



# The GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Our mission is for all students to be successful, engaged, lifelong learners.*

Dr. Richard Safier  
Superintendent of Schools  
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Gloucester, MA 01930

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August 19, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian,

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the Gloucester Public School District, I would like to welcome back all of the school children and their families. And, I would like to add a special welcome to those students and families who are joining the GPSD for the first time. As you know, the beginning of school is right around the corner, and there is much to do as both you and the district get ready for the opening of school.

For the district, the beginning of school begins with an orientation for new teachers to the district on Tuesday, August 28. This includes introducing new teachers to their mentor. School opens for us with a series of staff meetings on Tuesday, September 4. The first day of school for students is Wednesday, September 5. School is in session that first week on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Please note that Thursday, September 6 is an Early Release Day. This time is reserved for staff to begin the development of the new educator evaluation system. The calendar for the school year is enclosed. Preschool and Kindergarten parents, please note that starting dates are different for your children.

Once school is underway, there are some important dates for you to be aware of. Schools will be holding their respective Back-to-School/Open Houses in September. The dates and times for these meetings are as follows:

Gloucester High School	Wednesday, September 12	7:00 pm
O'Maley Middle School	Wednesday, September 19	6:00 pm
Beeman Memorial Elementary School	Thursday, September 20	K-2, 5:30 pm & 3-5, 6:45 pm
East Gloucester Elementary School	Thursday, September 20	K-2, 6:00 pm & 3-5, 7:00 pm
Plum Cove Elementary School	Thursday, September 20	K-2, 6:00 pm & 3-5, 7:00 pm
Veterans' Memorial Elem. School	Thursday, September 20	K-5, 5:30 pm
West Parish Elementary School	Thursday, September 20	K-2, 6:00 pm & 3-5, 7:00 pm

Other future dates to keep in mind include Early Release day for professional development on September 18 and October 16, and parent conferences, K-8, which are scheduled for October 25 and November 8.

Enclosed in this mailing, you will find a copy of the bus pass application. If your son/daughter is going to be taking the bus, please complete and submit as soon as possible. We require bus pass applications for every student who will be taking the bus. Submitted applications allow us to figure out bus routes, and the numbers of students who will take each bus. The bus pass application is also on the Gloucester Public Schools website at [www.gloucesterschools.com](http://www.gloucesterschools.com) (it still has to be printed and filled out).

Applications for Free and Reduced Lunch are also available on the website as well. These are important benefits for families who qualify, and they assist the district with state funding as well. In a follow-up mailing, we will be offering a contest for iPads for any family that applies for Free and Reduced Lunch. Translations of the application in Portuguese and Spanish are also available on the website. Please note that these applications are completely confidential.

This has been a summer of considerable change in personnel, and we have quite a number of new administrators. In the Central Office, Mr. Gregg Bach is the new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Ms. Patty Wegmann is the new Director of Special Education; and Mr. Hans Baumhauer is the new Director of Finance and Operations. Gregg Bach and Patty Wegmann have both worked in the district for many years. Ms. Carol Bratt, formerly an elementary math specialist/coach in Hamilton-Wenham, has filled the position of Principal at East Gloucester Elementary School. We have a new Principal at West Parish Elementary School as well, Ms. Telena Imel. Most recently, Ms. Imel was the K-12 Director of Curriculum for the Amesbury Public Schools. Both of these individuals bring extensive expertise to their positions. At Gloucester High School, we have put together a very dynamic team. Mr. Erik Anderson, now Principal was Principal of the White Mountain Regional H.S. in Whitefield, N.H; Ms. Kerri O'Donnell, the new Assistant Principal, was the Humanities Coordinator at Billerica Memorial H.S.; Mr. Chris Kobs was an Interim Dean last year at GHS and former Social Studies teacher - He will be returning to that position; and Mr. Andrew Korman, a Dean of Students at North Berwick H.S. will be a Dean of Students as well.

Regarding the schools, there are many exciting things going on in the district. Beginning with the elementary schools, we have now established a partnership with the Bay State Reading Institute (BSRI) in all five of our schools. We have entered into and extended this partnership in order to find the means to strengthen our literacy program through the integration of our current best practices with research-based methods, which we will be guided toward by BSRI. This is a multi-year commitment to strengthen our capacity to teach literacy; i.e., reading and writing. We will also be working to strengthen our math instruction and data collection by completing a system of common assessments used by all schools.


At the O'Maley Middle School, of course, we are embarking on the adventure of the school becoming an "Innovation School". The innovation school concept was developed by the state Board of Education in an attempt to provide some schools with more "autonomy and flexibility" which would lead to more creative ideas in the classroom. For us, this translates into initiatives such as "project-based learning" which we hope will increase student engagement in their work as we seek to simulate real-life experiences as a fundamental part of their learning. We are also looking to create learning, which is more interdisciplinary so that the different subjects find ways of supporting learning across the content areas.

The high school currently continues to find ways to measure and assess critical thinking. Each student's capacity to problem solve, evaluate situations, make judgments based upon evidence, along with inference, deduction, and induction are all goals that we seek to make measurable. These goals apply to advanced placement courses all the way through our vocational program. The high school has also created a second pathway in Science. Along with the existing pathway consisting of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, there is a second series of courses that emphasize Applied Technology and Engineering.

On the facilities side of things, we are preparing for the opening of school, taking stock of our needs across the district, and moving forward with a Feasibility Study for the West Parish Project. Under the oversight of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), and over the course of this school year, we will be examining options for the West Parish Elementary School that will ultimately result in the best educational design at the most effective and economical cost. Working with the MSBA means that approximately 48% of the total cost of the complete project will be reimbursed by the state.

Last, I want to mention that we have been able to work very cooperatively with the Gloucester Teachers' Association this summer in establishing a common understanding of the new, state-mandated evaluation system. This is a system designed to promote professional growth through a partnership of mutual accountability and mutual inter-dependability.

Most important, this new school year represents another step in your child's (or children's) intellectual, social, and emotional growth. That growth is our focus, our center of attention, and our primary mission. With that in mind, I wish everyone the best as we start the new school year. I have very positive expectations, and am confident that by working together—parents/guardians, staff, and the community—we can find the ways to best educate each and every child.

Sincerely,  
  
Richard Safier

**GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

**6 SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD  
GLOUCESTER, MA 01930  
978-282-3001**

**APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION 2012-2013**

**FREE TRANSPORTATION**

For eligible students enrolled in their **neighborhood** school, Free Transportation will be provided as per the following distances:

**Kindergarten thru Grade 6**    **2 miles or over**

**FEE BASED TRANSPORTATION**

For eligible students enrolled in their **neighborhood** school, Transportation will be **provided** for a **fee** for the following students:

Grades K-5	over 1 mile to 2 miles
Grade 6	over 1.5 miles to 2 miles
Grades 7-8	over 2 miles

Elementary students in Grades K-5 who live over 1/2 mile but less than 1 mile from their neighborhood school and live in the vicinity of an existing bus stop may opt to ride the bus for the full fee *if space permits*. Students in grade 6 who live over 1.5 miles but less than 2 miles and live in the vicinity of an existing bus stop, may opt to ride the bus for the full fee *if space permits*. Students who live under these limits are not eligible to ride the bus. **Choice students are NOT entitled to transportation.**

€ My child **WILL NOT** use bus transportation for the **2012-2013** school year.

€ I **DO** want my child to receive bus transportation for the **2012-2013** school year.  
 € Round Trip      € One Way (if space permits)    € AM    € PM    € YMCA

The fee is \$150 per rider with a cap of \$300 per family. A one way bus pass is \$100. All students attending the YMCA afterschool program must pay \$100 for a bus pass. Bus fees are due by September 15, 2012. You may opt to pay a 50% deposit per student by September 15, 2012 with final payment due by February 1, 2013.

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Gr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Gr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Gr. \_\_\_\_\_

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY  
 DATE RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK# \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

Send above portion with your deposit and return the lower portion with your final payment.  
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**Keep bottom portion and return with final payment.  
 Reminders will not be sent. Complete all information below so that we can credit the proper account.**

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Gr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Gr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Gr. \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to *Gloucester Public Schools*. Mail to : Gloucester Public Schools, Transportation Dept., 6 Schoolhouse Rd., Gloucester MA 01930**

# School Calendar 2012-2013

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## 2012

September 3	No School – Labor Day
September 4	All Staff Starts
September 5	Schools Open – Grades K-12 Students Start – *Kindergarten Students Early Release (1/2 Day)
September 6	*Early Release ALL Schools – Professional Development
September 7	Kindergarten Students – No School
September 10	Preschool Starts
September 12	Back to School/Open House Night Gloucester High School – Grades 9-12 @ 7 pm
September 18	*Early Release ALL Schools – Professional Development
September 19	Back to School/Open House Night O’Maley Middle School – Grades 6-8 @ 6 pm
September 20	Back to School/Open House Nights: Plum Cove – Grades K-2 @ 6 pm & Grades 3-5 @ 7 pm Beeman Memorial – Grades K-2 @ 5:30 & Grades 3-5 @ 6:45 pm East Gloucester – Grades K-2 @ 6 pm & Grades 3-5 at 7 pm Veterans’ Memorial – Grades K-5 @ 5:30 pm West Parish – Grades K-2 @ 6 pm & Grades 3-5 @ 7 pm
October 8	Columbus Day – No School
October 16	*Early Release ALL Schools – Professional Development
October 25	*Early Release – Grades K-8 Afternoon Parent/Guardian Conferences
November 6	Professional Development (Election Day) No School for Students
November 8	*Early Release – Grades K-8 Afternoon & Evening Parent/Guardian Conferences
November 12	Veterans’ Day – No School
November 14	Sawyer Medal/Awards Ceremony Night at 7 pm
November 21	*Early Release ALL Schools – Pre-Vacation
November 22 & 23	Thanksgiving Recess
December 24 to 31	Vacation

**2013**

January 1	New Year's Day – No School
January 21	Martin Luther King Day – No School
February 5	*Early Release ALL Schools – Professional Development
February 18	Presidents' Day – No School
February 19 to 22	Winter Recess
March 7	*Early Release – Grades K-8 Afternoon Parent/Guardian Conferences
March 29	*Early Release – Good Friday
April 15	Patriots' Day – No School
April 16 to 19	No School – Spring Recess
May 27	Memorial Day – No School
June 9	GHS Graduation
June 17	*Early Release - Last Day of School (No Snow Days)
June 18	Last Day – 1 Snow Day Used
June 19	Last Day – 2 Snow Days Used
June 20	Last Day – 3 Snow Days Used
June 21	Last Day – 4 Snow Days Used
June 24	Last Day – 5 Snow Days Used

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\***Early Release Days** — Listed are the school early release times:

Gloucester High School	11:00 am
Ralph B. O'Maley Middle School	11:00 am
Beeman Memorial Elementary School	11:30 am
Plum Cove Elementary School	11:30 am
East Gloucester Elementary School	11:30 am
Veterans' Memorial School	12:00 am
West Parish Elementary School	12:00 pm