



GHSAA

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

November 2015

'History of GHSAA' Contains Some Surprising Facts

As part of an Employee Handbook we are working on in the GHSAA office, I recently gave Media Director Steve Figueroa the task of compiling a brief history of the GHSAA. Using numerous published resources, he came up with some interesting facts about our organization.

For example, did you know that the GHSAA was headquartered in Athens for the first few years. Only after Sam Burke was hired did the office move to its present location of Thomaston.

And, can you guess how many member schools there were in 1936? Would you believe 419? Most people believe a membership of 400+ is a fairly recent revelation, but the GHSAA first went over that number almost 80 years ago! So, here is more of the History of the GHSAA:

The present-day Georgia High School Association was organized in 1908 under the direction of its first president, Dr. Joseph S. Stewart, who had come to the University of Georgia in 1903 primarily to work with the high schools in the state.

The GHSAA is a voluntary organization composed of over 450 public, charter and private high schools with more than 150,000 students participating in GHSAA programs. Member schools are divided according to size so that each will have an opportunity to compete for honors among schools near their own size. The state is divided into regions in each classification. Each region is operated by the schools within that region.

The GHSAA operates under a Constitution and By-Laws which contains the standards of eligibility to be met by high school pupils for attaining the privilege of participation in interschool contests, and rules controlling the participation among schools. By adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws through its membership, member schools have by their initiative acted to operate and discipline their interscholastic activities and contests.

The rules-making body of the GHSAA is the State Executive Committee, composed of members elected from every region within the GHSAA classification structure as well as several at-large members representing other important educational and athletic organizations.

The operation of the GHSAA is the responsibility of the Executive Director and his staff. Although the position was called Executive Secretary-Treasurer at the time, Sam F. Burke became the first full-time director of the GHSAA in 1946. Previously, Mr. Sam, as he was known, filled the same role on a part-time basis beginning in 1939 while also serving as Superintendent of Schools in Thomaston, where the GHSAA is headquartered.

Burke retired in 1976 and was followed as Executive Director by Bill Fordham (1976-1991), Tommy Guillebeau (1991-2001), Ralph Swearngin (2001-2014) and Gary Phillips (2014 -).

The GHSAA joined the National Federation of State High School Associations in 1928, becoming the 28th member at the time. The GHSAA currently sponsors state championship programs in 15 boys and 15 girls sports and activities.

IMPORTANT DATES IN GHSAA HISTORY

1908 – GHSAA organized under first President Dr. Joseph S. Stewart
1922 – First State Basketball Tournament held in Macon
1928 – GHSAA joined the National Federation
1928 – First regulations regarding student physical examinations passed
1936 – Membership of GHSAA tops 400 schools
1939 – Sam Burke elected Executive Secretary-Treasurer (works from his home)
1940 – LPGA hall of famer Louise Suggs wins first girls state golf tournament
1941 – Official state office of GHSAA moves from Athens to Thomaston
1945 – First girls state basketball tournament held
1946 – Burke becomes first full-time director of GHSAA on October 1
1946 – Sportsmanship Committee was formed to deal with acts of poor sportsmanship
1948 – First official state-wide football playoff system adopted

1950 – Thomaston launderette becomes first independent GHSAA office facility
1956 – Added a fifth classification, AAA, for state's largest schools
1972 – GHSAA office expanded on same site as original launderette
1972 – Went back to only four (4) classifications, eliminating Class "C"
1976 – Bill Fordham becomes second full-time Executive Director
1978 – Renamed the four classifications, eliminating the Class "B" designation
1991 – Tommy Guillebeau becomes third full-time Executive Director
2000 – Added a fifth classification, AAAAAA, for the state's largest schools
2001 – Ralph Swearngin becomes fourth full-time Executive Director
2003 – GHSAA office more than doubles in size with addition to original building
2012 – Split Class "A" playoff competition into Public and Private championships
2014 – Gary Phillips becomes fifth full-time Executive Director.



Join the GHSAA social media conversation @OfficialGHSAA on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter
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- GHSA STAFF -
Areas of Responsibility

GARY PHILLIPS (extension 21)
 - Executive Director -

Administration, By-Law Interpretations, Hardship Rulings,
 Football Playoffs, Coaches Education Program

JAY RUSSELL (extension 25)
 - Assistant Executive Director -
 By-Law Interpretations, Transfer Eligibility, Cross Country, Golf, Track

ERNE YARBROUGH (extension 27)
 - Coordinator of Officiating -
 Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Officials Training

DENIS TALLINI (extension 34)
 - Associate Director -
 Lacrosse, Volleyball, Wrestling, Sports Medicine

TOMMY WHITTLE (extension 23)
 - Associate Director -
 Football, Literary, One-Act Play, Soccer

CARROR WRIGHT (extension 39)
 - Associate Director -
 Coach's Liaison, Compliance/Investigations, Sportsmanship

STEVE FIGUEROA (extension 26)
 - Director of Information/Media Services -
 Media Coordination for State Events, Newsletter,
 GHSA Constitution & Calendar, Web Site Content, Tennis

PAM THOMPSON (extension 30)
 - Officials' Registrar -
 Officials' Registration, Testing & Online Clinics, Service Awards

TANYA ANDERSON (extension 29)
 - Administrative Assistant -
 Event Sanctioning, School Passes, Directory,
 Online Clinics for Coaches, Trophies & Medals

JULIE JONES (extension 24)
 - Administrative Assistant -
 Coaches Education Program, Web Site Content, Entry Notification

SHERI BROOKS (extension 0)
 - Receptionist -
 Hardship Hearings, Fines, School System/Retiree Passes,
 Publication Orders

ROBIN BULLINGTON (extension 33)
 - Office Manager -
 Budgeting and Finances, Dues, Playoff Finances, Staff Procedures

STACEY BASILICI (extension 32)
 - Administrative Assistant -
 Non-transfer Eligibility, Literary & One-Act Play Liaison,
 School Contact Coordinator

GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: **Honig's Whistle Stop** (honigs.com), **Cliff Keen** (cliffkeen.com), **Smitty Official's Apparel** (smittyusadysub.com), officials uniforms, apparel and equipment; **Mr Video** videographer (mrvideoonline.com); **Hartwell Studio Works**, creating unique spirit logos/marks (hartwellstudioworks.com); **PowerFit Fitness Equipment / Rubber Floors and More**, fitness equipment and rubber flooring provider (fit-communities.com); and **Nfinity**, official cheerleading footwear and apparel (nfinity.com)

Class A Football Procedures!

Nov. 7 - Region winners in all classifications must be determined and results entered into MaxPreps web site.

Nov. 9 - Region playoff qualifiers in all classifications must be submitted to GHSA office by 9:00 a.m.

Nov. 10 - MaxPreps' final Class A power ratings will be posted on the GHSA web site.

Nov. 11 -

(1) Any Class A school that believes its power rating points are incorrect may file an appeal in writing to the GHSA between 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon. The appeal letter must be accompanied by a complete list of results and points earned for each game.

(2) The GHSA Appeals Committee will meet at 1:00 p.m., to verify the results (including the appeals), and break any ties.

(3) The results of the appeals and the resulting playoff brackets will be posted later that day on the GHSA web site (once posted, the results are final).

NOTE: Teams winning a **Region Championship** will be placed in the brackets **first** based on their respective power rating numbers. Then the rest of the brackets will be completed based on the power rating numbers.

Nov. 20 - First round games of Class A Football playoffs will begin. There will be four (4) rounds of playoffs in Class A, five (5) rounds in the other classifications, all leading up to the Championship games on Dec. 11-12 in the Georgia Dome.



Volleyball State Finals on Oct. 31

The GHSA Volleyball State Championships presented by Mizuno takes the floor on Saturday, October 31 at Marietta HS and Holy Innocents'. All six finals will stream live on NFHS Network powered by PlayOn Sports. Subscription rates will apply. Webcast partners are: Mizuno, Molten (official ball) and Sports Imports (official net system).

The schedule is as follows:



At Holy Innocents'
 Class A - 11:00 am
 Class AA - 1:30 pm
 Class AAA - 4:00 pm



At Marietta HS
 Class AAAA - 11:00 am
 Class AAAAA - 1:30 pm
 Class AAAAAA - 4:00 pm

sports imports

AT THE CENTER OF EVERY CHAMPIONSHIP

GHSA Cheerleading State Championships on Nov. 13-14

The 2015 GHSA Cheerleading State Championships will take place November 13-14 at the Columbus Civic Center.

Admission is \$12 per session and the civic center will be cleared between the first and second sessions each day. Please make sure your ticket purchase is for your team's session.

Use of cameras on smartphones, iPads and tablets are approved but NO FLASH photography or video cameras will be permitted!

Fans can watch every session on Friday and on Saturday live exclusively on NFHSNetwork.com/GHSA. Subscription rates will apply.

Friday, November 13, 2015

1st Session: 2A, 3A and 4A Sectionals. Doors open at 8 a.m. Session begins at 9 a.m.

2nd Session: 5A, 6A Sectionals; Coed FINALS. Doors open at 2 p.m. Session begins at 3 p.m.

Order for ALL Sectionals (2A through 6A)

ORDER	TEAM	ORDER	TEAM
1	Region 7 - Team 4	13	Region 3 - Team 2
2	Region 8 - Team 4	14	Region 4 - Team 2
3	Region 1 - Team 4	15	Region 5 - Team 2
4	Region 2 - Team 4	16	Region 6 - Team 2
5	Region 7 - Team 3	17	Region 3 - Team 3
6	Region 8 - Team 3	18	Region 4 - Team 3
7	Region 1 - Team 3	19	Region 5 - Team 3
8	Region 2 - Team 3	20	Region 6 - Team 3
9	Region 7 - Team 2	21	Region 3 - Team 4
10	Region 8 - Team 2	22	Region 4 - Team 4
11	Region 1 - Team 2	23	Region 5 - Team 4
12	Region 2 - Team 2	24	Region 6 - Team 4

(15-minute intermission after No. 12)

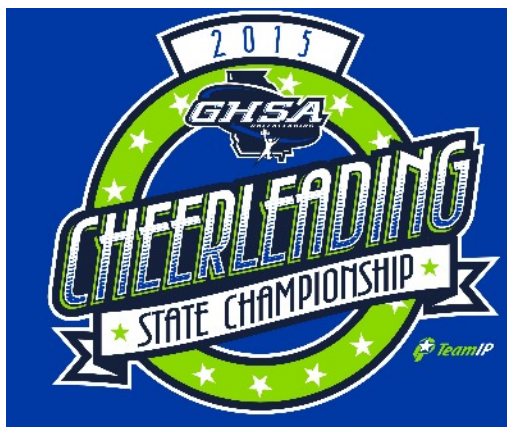
Order for Coed FINALS: 1-Sectional #16; 2-Sectional #14; 3-Sectional #12; 4-Sectional #10; 5-Sectional #8; 6-Sectional #6; 7-Sectional #4; 8-Sectional #2; 9-Sectional #1; 10-Sectional #3; 11-Sectional #5; 12-Sectional #7; 13-Sectional #9; 14-Sectional #11; 15-Sectional #13; 16-Sectional #15.

Saturday, November 14, 2015

1st Session: 2A, 3A and 4A FINALS. Doors open at 8 a.m. Session begins at 9 a.m.

2nd Session: 5A, 6A and A Finals. Doors open at 2 p.m. Session begins at 3 p.m.

ORDER	2A through 6A FINALS	Class A FINALS
1	Sectional - Team 8	Sectional - Team 8 (Public)
2	Sectional - Team 6	Sectional - Team 7 (Public)
3	Sectional - Team 4	Sectional - Team 6 (Public)
4	Sectional - Team 2	Sectional - Team 5 (Public)
5	Region 6 - Team 1	Sectional - Team 4 (Public)
6	Region 7 - Team 1	Sectional - Team 3 (Public)
7	Region 8 - Team 1	Sectional - Team 2 (Public)
8	Region 1 - Team 1	Sectional - Team 1 (Public)
(15-minute intermission after No. 8)		
9	Region 2 - Team 1	Sectional - Team 8 (Private)
10	Region 3 - Team 1	Sectional - Team 7 (Private)
11	Region 4 - Team 1	Sectional - Team 6 (Private)
12	Region 5 - Team 1	Sectional - Team 5 (Private)
13	Sectional - Team 1	Sectional - Team 4 (Private)
14	Sectional - Team 3	Sectional - Team 3 (Private)
15	Sectional - Team 5	Sectional - Team 2 (Private)
16	Sectional - Team 7	Sectional - Team 1 (Private)



9th Annual Vincent Dooley Awards Now Accepting Nominations!

Athletes for a Better World announces the 9th Annual Vincent J. Dooley Awards and Scholarships for the 2015-2016 school year.

Nomination deadline is February 28, 2016.

The athletic director of each school may designate the male and female recipient of the Awards for their school, and their recipients may compete for a four-year, \$1,000 a year, scholarship.

For more information and the nomination form, go to: <http://www.abw.org/awards/dooley-award-nomination/>.



Download the MaxPreps Coach App

Attention coaches: now you can submit your scores to MaxPreps in seconds!

The MP Coach app allows coaches to manage rosters (including roster photos), team schedules, update game results, and send messages (including map directions) to their athletes.

And this great app can be downloaded completely FREE of charge from the [Android app store](#) or [iTunes app store](#) today!

DOWNLOAD THE **MAXPREPS** COACH APP NOW!



Coaches & ADs
MANAGE your team's schedule, roster, scores & more!

Available on the  



Cross Country State 2015 Championships

5,000 meters | Carrollton, GA

The 2015 GHSA State Cross Country Championships for all classifications will be held at the Carrollton High School course on Saturday, November 7 (see course map to the right of this text).

The finish line will be video streamed LIVE on the NFHSNetwork.com/GHSA. (Subscription rates will apply.)

Four teams in each region (classes 2A through 6A) and four teams from each Area in Class A (public and private) will qualify for the State Meet and must be determined by Saturday, October 31, 2015.

In addition, the first six individual finishers from each region or area will qualify for the state meet even if their teams do not.

Admission for all spectators at the championship meet is \$5.00.



RACE SCHEDULE

MORNING

7:45 a.m. Boys A Private
8:25 a.m. Girls A Private
9:10 a.m. Boys AAAAA
9:50 a.m. Girls AAAAA
10:35 a.m. Boys AAA
11:15 a.m. Girls AAA
12 noon Boys AAAAA

AFTERNOON

12:40 p.m. Girls AAAAA
1:25 p.m. Boys AA
2:05 p.m. Girls AA
2:50 p.m. Boys AAAAAA
3:30 p.m. Girls AAAAAA
4:15 p.m. Boys A (public)
4:55 p.m. Girls A (public)

RACE INFORMATION

Live Results: Perfect Timing Group - ptgrouponline.com
GHSA XC: Info at ghsa.net/cross-country
Merchandise: Visit TeamIP Tent for official apparel
Share Social: @OfficialGHSA on Instagram, Twitter & Facebook
Photography: Order at PinionPhotography.com
Awards: Appreciation to Georgia Farm Bureau & Atlanta Track Club
Host: Thanks to Carrollton staff & Meet Director Craig Musselwhite

Nominations for Positive Athlete

The nominations window for the 2015-16 Positive Athlete Georgia program is now officially open. From now until March 15th, 2016, Positive Athlete will be accepting nominations for positive high school athletes in any grade, in any sport, from any public or private school in the state of Georgia.

This is the third year of a program developed with the help of former Forest Park High School, University of Georgia, and Super Bowl XL MVP Hines Ward.

"We're not putting out a search for the best athletes in Georgia," said Hines Ward, "We're searching for kids with positive attitudes whose efforts don't necessarily show up on the stat sheets. These kids are also positive role models in their schools who get involved in charitable causes, have already learned the meaning of giving back at an early age, and many have overcome difficult circumstances and remained positive."

Nominating a student athlete takes less than 10 minutes to do, and creates an opportunity for a student-athlete to have something on his/her resume or job application even if they do not win an award. Nominations can only be submitted through the Positive Athlete GA Website via the online nominations form. **Website:** <http://georgia.positiveathlete.org>

There is no cost to nominate a Positive Athlete in Georgia. Last year over 2,000 student-athletes and coaches were nominated from over 150 high schools in 35 counties. Over \$10,000 in college scholarship money and additional opportunities for the nominees will be available for the most qualified nominees, especially those nominated early. There will be regional awards programs in the Spring to honor student-athletes throughout the state, and the state-wide award winners are honored at the College Football Hall of Fame in downtown Atlanta in June.



Stay Connected to the GHSA!

For all coaches, athletic directors, schools and teams, join the conversation on social media @OfficialGHSA on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for all the latest association news and information.



Guidelines for PA Announcers

The following are guidelines, responsibilities and restrictions for PA announcers at GHSA basketball games:

The announcer shall be prohibited from making an announcement while the clock is running and while the clock is stopped and the ball is alive, such as during a free throw, a throw in, etc. Doing so could potentially affect communication of coaches, players or be disconcerting. The announcer shall be prohibited from interrupting the game through the use of the microphone unless there is an emergency.

Announcements or comments shall be made during those times when there is a stoppage of the clock and the ball is not live, such as time outs, between quarters, pre-game, half time and post-game. The announcer is allowed to announce basic information that does not potentially affect the play in general, the players, the coaches, or the officials. The announcer's information is not official information and could be misinformation shared with all. Appropriate training of announcers by school personnel and proper pre-game instruction by the Referee are both necessary.

Announcer's Responsibilities:

The announcer's role does not include "cheering the home team on" or otherwise inciting the crowd. Doing so is common at other levels of athletic events. But high school athletics is different because sports are educationally based.

In a very real sense, the public address announcer at a high school event is a "Champion of Character." He/she can influence the atmosphere of the contest by what is said and how it is said.

The announcer who performs professionally promotes good sportsmanship by what he/she says and how he/she acts upon saying it.

May be announced:

- Player who scored
- Player charged with foul
- Player attempting free throw
- Team granted a time out
- Length of time out: 30 or 60 seconds
- Player entering game
- Team Rosters

Shall **not** be announced:

- Number of points player scored
- Number of fouls on player
- Number of team fouls
- Number of team timeouts or number remaining
- Time remaining in the quarter/game
- Type of foul or violation
- Emphatic 2 or 3 point goal

Home 'Pink' is OK January 25-30, 2016

In observance of "Cancer Awareness" the GHSA will allow member schools to wear "pink" jerseys at their HOME basketball games during the week of January 25-30, 2016.

The visiting teams must wear their normal "dark" uniforms, as usual. Game officials will be using "pink" whistles for the "Calling For the Cure" promotion.

MaxPreps Basketball Reminder!

MaxPreps is the "Official Statistician and Media Partner" for the GHSA. MaxPreps offers coaches a free stat management and communication platform that enables you to efficiently submit your schedule, scores, roster and statistics. MaxPreps is a 100% free service and the official source of scores and stats for the GHSA.

All GHSA basketball teams statewide must submit game results to MaxPreps, regardless of classification. This information will be used to verify GHSA Region Standings and manage Class A Power Ratings. In addition, all information submitted will be used to power the statewide statistical leader boards.

For assistance, you may contact MaxPreps' Georgia state representative, Kylie McClarty at kylie.mclarty@cbsi.com with any questions.



NFHS' Heart of the Arts and Spirit of Sports Awards Nominations

The National Federation of State High School Associations has developed programs to recognize worthy students in the Arts (Heart of the Arts) and in Sports (Spirit of Sports). These awards are not primarily to reward winners of games and or championships, but to recognize those students that make or have made an extraordinary effort to succeed, sometimes against a great deal of adversity.

Forms may be found on the GHSA web site to nominate a student that your school would like to submit in either or both disciplines (only one per school in each).

The GHSA must receive your school's nominations by January 22, 2016 and must submit the winning nominations by February 1, to the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS).

Each of the eight sections (Georgia is in Section 3) must choose a winner from their section, and those nominees will be sent on to determine the NFHS recipient, that will be honored at the NFHS 2016 Summer Meeting.

The Spirit of Sports Award is in its 11th year and this is the third year for the Heart of the Arts Award. Georgia had 10 nominations last year for the Heart of the Arts Award and submitted a nomination to the NFHS. We at GHSA would like to ask each of you that has a student or students that meets the criteria listed, to nominate someone from your school. GHSA will send out reminders as we approach the deadline for nominations, but please start the process at your school in the near future, before everything gets so hectic in December and January.

For more information, contact Tommy Whittle, GHSA Associate Director, at twhittle@ghsa.net.

ACT and SAT Assessment Dates

Each year, the GHSA office gets requests to alter schedules due to conflicts with ACT and SAT tests. We cannot accommodate those requests. The following chart gives dates of the exams and possible conflicts with GHSA activities. We urge you to inform your athletes and coaches **now** about these dates in order for the athletes to plan their assessments around events in which they are to compete.

ACT ASSESSMENT DATES

ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

December 12, 2015.....	State Football Finals
February 6, 2016.....	Sectional Traditional Wrestling, State Swimming & Diving
April 9, 2016.....	None
June 11, 2016.....	None

SAT ASSESSMENT DATES

ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

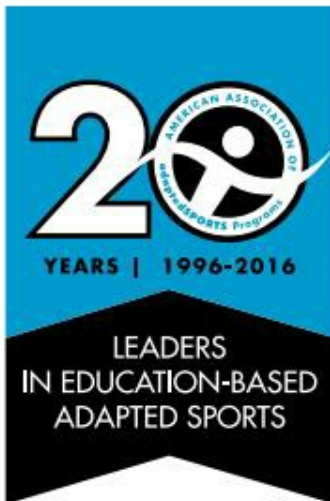
November 7, 2015.....	State Cross Country, Region/Sectional Cheerleading, State One-Act Play in 3A, 5A & 6A
December 5, 2015.....	State Football Semifinals
January 23, 2016.....	None
March 5, 2016.....	Area Riflery, Region/Area Literary Meets
May 7, 2016.....	State Girls Track, State Quarterfinals in Lacrosse and Soccer, State Tennis Finals
June 4, 2016.....	None

AP EXAM DATES

ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

Week 1 - May 2-6.....	Baseball, Lacrosse, Soccer & Tennis Playoffs, Golf Sectionals, Girls State Track
Week 2 - May 9-13.....	Baseball, Lacrosse & Soccer Playoffs, Boys State Track

Wheelchair Football Clinic | Tues. Dec. 1 | 6:30-8:00 PM



Transforming Lives and Athletics Since 1996



DATE:

Dec. 1, 2015
6:30-8:00 pm

LOCATION:

Hull Middle School,
1950 Old Peachtree Rd.
Duluth, GA

HOSTED BY:

Gwinnett County Schools
Adapted Sports Program

The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP) is offering a Wheelchair Football clinic for school age children with physical disabilities. The clinic will focus on teaching football skills-both on the offense (passing and receiving) and on defense (blocking and pass coverage).

The clinic, led by former Atlanta Falcons Linebacker Buddy Curry (Falcons 1980-1987), and Atlanta Falcons Defensive Back Bobby Butler (1981-1993), is open any student with a physical disability who would like to learn more about the sport of wheelchair football and to all current AAASP school adapted sports teams.

Children who walk unassisted, with assistive devices or use a power or manual chair may participate. A limited number of chairs will be available for those who do not use a chair on a regular basis. Open to elementary, middle and high school students. Come join us for a night of fun, safe, great exercise!

To sign up: Email Robyn Hootselle at rhootselle@adaptedsports.org. Include your name, school, age, disability and contact information.

The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. works in partnership with school systems and educational agencies in the U.S. providing programs, policies and governance of interscholastic adapted sports for students with physical disabilities to enhance educational outcomes. AAASP has nearly two decades of tested, reasonable and compliant school based adapted sports.

AAASP is a 501 (C) (3) not-for-profit organization.

American Association of
adaptedSPORTS
PROGRAMS
www.adaptedsports.org



GHSA - November Calendar - 2015

November

- 2 Earliest Date for Swim meet
- 2 File Region Cross Country and One Act Play Results with GHSA by 9 a.m.
- 7 State One-Act Play (Classes 2A, 5A & 6A); State Cross Country Meet
- 7 Complete Region Cheerleading (Class A & Coed Sectionals)
- 7 Earliest Date for Basketball game; End of Football Regular Season
- 13 Earliest date for Wrestling match
- 13 Coed Cheerleading State Finals (Sectionals A - 6A)
- 13, 14 First Round State Football Playoffs (Bye week for Class A)
- 14 Cheerleading State Finals (Classes A - 6A)
- 14 State One-Act Play (Classes A, 3A & 4A)
- 17 Hardship/Appeal Meeting
- 20, 21 Second Round State Football Playoffs (First Round for Class A)
- 26 **Thanksgiving Day** - GHSA Office closed on 25th through 27th
- 27, 28 Quarterfinal Round State Football Playoffs All Classes

The GHSA Staff Wishes You and Yours The Best of the Season



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



GHSA Sponsors



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SPORTS
AUTHORITY