



POLK STATE Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School

April 2020 Newsletter (2nd Edition)

Polk State College & Gateway Updates

Greetings parents & students,

We'd like to give you an update. Our virtual office hours are 7:30AM – 4:30PM Monday – Friday. If you contact us outside of office hours, we will be sure to respond to messages during office hours the following business day. A friendly reminder that only essential personnel are allowed on campus to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Polk State's leadership team is monitoring the rapidly evolving situation closely and responding as quickly as possible with daily communication among the leadership team, with the Florida Department of Education, and guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC).

All high school classes for the remainder of the Spring term and all college classes for the summer will be completely ONLINE.

Additionally, the College is following the CDC's guideline for large events and mass gatherings which recommends canceling or postponing in-person events that consist of more than 10 people. Please visit the College's [COVID-19 webpage](#) for a full list of canceled College events. The list will continue to be updated. Please see the full list of high school canceled events in the next section.

It is critical to closely monitor Polk State emails and College accounts, as well as www.polk.edu and the College's social media for updates. More information and answers to frequently asked questions regarding the coronavirus are available on the College's [COVID-19 webpage](#).

Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Climate Survey

Here at Gateway, we are always looking for ways to improve our school. We invite all our parents, students, faculty and staff members to complete our 2019-2020 Climate survey. The deadline for completion is **May 1, 2020**. Thanks, and have a great day!

Survey Link: <https://www.formpl.us/form/1070096017>

GHS Updated Contact Numbers

Gateway Main Office Phone – 863-417-9941

Dr. Corey Barnes 863-546-0394

Ms. Battle 863-417-9302

Dr. Downing-Townsend 863-417-9952

Mrs. Murray 863-417-9657

Mrs. Chandler (Ortega) 863-417-9715

Ms. Jones 863-546-0754



Senior Online Zoom Meetings

Seniors there are two Zoom meeting's scheduled for you.

The first meeting is with Gateway and Polk State College Administration on **Friday, April 24, 2020 at 2PM**. This meeting is for all **SENIOR STUDENTS ONLY**. An email has been sent to your my.polk.edu email with the link. You may video conference or call into the conference.

The second meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, April 27th at 9AM. This meeting will be with Mrs. Chandler (Ortega) and Dr. Downing-Townsend. This meeting will cover, final transcripts, college acceptances, college deposits, FAFSA/Financial Aid/Award letters. This meeting is for Senior Students and/or Senior Parents. A link will be sent Friday evening for this meeting.

SENIORS LAST OFFICIAL DAY IS FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2020

Associate's
Degree

SENIORS EARNING AA DEGREES

Polk State wants to make sure graduation is still a special time, despite the cancellation of the Spring 2020 Commencement Ceremony due to COVID-19. Please know that the decision to cancel graduation was difficult to make, but it was made out of the deepest concern for the health and safety of students, families, and the community. Although there may not be a ceremony, there are still many ways to publicly and creatively celebrate YOU, your incredible accomplishments, and your bright future! Polk State hopes that these special opportunities will allow the College to capture the tremendous resiliency of the Spring 2020 Graduating Class and provide unique keepsakes that will last a lifetime.

Want to see yourself on a billboard?

That's right! The College wants to feature YOU on a Polk State billboard. The College's billboards are located in Winter Haven (at the intersection of Cypress Gardens Boulevard and Cypress Gardens Road) and in Lakeland (at the intersection of Bartow Highway (U.S. 98) and Winter Lake Road (S.R. 540)). To be eligible, please email news@polk.edu the following:

1. A POLKTASTIC photo. This could be a professional headshot or a selfie—just make sure it's a photo you'd want your grandmother or future employer to see.
2. The degree you are receiving. You worked hard for the accomplishment, and we want to broadcast it!
3. Where you're going next, whether you are continuing your education or starting a new career!

Spring College Book Return/ Summer Book Pick-up

May 11, 2020

A-F

9:30 - 10:15

G-M

10:30 - 11:15

Students if you have college books to return or Summer books to pick-up please follow the schedule and process; we want to ensure the safety of all:

- a. Look to see your date and time to report based on last name
- b. Report during your assigned time by last name
- c. **PARK** in the back of lot I near where the buses are parked
- d. **Remain** in your car and a GHS staff member will come to you
- e. After turning in and/or picking up your books, please leave ASAP

May 11, 2020

N-S

9:30 - 10:15

T-Z

10:30 - 11:15

Interim Reports

High school interim reports will be distributed via email on Friday April 24, 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Downing-Townsend.



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Regalia & Diplomas



Senior students and parents,

We want to CELEBRATE our students!!!! **SAVE THE DATE MAY 14, 2020.** On this day, we will pass out your regalia, present you your diploma and take your picture. Please follow the procedure below:

- ONE CAR PER SENIOR, REPORT TO LOT 1 NEAR THE ACTUAL SCHOOL BUSES WITH YOUR FAMILY.**
- WEAR YOUR CAP & GOWN** (a GHS staff member will bring you your regalia)
- REMAIN IN YOUR CAR** (we will notify the STUDENT ONLY when to exit the car)
- STUDENTS WILL PROCEED TO THE BACKDROP, RECEIVE THEIR DIPLOMA, TAKE A PROFESSIONAL PICTURE AND RETURN TO THEIR CAR.**

Seniors and parents will receive their time to report on May13, 2020 via email. Please be sure to follow the procedure above to ensure the safety and security of all of our staff, students and their families. Pictures will be available within one week.

Updates on Graduation

Dear graduating senior,

Congratulations on your achievements! While we may not be together on campus, we are with you in spirit and we are very proud of how you continue to remain positive, focused, and driven even in the face of this unprecedented public health emergency.

We think it is very important to provide all graduates with a safe opportunity to gather with family and friends and celebrate their hard-earned accomplishments. Today, the College is announcing that members of the College's Spring 2020 Graduating Class are invited to participate in the College's Fall 2020 Commencement in December if conditions and guidance from the State of Florida and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention permit.

Students of the collegiate high schools who have earned their associate or bachelor's degrees will be recognized in these ceremonies and are encouraged to plan to attend if their schedules allow. Information regarding fall graduation is being sent directly to students who completed the College's graduation application.

Additionally, the College is making plans to host a combined December graduation ceremony for the three collegiate high schools. It is the College's sincere hope that in postponing the celebration to coincide with winter break, more graduates will be able to attend, and conditions will have improved to allow for the safe gathering of family and friends.

Lastly, even though we cannot be physically together, we can be together virtually, **Polk Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School will be hosting a very special virtual celebration of graduates on May 13, 2020.** Please continue to monitor your email and the Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School Facebook page for more details.

GHS Recruit Season

Due to COVID-19 we've had to become VERY CREATIVE!
We were able to record our first VIRTUAL RECRUIT NIGHT!

APPLICATION DEADLINE MAY 8

Do you know someone who would like to attend Gateway? Have them apply! See the application process below.

Space is limited. Seats are by lottery.

See the Video here:

<https://www.facebook.com/PolkStateGateway/videos/71863117156924/>

Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College VIRTUAL Recruit Night!

- Please be sure to listen to the video in its entirety, there is a lot of important information.
- Due to COVID-19, please note that our office hours are VIRTUAL ONLY Monday - Friday 7:30AM - 4:30PM phone: (863-417-9941) via email: Gateway@polk.edu
- Our Application is currently open: <https://www.formpl.us/form/992286033>
- Please be sure to complete our survey, AFTER viewing the video in its entirety: fpls.in/nkw85a