



March Newsletter

Polk State College to Suspend Operations 5P.M. March 16 – March 29

Greetings parents & students,

In addition to Polk State College's suspension of face-to-face, online, and hybrid courses and closure to students effective Monday, March 16, 2020, the College will close at 5 p.m. Monday to everyone except essential personnel to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Although there are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Polk County, 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).

Individuals who are identified as essential personnel who can work remotely are encouraged to do so. Faculty will continue to work to move their courses online with the goal that all courses with the ability to move online are available remotely when the College resumes instruction on Monday, March 30. As a result of recommendations received on 3/17/2020 from Governor DeSantis, the Florida Department of Education, and Florida College System Chancellor Kathy Hebda, **Polk State College will offer all courses via remote learning environment beginning March 30, 2020, through the end of the spring 2020 semester. High School courses will be online through April 15, 2020. We will keep you updated if this will be extended.**

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 50 people or more. 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 CHS Cancelled Events

- March 17 – School Wide Mental Health Lesson - cancelled
- March 31 – Recruit/Info Night – cancelled
- April 7 – School Wide Mental Health Lesson - cancelled
- April 14 – School day SAT - cancelled
- April 14 – Recruit/Info Night – cancelled
- April 18 – Prom – cancelled
- April 21 – School Mental Health Lesson cancelled
- April 24 – Grad Bash – cancelled (Refunds will be given once the GHS office reopens)
- April 28 – Academic Signing Day – cancelled
- May 8 – Graduation Practice – (will be rescheduled)



Summer & Fall College Course Request Forms

If you would like to request college courses for the Summer and/or Fall semester please **complete the survey quiz provided on Canvas before March 27, 2020.**

Answer all questions once you begin the quiz. If you do not want to take a course in a subject, please indicate Not/Applicable or N/A as your answer.

If you completed a survey quiz and for some reason you change your mind about a course, this is fine you can change your mind a total of five (5) times. After your fifth attempt you will no longer be able to edit your survey. I will use your last response to schedule your courses.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to take college courses, you must have earned the PERT cut scores. PERT cut scores are at least (106) in Reading, at least (103) in Writing and at least (114) in Math. YOUR FINAL SCHEDULE IS OUR DISCRETION... (Please note that we will have your best interest in mind if changes are made)

If you have questions regarding college course requests, please email Mrs. Ortega or Dr. Downing-Townsend.

The last week of PERT testing will be postponed until further notice. Dr. Downing-Townsend will notify you when testing will resume.

Graduating SENIORS if you plan to take summer and/or FALL classes at Polk State college, you may also complete the form and submit before the deadline and you will receive priority registration as well. Graduating Seniors, YOU will be responsible for paying for your own summer/fall course fees.

Report Cards

Originally report cards were to be distributed Friday March 20, 2020, however, we will not be able to distribute via mentor or office pick-up. We will attempt to distribute the high school report cards via email on Friday March 20, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Downing-Townsend.

Rising Juniors & Seniors – Intent to Return

Students who wish to remain with GHS for the 2020-2021 school year, will receive a link to complete the intent to return form. This link will be email to you on March 18, 2020.

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

The deadline to submit your online form will be April 8, 2020.



GHS Recruit Season & Procedures

Due to COVID – 19, we will be opening our **GHS application for the 2020-2021 school year on Thursday March 19, 2020 (none of you will need to reapply).** Also due to the cancellation of campus events we will not be able to have our traditional recruit nights that were originally scheduled for March 31, 2020 and April 14, 2020. Therefore, we will host a Facebook live recruit night on Tuesday March 31, 2020 at 6:30PM. Please follow our page (<https://www.facebook.com/PolkStateGateway/?ref=bookmarks>) and share this information with family and friends and on your social media pages. We have limited seats available so the sooner family, friends and those interested in attending GHS need to apply ASAP. Pert scores are being waived until we can get back to the campus for testing. For more information, potential applicants may email Dr. Downing-Townsend.

GHS Faculty/Staff Contact List

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