



POLK STATE
Lakeland Gateway to College
Collegiate High School

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The Gateway Gazette

February 2019

Dear Gateway Families,

We hope you enjoyed your Winter Holiday Break. We also hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to tackle this semester. We are so delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. We welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and we look forward to continued work with you and your children.

All signs point to another incredible and productive semester. Our skilled and devoted staff has planned and prepared for your child(ren). Our enthusiastic office team registered and welcomed new families last month. We are indeed a joyous and caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, caring students and promoting high-level learning.

As our seniors prepare for their last semester of high school, we know that they'll finish strong! We've had many get accepted into college, earn scholarships, enter or plan to enter the military, get accepted to trade schools and already enter the work force. We are extremely proud of all our hard working and dedicated students. We are looking forward to another AMAZING semester with our students!

Want to keep up with the latest news? **Go like our Facebook Page (Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School)** and be sure to follow us on Instagram (**pslkldgatewaytocollegechs**) and Twitter (**@PSGATEWAYCHS**)!



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SENIOR ADS:

Parents and seniors, please be sure to purchase your ad in the yearbook. Ads may be purchased via higher reach. The costs are \$100.00 for a full page, \$50.00 for a half page, and \$25.00 for a quarter page ad. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Downing. **Last day to submit ads will be March 1.**

Yearbooks:

Yearbooks are on sale for \$50.00 until March 1, 2018 **The last day to pre-pay and order your yearbook is March 1, 2018.** Get them while they are hot! Capture your senior and junior moments that will be featured throughout this book. [Click this link to order your book now!](#)



FREE ACT/SAT TUTORING:

[Click this link to register for FREE ACT/SAT tutoring](#)





What Are YOUR Next Steps After High School? Not College? Here are Some Options!

As a former college professor, I see the drive for most students to complete a college education. I'm not sure how many would be in college if not for the pressure and expectations from family members, and while that is good for some students, others obviously might be better off pursuing options other than college.

The reality is that college is not for everyone — nor is it truly needed for everyone — and forcing teens to attend college only to have them flunk out is doing a disservice to them.

Only a few generations ago, high-school graduates rarely went on to college, yet somehow through the years, college has almost become a rite of passage for teens to pass into adulthood and a good career. But teens do not need to attend college to become adults and they certainly do not need to attend to land a good career.

Education is critical; college is not. There are numerous careers — in healthcare, technology, operations, transportation, and the building trades — that do not require a four-year degree.

And as you advance in these careers, there is also nothing stopping you from pursuing a college degree at a later age — when it better suits you. Some people are just not ready for college until a little later in life.

So, if you are not college-bound after high school, what are some of your alternatives?

Learn a Trade

Apprenticeships, at one time, were the only way for young people to get a foot in the door to their careers. If you have an interest in a particular trade, such as carpentry or construction, seek out jobs in the trade that will not only give you valuable experience but guide you toward advancement by helping you with the certifications or licenses you need to succeed. For example, one high-school graduate I know worked for a pool construction company for several years, learning every aspect of the business before earning her swimming pool contractor's license and starting her own business.

Another tool to learning a trade is to obtain your certification in that field. Learn more via this LiveCareer article: [Hot Fields in Which Certification May Boost Your Career](#).



Get a Job

Nothing helps more with that transition to adulthood than holding down a full-time job. Your goal should be to move away from the companies that typically hire teens for part-time work to employers that can provide a future.

Often larger employers have more opportunities, so start your search there. Also, identify employers whose products or services interest you, and whose culture you respect.

For example, I know a person whose career at AT&T started in the mail room, because he knew it would be a foot in the door, and now, years later, still with just a high school education, he is a highly valued member of the company's corporate technology staff.

Volunteer

While you are trying to find your place in the world, why not spend those first few years after high school making a difference?

While you may be familiar with the Peace Corps, they actually prefer college graduates, so you might instead consider looking locally to make a difference, or consider such national programs as [Americorps](#), which offers 17-24 year-olds the chance to make a difference through a national network of hundreds of programs throughout the U.S., as well as the [Student Conservation Association](#), which has conservation programs (jobs and internships) throughout the U.S. for adults 18 or older.

Attend Community College or Vocational School

A great way to ease into college and explore more about who you are and what you want to do in life is by taking one or more classes at your local community (or technical) college.

Classes are cheaper and admission much easier — and many students work at least part-time to pay their way. You can either take a few classes, follow a diploma or certification track, or advance toward your associate's degree. Many community colleges have agreements with four-year colleges, so that if you decide college IS right for you, you can then transfer those credits.

Join the Military

While not always a popular — or safe choice — joining the military is often a great way to learn more about yourself. Joining the military offers you a chance to serve your country, make a career in the service, and/or earn money toward a future college education. You'll also earn valuable work experience that can you can apply to civilian jobs once you get discharged. Read more here: [Today's Military](#).



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IMPORTANT DATES

*Gateway to College High School
2018-2019*

Important End of Year Dates

(Tentative, Dates scheduled to change as necessary)

Item/Activity	Date/Times
High School Report Cards	Friday, January 18, 2019
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (NO SCHOOL)	Monday, January 21, 2019
Cap and Gown Pictures (SENIORS)	Friday, February 1, 2019
FTE Week	Mon-Friday, February 4-8, 2019
High School Early Release (JUNIORS/SENIORS)	Wednesday, February 6, 2019
President's Day (Classes as normal)	Monday, February 18, 2019
FSA Testing (By Invitation)	Friday, March 1, 2019 (ALL THREE DATES MANDATORY)
Parent Meeting (JUNIORS ONLY)	Tuesday, March 5, 2019
FSA Testing (By Invitation)	Friday, March 8, 2019 (ALL THREE DATES MANDATORY)
High School Early Release (JRS/SRS)	Wednesday, March 16, 2019
FSA Testing (By Invitation)	Friday, March 15, 2019 (ALL THREE DATES MANDATORY)
Spring Break	Mon-Friday, March 25-29, 2019
Polk State College Graduation Applications Due (Seniors Only)	Monday, April 1, 2019
Gateway Recruit Night	Tuesday, April 2, 2019
High School Report Cards	Friday, April 5, 2019
Grad Bash (SENIORS ONLY)	Friday, April 5, 2019
Polk State College Professional Development Day (No School)	Friday, April 12, 2019
Gateway Recruit Night	Tuesday, April 16, 2019
High School Early Release	Wednesday, April 24, 2019
ACT/SAT Tutoring (JUNIORS/SENIORS)	Saturday, April 27, 2019
Academic and Career Signing Day (SRS)	Tuesday, April 30, 2019
Polk State College Spring Graduation (SENIORS ONLY)	Thursday, May 2, 2019/Lakeland Center @ 6:30 PM
Student Meeting (SENIORS ONLY)	Friday, May 3, 2019
Polk State College Summer Classes Begin	Tuesday, May 7, 2019
Last Day of High School for Seniors	Friday, May 10, 2019
Senior Awards (SENIORS ONLY)	Tuesday, May 14, 2019
Graduation Practice (SENIORS ONLY)	Thursday, May 16, 2019/9:00 AM @ LTB Auditorium
Senior Breakfast (SENIORS ONLY)	Wednesday, May 22, 2019
Graduation Practice (SENIORS ONLY)	Wednesday, May 22, 2019/9:00 AM @ Polk State Winter Haven Health Center
High School Graduation (SENIORS ONLY)	Wednesday, May 22, 2019/6:30 PM @ Polk State Winter Haven Health Center
Last Day of High School Classes (JUNIORS)	Friday, May 24, 2019



Earning College Credit

The major advantage of attending a collegiate school such as Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College High School is to improve your chances of graduating on time and to save money on college costs by earning college credits while still in high school. There are several ways to do this. Some students can test out of college classes by taking and passing a College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) test through the College Board.

Taking college-level classes in high school can introduce you to new academic passions and the excitement of exploring interesting subjects in depth. It can also help you:

- Learn the time-management skills, study skills and discipline you'll need in college.
- Improve your chances of getting into the college of your choice.
- Improve your chances of qualifying for scholarships.
- Free up enough time in college for you to take part in programs like study abroad or to double major.
- Graduate from college on time or early, which will also save you money.



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NEW CLASS REGISTRATION PROCESS:



Dr. Corey J. Barnes – Principal

Dr. Meesha J. Downing, Assistant Principal

Ms. Tania Ortega, Student Resource Specialist

Ms. Tanya Jones – School Counselor

Ms. Kimberly Battle – Administrative Assistant II

Mrs. Consuela Bonney – Social Studies/Critical Thinking Instructor

Mr. Patrick Jean – Mathematics Instructor

Mrs. Amy McIntosh – Social Studies/Math Instructor

Mrs. Amanda Ryan – Science/HOPE/Critical Thinking Instructor

Ms. Maya Smith – Writing/Reading/English Instructor

Mrs. Cyndi Terry – College Success Instructor