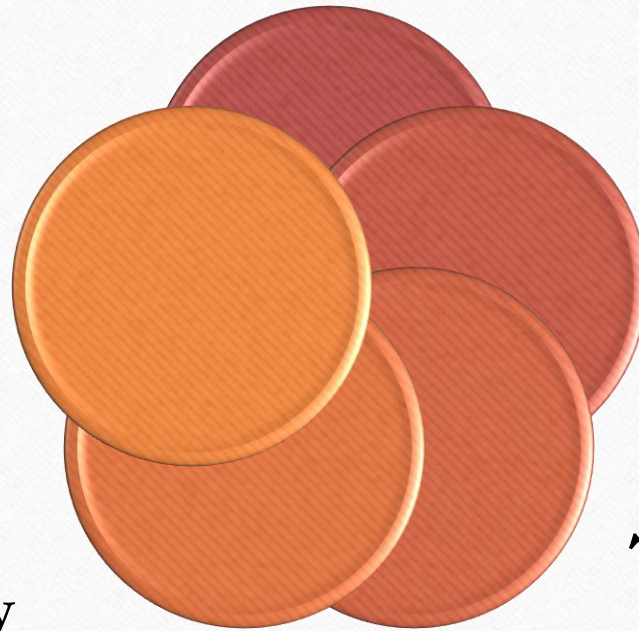
Work

4 Year
University

Military

2 Year
Community
College

Technical
School



Challenge Yourself

- Be better tomorrow than you are today!
- Find what you are good at and become great!
- Make the most of every opportunity

Gaither Fun Facts

- We are the Gaither Cowboys!
- Our colors are Silver, Blue and White.
- Gaither Sr. High School opened on August 27, 1984.
- Our football stadium, Ron Allen Field, is also known as Death Valley.
- Our current enrollment this year is projected at 2050 + (eLearning and online, about half will be eLearning)
- Our school is named after Mr. Vivian Gaither, a long time principal at Hillsborough High School who retired in 1933.
- Channing Tatum, Actor and current Tampa Bay Rays Manager, Kevin Cash, attended GHS.

Gaither Demographics

- Asian 3.83%
- Black 10.23%
- Hispanic 43.47%
- Indian 0.19%
- Multi 5.31%
- White 36.97%
- *Data from http://gaither.mysdhc.org/School_Information

School Schedule

- Our school hours this year are 8:35 AM to 3:30 PM.
- The school calendar can be found at <http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/calendar/>
- The first day of school is August 24, 2020 (eLearning for ALL for the first week); August 31 for those who selected “Brick and Mortar” will return to campus; those who selected eLearning will work from home or their eLearning location.
- Gaither's Website is gaither.mysdhc.org.
- Gaither does have Twitter @GaitherCowboys and Facebook – Follow Us!

Attendance

- Good attendance is **KEY** to student success!
- Absences can be excused for illness, accidental injury to student, a death in the family, religious observance, and as otherwise agreed to by school administration. See Student Code of Conduct for details.
- Tardy students must be signed in via the main office. Excused tardies include illness, medical appointments, severe weather, and other reasons agreed to by school administration. Documentation may be required. ** Please note car problems are **NOT** excused.
- For details please see Student Code of Conduct. There is a link on Gaither's website.

Athletics with Ms. Eisenhauer

- Gaither has sports all school year.
- You must maintain a 2.0 GPA for athletics.
- Contact Mrs. Stephanie Woychowski, Administrative Assistant to Mrs. Eisenhauer (stephanie.woychowski@sdhc.k12.fl.us) or 975-7340 extension 237 re: anything sports related.

Dress Code

- We do not require uniforms at Gaither. However, we do have a dress code.
- Here are some of the do's and don'ts:
 - DO wear shoes :-)

- Don't wear slippers or skate tennis shoes :-)



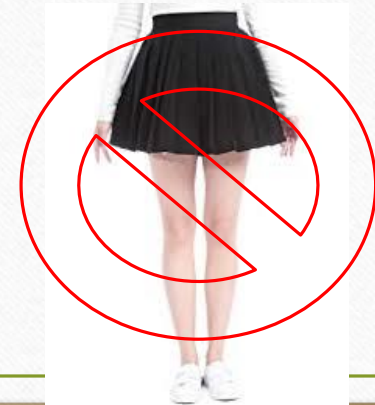
Dress Code Clothing

- DO Wear Gaither Spirit Wear and blouse/shirt over spaghetti straps.
- Don't Wear tube tops, shirts that expose the shoulder or the midriff (back sides or front)



Dress Code Clothing

- DO wear skirts, dresses, and shorts that are fingertip length.
 - DO wear pants that fit your waist.
 - Don't wear mini-skirts, mini-dresses, or short shorts.
- Don't house your pants – underwear should not be visible.



Dress Code Clothing

- Do wear a MASK at all times on campus, except when eating and drinking
 - DO wear clothes that fit your personality and style!
- Don't wear garments and/or jewelry that show or suggest sexual, vulgar, drug, gang, weapons, or alcohol-related wording or graphics, or that provoke or may provoke violence or disruption in the school
 - DO wear a hairstyle that you enjoy!
- Don't wear hats or head coverings except for religious observance or health-related reasons.

Dress Code

- Consequences and additional information is available on Gaither's website <http://gaither.mysdhc.org>

Have A Great School Year!

