

# Gunn 101

Gunn High School PTSA's New Parent Information Guide 2019-20

Welcome to Gunn! This information should help you get off to a good start.

## Online Back to School Packet

The new [online Gunn Back-to-School Packet will be available here](#) starting August 5. You'll have the option to fill out all forms online and pay for items/make donations by credit card.

***Printed packets will not be mailed this year.***

You will receive an email with instructions and you can also find the link to the packet on both the Gunn and Gunn PTSA websites after August 5th.

Prefer a *printed* Back-to-School Packet or to pay by check or cash? You will be able to download a pdf of the Back-to-School Packet, print the pages you need and return them to Gunn. Alternatively a few packets will be made available for pick-up at the Gunn front office.

Going online will save Gunn and the PTSA over \$6,000 in mailing costs, 75,000 sheets of paper, and over 500 volunteer hours!

## Save the Dates

Gunn has some exciting back-to-school events planned, so save these dates! All of the events can be found in the calendar on the home page of the Gunn High School website.

**Friday August 9, 4-7 pm:** Freshmen & New Student Orientation - Meet in front of Spangenberg Theatre. 3:30 pm Registration, 4:00 pm Start. You will have your photo taken, receive a paper copy of your schedule, and meet with your Titan Connect group. (Please note: You do NOT also need to come to school on Monday 8/12.)

**Friday August 9, 5:45-7pm:** Parent Meeting for Incoming Freshmen & New Students in Spangenberg Theatre. At 7:00 pm parents can pick up their students.

**Monday August 12, 8:30 am–3:30 pm:** Photo Day for Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors in Bow Gym. ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED to have a school photo taken for their Gunn ID card.

**Tuesday August 13, 8:25 am–2:35 pm:** First Day of School

**Wednesday August 14:** Photo Make-up Day for students who missed having their picture taken on Aug 9 or 12

**Thursday August 29, 6-9 pm:** Back-to-School Night for parents to hear the Gunn Principal's welcome message and meet your student's teachers. Bring a flashlight.

**Friday August 30, 8:30-10 am:** Freshman Parent Network Meeting in the Gunn Staff Lounge. Pickup a parking pass in the front office.

**Friday August, 30: Gunn Minimum Day:** Students are released from school at 12:20 PM.

**Monday September 2:** No School - Labor Day

**Wednesday September 4, 6pm: Back-to-School Social** -- Gunn community get-together hosted by the Gunn Foundation.

## **Gunn Calendar**

Gunn has an all-school calendar in the right sidebar of this web page. In the bottom right corner is a + sign you can use to subscribe. Check this calendar regularly for special schedules and student and parent events.

## **Gunn Connection eNews**

The Gunn Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) offers [a weekly eNewsletter](#) called *Gunn Connection* with up-to-date events happening on campus, in our community, and with sports and arts boosters. This is free and you are automatically enrolled when you register your student. If you don't see it in your mailbox the first week of classes, please check your spam folder or sign up at <https://gunn.paloaltopta.org/enews/> We offer translations into several languages.

## Parent Networks

Gunn PTSA offers every parent/guardian an opportunity to connect with other parents/guardians in their student's grade. Join your grade-level online parent group so you can receive grade-level-specific information about Gunn. Meetings are held monthly and topics vary depending on grade level. Questions? [Please contact your class coordinator:](#)

Senior Parent Network	Annie Bedichek
Senior Parent Network	Sigrid Pinsky
Junior Parent Network	Julie Dubrouillet
Junior Parent Network	Nisha Datta
Sophomore Parent Network	Jennifer Schultz
Sophomore Parent Network	Masha Doty
Freshman Parent Network	Lili Nova-Roessig
Freshman Parent Network	Ramji Digamurtha

## Gunn Online Directory: UptoUS

The online directory is available to all families in multiple languages. You may choose which information is displayed in the directory. To access it, sign into Uptous.com, select the Gunn High School PTSA community, and click on the Directory tab in the top right. Gunn family information from the district will be added in August 2019.

New to UptoUs? Signing up is easy at <http://www.uptous.com/communities/gunn>

Login: use your email address

Password: Set new password if you are new, use existing password, or select *forgot password* to reset

Please email Eva Dobrov at [evadobrov@comcast.net](mailto:evadobrov@comcast.net) with any questions about using the UptoUs directory.

Also note that UptoUs is now available as an **app** for both iPhone and android.

## Other Ways to Stay Connected

### General Association Meetings and Principal's Coffee

PTSA schedules coffees for parents throughout the year with our Principal, Kathie Laurence as part of our General Association Meetings. Come to chat, ask questions, and meet others. Coffee is served.

### Gunn Parent Facebook Group

PTSA volunteers moderate a two-way social media page on Facebook where parents can ask questions and share events and updates relevant to our Gunn community, including Gunn Boosters and Club news.

### Gunn High School Titan Talk

Weekly communication to parents from the Counseling Department with upcoming events, tips and tidbits.

### Gunn High School Student Activities Weekly Update

Weekly updates from the (SAC) Student Activities Center via Schoology on upcoming student-centered activities.

## Infinite Campus and Schoology Accounts

Make sure you and your student have the accounts you need to keep track of student grades, assignments, attendance, and other important class, school, and district information.

Students who were enrolled in PAUSD in middle school should have Infinite Campus and Schoology accounts from previous years. Parent accounts include access to all their students' accounts.

Students who are new to PAUSD should sign up at <http://id.pausd.org>. Their username is their student id number. Students should immediately change their passwords.

For parents new to PAUSD, go to [Parent Resources](#) on the Gunn High School website for up-to-date support on setting up infinite campus and schoology accounts.

## Transportation to and from Gunn

The majority of Gunn students walk or bike to school. For everyone's safety and health, students are encouraged to bicycle, walk, carpool or ride the bus to Gunn as often as possible. For more information including bus schedules and biking/walking maps, go to [Transportation – How to Get to Gunn](#).

[VTA provides bus service](#) to Gunn students in the morning and afternoon with special routes. There are two Routes, 88L and 88M. [Their regular schedule is here](#). There is an email list you can get on that provides changes to the regular routes, for example on testing days. [Subscribe here](#). Monthly passes start being sold in early September at the student SAC. Last year they were \$15 a month. Normal youth fares are \$1 per ride, and they accept quarters.

## Student Athletics

Students must have a physical and register before they can try out for or join an athletics team. [Registration information is here](#). Team schedules, photos, calendar, and the athletics store can be found at [gunnathletics.com](http://gunnathletics.com). Individual teams organize themselves differently, so contact your coach to make sure you are receiving the correct information.

Student athletics are not covered by school funds. They are provided for through a [suggested donation of \\$200 per student](#) per sport, and through [sports boosters](#), which covers shortfalls for individual sports. [Please donate!](#) The programs will not run if they do not have sufficient funds.

## PE Uniforms

Uniforms are required for Physical Education (PE) classes. They can be purchased at the Student Activities Center beginning Monday August 13.

## Chromebook Program

Gunn provides all students who would like a laptop computer with a free Chromebook for all four years of school. Students keep their chromebooks during the summers too. Students can pick up their chromebooks from the Gunn Tech Office E3 from Monday, August 13th through the first week of school.

## **Student Activities Center (SAC) Store**

If your student needs to buy monthly bus passes, student membership cards, tickets to dances and other events, subscriptions to the Gunn Oracle (the student newspaper), or school-branded clothing, the Student Activities Center has an [online web store](#). Items can be paid for online, and your student can then pick them up in the new building, Room P-106.

## **Volunteering at Gunn**

Did you know that over 500 parents and community members volunteer at Gunn every year? There are three great reasons to become one of them:

1. Studies show that students are more engaged with their school when their parents are active participants in the school;
2. Parents experience greater satisfaction and connection with their school when they participate in on-campus events;
3. It's fun!

Gunn offers online sign-ups for all volunteer activities. You can choose which event and task you would like to help with. It's easy to sign up, and you'll get an email reminder the day before the event.

How to start? Go to [www.uptous.com](http://www.uptous.com) and login. Select the Gunn High School PTSA community. Click on the event or activity you would like to help with and start typing in your name until it appears in the box. You are signed up!

Forgotten what you've signed up for? Go to [www.uptous.com](http://www.uptous.com) and log in to look it up. There are volunteer opportunities throughout the school year. We hope we have encouraged you to sign up! For questions about volunteering, please email Elisa Yu and Heewon Park at [vpcommunityactivities@gunnpta.org](mailto:vpcommunityactivities@gunnpta.org). For questions about signing up on uptous, please email Eva Dobrov at [uptous@gunnpta.org](mailto:uptous@gunnpta.org).

## **Gunn Sources of Funding**

You may be asked to consider contributing to a variety of needs at Gunn, including PTSA, PiE, Boosters, and Student Activities (ASB Card, dances, yearbook, school newspaper, etc.)

**Gunn PTSA** (Parent Teacher Student Association) funds *stuff*: classroom materials, technology, PSAT testing, the freshman orientation program, parent education, parent networks, student programs such as Challenge Success, and community-building events. The suggested donation amount is \$300 per student. To donate please go to the [Gunn online web store](#).

When you donate you will receive an automatically-generated receipt; please retain your PROOF OF PAYMENT for tax purposes. Gunn TAX ID# is 94-6172239.

If you have questions please contact Joy Hinton, VP Ways and Means, at [joyhinton@gmail.com](mailto:joyhinton@gmail.com).

**PiE (Palo Alto Partners in Education)** pays for **staff** in three areas: STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), the Arts, and Wellness and Support. PiE makes possible engaging electives such as computer science, graphic design, engineering, and biotechnology, that captivate students and build critical thinking skills. PiE supports the guidance counselors who give students both emotional and academic guidance. PiE also funds the College and Career Counseling advisors who provide individual counseling to all students so they can choose among a variety of pathways to success and plan wisely for their future. Suggested donation is \$1000 but any amount helps! Make your donation at <http://papie.org/>

**Parent Boosters groups** exist for specific programs and departments such as sports, theater, music, and robotics. Your financial support for these programs is crucial; many of these programs would not be able to run successfully without your support. To donate go to the specific department website or complete the online back-to-school packet.

## Additional Resources for New Parents

Gunn High School has a [parents page](#) with a wide variety of additional resources for parents, including:

- How to contact the [attendance office](#) and report an absence.
- [Downloadable school forms](#) like medication, financial assistance forms, and more.
- Get help for, and meet other parents of special needs students through the [Palo Alto CAC](#).
- How to sign up for [meal service](#), and request free and reduced lunches.
- How to apply for [accommodations for standardized testing](#).