



A Senior's Advice to Those Left Behind

Serrena Iyer
Editor-in-Chief

We seniors are about to depart these hallowed high school hallways (or, taking into consideration GAP's legendary timeliness, have already departed said hallowed high school hallways).

But before then, we must reflect on what we are leaving behind. There's the occasional kill lying about for those hiding from hygiene and Cragin, the Uniform Cop on Plaid Patrol. And we also taught Mrs. Tarrant that 7:45am in teenage time is really 7:56.

But we want to give you something more. Something substantial. Something so cool you can't even get an infraction for it.

So here it is: The ultimate, comprehensive, shortened-to-fit-this-section GAP guide to GA.

I'll start with the **incoming sophomores**, as you are more curious, short (irrelevant but true), and, usually, more often possessing of time, energy, and willingness to engage in reading-like arts.

Get: as many green shirts as is necessary to hide the preponderance of Banana-flavored-Laffy-Taffy-yellow that is currently in your closet

Get: off the path. I won't be around to care that much, nor will you lose all that much by staying on this al fresco means of access to Brunswick. However, I hear that the self-confidence

that comes with not receiving an irate Senior-in-the-dirt Stare can be a plus.

Avoid: writing your Euro term paper on the Berlin Wall. Yes, absolutely nothing else happened on the continent of Europe from 1900-1999. Consequently you believe that you've come up with an original idea. Well, so did those other 35 students in your class who have already checked out every single library's Berlin books, right down to the ones with the copyrights, yellow covers, and slightly clinging odors from the 1960s.

Definitions

The Euro Renaissance unit: the hours of 4:00- 7:30 pm every day of your life

The Acid/Base Chemistry Lab: the reason those goggles and aprons exist

Now, let's move on to the **incoming juniors**, as they make their long upperclassmen trek from the Student Center to the junior hallway.

Avoid: buying an SAT Vocab list the night before the test. If you don't believe me, memorize a couple of hundred obscure words now and tell me how that works out for you.

Avoid: putting off getting your driver's license until senior year. I'm not implying, of course, that I have any personal experience with being driven by my mother, arriving places, and getting out of the right side of the car to meet people who, for some reason, don't buy the old "My car is British" excuse.



Photo: Serrena Iyer
Your advice-giving senior showing off her crazy cool Cube and clothes Fun game: what does the shirt say?

I'm just saying it might be a good idea.

Get: a Starbucks card. Come junior spring, you'll be gazing upon it with that look that was previously only reserved for photos of Zac Efron

Definitions

Junior Spring: See U.S. History
U.S. History: See Euro Renais-

sance, add one more hour, and five more tests

Now, we find the **juniors** who currently see their senior futures though red-tinted glasses

Get: religion. You'll need it during senior fall.

Avoid: the senior room for at least two hours on Wednesdays. Yes, the food is for you. But so is that graduation gown you'd probably like to fit in.

Definitions
Starbucks: the elixir of consciousness and life

Dunkin Donuts: cheaper life

Finally, some respectful **teacher** thoughts, even if you are taller, wiser, and, possibly, older than I am (I have my doubts about Ms. Lane and Matt Dresher, but I'll let it go)

Avoid: assuming that your students did the summer reading. The one in front might have. The one talking the most skimmed SparkNotes. The rest did not.

Get: a list of all the summer books. We read the one with the pretty cover.

I hope you like and use this guide. And all I can say now is enjoy high school while it lasts (time flies when you're taking tests), find something you like to do (see photo for example), and, if you can, try something new and exciting, like a sport (math team has a couple/multiple open spots), a language, and maybe, just maybe, some fine futuristic day, actually reading all of GAP.

A Senior's Advice to Those Left Behind, Part 2

Charlotte Kiechel
Editor-in-Chief

You'd think that after four long years of high school, seniors would have everything figured out. They would be able to answer life's greatest questions like "why do we exist?" and "why am I who I am?"

Unfortunately, that is not the case. We are only wise to a certain extent. However, we do know how to survive GA and Brunswick life. And we know what's important about both schools. Here's a list of things everyone should do before they graduate.

1. Learn to love Brunswick food. Brunswick is known for its "man food." Think meat and more meat. I used to walk back after a class at Brunswick so I could eat at the safe GA cafeteria. However, this year I have had five classes at Brunswick and that option went out the window. I took a chance, tried the Brunswick hot food and learned to love it. You can too.

2. Take one really, really, incredibly hard class. You think you can never survive AP Euro, AP Physics C or AP French Lit. However, these classes can be the most rewarding. After suffering for nine months, cramming for tests and staying up doing homework you'll be amazed on how much you actually know the last month of class.

3. Defy the uniform. Most of junior spring, senior fall and senior spring I didn't wear the collared shirt. Why? Because comfy sweaters during the winter and comfy T-shirts during the spring months are just so much better.

4. Assert your voice, even if that means getting in a fight with the ad-

ministration. If a stupid rule is getting in the way of your GA experience, fight for what you want to do. Talk to your advisor and the administration, have your parents call, and assert yourself for what you believe in.

I've had multiple issues that I just didn't agree with the GA administration on, such as a limit on course load (why can Brunswick guys take seven classes while GA girls are limited to six?) and the recent removal of giving out flowers at the athletic banquet. I made sure my opinion was heard in both cases. Just be sure to be calm, collected and unemotional.

5. Take Brunswick English. GA and Brunswick English are two entirely different experiences and you need both to have a firm grasp on English. Everyone should experience the trek to the

Brunswick English Building during the winter months.

6. Befriend your teachers. This is the biggest thing you need to do before you graduate. The teachers on both campuses are pretty awesome, and if you don't become friends with a few of them, you are really missing out. Really cherish your time with these cool, smart, funny people.

7. Sign up for a random sport/ club/play. GA has so many clubs, teams and plays that you can't do them all. But surprise people! If you're an athlete try out for the Spring musical, and if you're a dancer join a sports team for one season. But if you sign up for one of the above activities, or for a club, you show up to the practices/meetings/ rehearsals.

8. Find a group of close friends. My GA experienced has been defined by my

friends, and I wouldn't have it any other way. Your friends know when you need cheering up, are there for you when you need some advice or fun.

9. Go on a school trip. There's nothing better than seeing your teachers and classmates outside the classroom. I went to China and New Orleans with school sponsored trips and both trips allowed me to get to know teachers and classmates I didn't know.

10. Enjoy life! You're only in high school for four years and while it might seem like forever during certain times (junior spring), it really does go by quickly.

Try to enjoy the whole experience, and don't get sucked in to the day-by-day stresses that can ruin your days. Look at the big picture, get over the stress and enjoy being here.

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The Article That Could Not Be Written

Kelsey Collins
Junior Editor

When I set out to write this article, I thought I was going to write about a recent controversy regarding Mr. Al-maqtari's immersion assignment in his Arabic class. He required his students to dress up in traditional Arab attire. Some of the teachers (specifically, some GA teachers) were upset about the assignment.

From there, the facts behind the controversy are a little unclear to me. I believe faculty members were upset because they felt the assignment was culturally insensitive, or maybe they thought the hijab was distracting in class.

I can't be sure, though, because the teachers were very reluctant to express their views on this matter. I approached members of the faculty, from both GA and Brunswick, and from multiple departments.

Unfortunately, my emails went ignored and my questions were sidestepped. More than one member of the faculty expressed a desire to censor himself or herself before his or her statement was published.

Ultimately, I received a censored response from only one of the people I attempted to interview. Most teachers would not come out and speak their minds to put their opinions in a public forum where the whole school could read them.

In such a small community, we

have to constantly censor ourselves, because everybody knows everybody, and nobody wants to offend anyone else. This censorship has left me without much material for an article.

My predicament has caused me to consider the student newspapers at GA and Brunswick. I now realize that GAP can never truly simulate a real-life journalistic experience. The "news" aspect of GAP is a bit unrealistic; presumably, all the readers attended the reported events, so there is no need to report what happened. Plus, by the time this paper gets published, the event happened so long ago that it is hardly "news."

At the very least, GA's student newspaper should therefore serve as a forum for discussion of the issues that are relevant to our daily lives at GA.

However, if a student wants to find out about the issue and learn what is going on behind the scenes, but meets obstacles (if not barricades) everywhere she turns, then how is a GAP article ever going to be written?

Freedom of the press seems to be in question within our larger GA/ Brunswick community. Recently, a Brunswick senior wrote an article in the *Brunswick Chronicle* criticizing GA's new discipline policy. Shortly after the article was published, he was publicly chas-



Photo: Internet
A woman wearing the traditional hijab



Photo: Mr. Al-Quari's website
Last year's Arab class eating a traditional Arabic dinner in New York

tised by the entire GA community. While many GA students and faculty seemed to think that the author of the article did not do his research, and apparently invented facts and sources, that was not what sparked the criticism.

From where I stand, it seems GA girls reacted so strongly simply because the tone of the article rubbed them the wrong way: they did not agree with the Brunswick author's opinions, and they did not take well to being criticized.

Regardless of what I think of what he had to say in his article, I think it's a shame that a student was discouraged from voicing his opinion. In an educational environment, shouldn't students be encouraged to speak their minds so that we can be allowed to hear all sides of an issue?

Now this problem has affected not only the students but also the faculty. The teachers are afraid to come out and criticize or even comment on a Brunswick teacher's assignment.

Is there tension within the coordination program? All those involved are certainly dancing around the issues, and no one wants to say anything inflammatory.

What I'm trying to say is this: Greenwich Academy should be a community

whose members are allowed to speak their minds. We need to stop condemning those who do, because it prevents the issues from being heard and understood. Teachers and students alike should feel secure about publicly addressing issues that affect their daily lives.

If this can happen, then maybe the next time there is a debate within GA, GAP will be able to report all sides of the story.

Seniors Voice For All

Laina Richards
Staff Writer

Once a week in the spring, the whole Greenwich Academy upper school gathers to hear a few seniors present something that is important to them, something that somehow leaves the audience with a helpful message.

The senior speeches this year, much like in years past, have given great insight into the Class of 2008 and GA life as a whole. For the seniors this is an important privilege. They have waited for their turn, anticipation building as they watched three years worth of speeches. Some girls have known what they wanted to present since freshman year, or even before.

The Senior Speeches have become a tradition; not only does the tradition grow as each class inspires the next, but they have also become a way for the seniors to say goodbye to GA. These speeches have become a constant at GA, a privilege passed down as everyone in the school hears them and is encouraged to continue the tradition.

The point of the senior speeches is to present a helpful message to the rest of the high school. Everyone has a unique high school experience, but as Gwen Pryor, XII, amusingly explained, there are some things that hold true for everyone's Greenwich Academy experiences.

As she said in her speech, seniors have indeed learned how to handle everyday GA occurrences, such as walking the path and avoiding infractions, through experience. Along with becoming expert bronzer applicators, and mastering the "I need some water," ex-

cuse at dances, over four years seniors have also come to understand invaluable things about themselves and their classmates.

This year, Hallie Finan reminded everyone of the importance of friends with quirks, and Caitlin Brisson drove home the significance of family, namely fathers. Jordan Taylor surprised many people by explaining her old (and clearly overcome) fear of exercise and pushing herself to her personal limit, sending out a message of hope.

Elise Taylor, X, explained how, "Senior voices are an honest portrayal of high-school life, giving valuable advice and insight to underclassmen. Some may not want to hear it, but it's exactly what the younger students need to."

Some of the speeches are funny and some are more serious, but every one of them is meant to guide the girls in the lower grades through the maze that is high school. With any luck, each time a speech is made, everyone takes in its message. As a consequence some girls may make one less mistake, or feel a just a little bit more confident about where they're headed.

GA's annual senior speeches have become messages to the upper school, and in this way they serve an important purpose. At very least the senior speeches are a relaxing part of the day, a funny or inspiring break from a hectic schedule of classes.

These speeches would not have the same GA feeling if the whole high school didn't attend them. As TT Gattinella said, it is truly these "little things" at GA that make the biggest difference.

Senior Parking Prank

Maria Casanova
Staff Writer

Money in the Bank for the Senior Prank.

Certainly one for the books. This year seniors hold the record for the best prank in Greenwich Academy history. As students and faculty rolled into the Upper School circle, rows of senior vehicles awaited them at all entrances blocking the doors to the building.

This spur-of-the-moment idea from the class of 2008 turned out to be a stroke of genius. The night prior to the prank, a number of emails passed between the students using the Class of 2008 conference.

They agreed to meet at the circle at 5:30 am the following morning in order to strategically park the cars. Although only roughly 40 GA students and about 25 Brunswick students actually showed up, the turnout made those who didn't go regret it.

The students left GA that morning to return two hours later to greet an amused Mrs. Molly King, a few angry teachers and some confused freshmen.

In the time spent between preparing the prank and seeing how it was received, a number of girls and guys hit up Glory Days and then senior Gwen Pryor's house to watch "Entourage." The humor of the show, however, could not distract them from the pits in their

stomachs as they began to think of the possible ramifications for their actions.

After "freaking out," the general feeling was to shake off any doubts or regrets; they were the seniors. There were rumblings at first among other classes as to how the situation would be handled by the administration, but to everyone's relief, "they were pretty cool about it"



Photo: Seth Potter
The Seniors block Massey with their cars.

Charlotte Kiechel, XII. Sometimes we forget that our teachers went to high school too.

It was a harmless prank, nothing like other stories we've heard like letting out 10,000 crickets in a hallway, or gluing all the locks and causing thousands of dollars in damages.

It was a magnificent stunt that will leave big shoes for next years seniors to fill and probably every class's to follow. Thank you Senior Class. Love, the Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors.