



# Glenbard South Principal Newsletter

March 17, 2025

## FROM THE OFFICE OF: Principal Santee

Dear Raider Families,

As we approach the final stretch of the school year, I'm excited to share the latest updates and highlights from our school community in this March Newsletter. With spring upon us and a well-deserved break ahead at the end of the month, there are several important events and opportunities I'd like to bring to your attention.

First, we want to ensure our students are fully prepared for the upcoming spring testing season, particularly the ACT exams. More information can be found below from Mr. Byrne. Please remind students that these are important assessments that can help to open or keep doors open for them at the college level.



This spring also brings a host of exciting events, including Prom, the underclassmen awards ceremony on April 25th during Raider Hour, and many special senior celebrations. These traditions are meaningful moments for our students, creating lasting memories as they mark important milestones. Please read the important information below from Ms. Kosak on the "Senior Assassin" game as we do not support our students participating in this in any form.

In addition, we are excited to announce a **groundbreaking ceremony on March 19th** to kick off our construction journey, made possible by the March 2024 Referendum. This marks the beginning of facility upgrades at all four Glenbard schools. Over the summer, you'll notice several key improvements, including the addition of **20+ windows to the west side of the tower, the relocation of our tennis courts, and a newly positioned soccer field**. We look forward to these enhancements, which will greatly benefit our students and community. You will begin to see fencing and signs of construction coming as early as next week.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to recognize and congratulate our students on their outstanding achievements this season. From the remarkable performances of our Math Team, Scholastic Bowl, Speech Team, Mock Trial and other clubs to the dedication of our winter sports athletes, our students continue to excel in numerous arenas. Good luck to all those that have started their spring sports and our upcoming, much anticipated spring musical, *Cinderella*.

Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in our school community. Let's work together to make this final stretch of the school year both memorable and successful for our students!

With Raider Pride,  
Principal Santee



## GLENBARD SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER 2025 IMPROVEMENTS



NEW CLASSROOM WINDOWS (WEST ELEVATION)



**FROM THE OFFICE OF:**  
**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF INSTRUCTION**  
Mr. Sean Byrne

**Course Requests for 2025-26 School Year**

Course Requests for next year are finalized and can be viewed on your [Parent PowerSchool Account \(link\)](#) by selecting "Class Registration." Additionally, an email was sent last week with student course requests. Course descriptions and graduation/college admission requirements can be found in our [Academic Program Guidebook](#). Any changes moving forward are on a space available basis through your School Counselor.

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## ACT Review Materials Available for Glenbard Students

We are excited to share that all students grades 9 - 11 have access to Albert, an online learning tool, to support their preparation for the school-day ACT and preACT in April, 2025. Albert helps your student practice ACT® type questions and get immediate feedback.

Your student received instructions through an email to their Glenbard Gmail address. Most students have already used Albert in their classes, but if they need any support, [this document](#) will show them how to access their account.

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## Underclass Awards Ceremony and Senior Meeting

On Friday, April 25 during Raider Hour, we will have our annual Underclass Awards Ceremonies. The purpose of these celebrations is to recognize and acknowledge our students for their commitment to excellence, continuous growth and learning in their classes, and participation in athletics and extracurriculars. This is a great time for each class to celebrate the great work of all members of the class. Details and photos will be shared with families after this event.

At the same time, our Senior class will meet with Ms. Kosak (APSS) and the School Counseling team to discuss important dates and deadlines for students before Graduation.

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## Spring Testing Days

- **Wednesday, April 9, 2025:** All 9th and 10th grade students at Glenbard South will take the pre-ACT. This exam will be administered digitally, on student iPads.
  - *This is a non-attendance day for 11th, and 12th grade students.*
  - Students will receive room assignments through their Glenbard email account on April 7.
- **Thursday, April 10, 2025:** All Juniors at Glenbard South will take the School-day ACT with Essay. This exam will be administered digitally, on student iPads.
  - *This is a non-attendance day for 9th, 10th, and 12th grade students.*





- Students will receive room assignments through their Glenbard email account on April 7.
  - **Tuesday, April 15, 2025:** Makeup ACT and preACT Testing Date
    - Students will be called out of classes if a makeup test is needed.
    - This is a regular attendance day for all other students.
  - **May 5–9 and May 12–16:** AP Exams administered at Glenbard South.
    - Each exam is administered on a different day, based on a schedule set by the College Board. Students registered for the exam in the Fall through AP Classroom. Please see [this link](#) for specific dates for each exam.
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**FROM THE OFFICE OF:**

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF OPERATION**

**Mr. Taff Nielsen**



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## Commencement Information - Save the Date

This year's Commencement Ceremony to celebrate the Class of 2025 will be on Thursday, May 22, 2025. The ceremony will begin at 6:30pm. We are in the process of finalizing the senior end-of-the-year events and more information will be shared in a future newsletter.



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## Important Dates For Your Calendar

Click [HERE](#) for important dates to save in your calendar.







**FROM THE OFFICE OF:**

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF STUDENT SERVICES**

**Ms. Marina Kosak**

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## **“Senior Assassin”**

### **Not a school sponsored or condoned activity**

As the school year begins to wind down, some students are preparing to play the “**Senior Assassin**” game. While this game may seem like harmless fun, it creates serious safety concerns for the participants, the responding officers, and the public. Glenbard South **does not support students** engaging in this activity, as we believe it has great potential to put our students and community at risk. Please do your own research to see the many incidents where this game has gone wrong, and students were hurt. [Here](#) is an example.

### **What is Senior Assassin?**

Students “target” each other with water guns, often using tactics like hiding in yards, wearing masks, and chasing each other in cars to avoid elimination.

### **Why is this dangerous?**

**Public Alarm** – People may mistake participants for real threats, leading to unnecessary 911 calls and police responses.

**Police Response Risks** – Officers responding to reports of armed individuals don’t immediately know the situation is a game. What seems fun to players can quickly become a high-risk situation.

**Traffic & Trespassing Violations** – Players running through neighborhoods, hiding in backyards, or driving recklessly to avoid being “eliminated” put themselves and others in real danger.

**Risk of Armed Citizens Reacting** – In Illinois, there are individuals with concealed carry licenses (CCLs), and some may intervene in what they perceive as a real threat. A person carrying what looks like a weapon—even a water gun—could provoke a tragic encounter.

**Possible Criminal Consequences** - Participating in this game could result in serious legal consequences.

We encourage parents and guardians to talk to their teens about the very real risks of playing "Senior Assassin" and the legal consequences that can follow.

We also encourage the public that if you see something, say something. If you see suspicious activity or someone with what appears to be a weapon, CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.

**Let's keep our community safe and be reasonable. Avoid unnecessary risks, and choose safer ways to have fun.**

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## Senior Slideshow

The Senior Slideshow will be shown during the end of the year celebrations. Please remind your senior to send in their pictures for this wonderful tradition. On the class of 2025 Schoology page there is a Google Form for students to upload their photos. They have been asked to submit a baby/toddler picture, a picture of their favorite high school memory and the last picture should be something that represents their future (i.e. college wear, future profession, etc.) **Pictures are due by the end of the day on Friday, March 28th.**

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## Prom

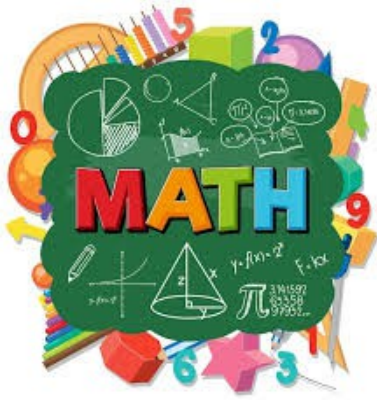
We are excited to announce that our 2025 Prom will be held on Saturday, May 17th. This year's prom will be held at PinStripes in Oak Brook. Juniors and seniors will be able to pick up the prom packets in the Hub starting Monday, April 7th. The packet contains all of the information needed. However, I would like to let parents know that tickets will go on sale the week of April 14th with the final sales date the 25th. Tickets will be \$110 per person and you will have the option to pay with cash, check or online through PushCoin. **All students are required to ride the chartered buses to prom, there are no exceptions.** We are looking forward to a fantastic evening!



## Congratulation to our Math Team

Congrats to the Glenbard South Math Team on first place finishes in the Glenbard Math Invitational, the Upstate 8 Conference Math meet, and Regionals. The entire team has qualified for the State Math competition and will be in Bloomington the weekend of April 25th to compete against the





other best Mathletes in the state. Congratulations to our head Coach David Jodelka and assistants Erica Hearn Anderson and Haresh Harpalani. The following students placed at the Regional competition and will represent Glenbard South at the state level:

Freshman: Dougy Biesenkamp, Nick Crawford, Emily Goodin, Adi Lehr, Owen Martinez, Aditya Narayanan, Mia Siguenza, Aspen Usalis

Sophomores: Sophia Assaf, Priscilla Ha, Zach Jones, Simon Kubik, Azam Muneer, Michael McIntyre, Will Pope

Juniors: Aryeri Funez-Sanchez, Ben Gower, Gavin Loftsgaarden, Alex Long, Lizzie Pekkarinen, David Puchalski, Ashrith Valluri

Seniors: Grace Bittlingmaier, Andrew Lullo, Zach Nielsen, Ella Pope



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**Congratulations to our Scholastic Bowl Regional Champions**



Our Raiders Scholastic Bowl team won the IHSA Regional tournament at Metea Valley on March 10th.. We are proud of these students who represented Glenbard South. Our team is coached by Mr. Michael Douglas and Dr. Caicina Jones. Congratulations to Adam Bernsten, Grace Bittlingmaier, Ibrahima Diagne, Soren Loest, Andrew Lullo, Aniyah Nelson, William Pope, Quinlin Pounders, Belinda Ramos, Ayush Shah and Riven Wisniewski. Way to go Raiders! Good luck at Sectionals on Saturday, March 15th.



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## School Counseling

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### Optional College Prep Session for Juniors – April 14th During Raider Hour

Attention Parents of Juniors!

Is your student starting to think about college applications? We're excited to offer an optional opportunity for juniors to get a head start on the process!

On April 14th during Raider Hour, a representative from the University of Missouri (Mizzou) will be presenting on "Gearing Up for the College Application Season." This session will cover essential topics, including:

- What juniors should do before the school year ends
- Materials to gather for the Common Application
- An introduction to college essays
- Important college application deadlines
- Insider tips from a college admissions rep

Encourage your junior to attend and gain expert advice on navigating this important next step! Scan the QR code below and sign them up!

**GEARING UP FOR THE COLLEGE APPLICATION SEASON**

PRESENTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI 

Join us for an expert-led informative session designed to guide students through the college application process.

Topics include:

- Tasks to complete before the school year ends
- Materials needed for Common App
- College essays
- Application deadlines
- Insider tips from a college admissions rep

 **Monday**  
April 14

 **Time**  
Raider Hour

 **Auditorium**

**SIGN UP**



## Parent Guide for College Admissions: Month by Month timeline Seniors:

**March** – If [waitlisted](#), help your child cope with this news by being proactive. They can email their admissions officer at the college to let them know they're still interested and would like to keep their place on the waitlist.

**April** – If your child is still undecided on where to attend, sneak in one last college visit to help them make their final choice. Give them the nudge to make summer plans if they haven't already.



Some options include a part-time job, a [summer abroad](#), or volunteering.

[May](#) – May 1 is [National College Decision Day](#)! Your child needs to submit their decision by this date as well as their non-refundable deposit. If they change their mind over the summer or make it off the waitlist, they will lose this deposit – but it's worth it if your child has made a choice that will make them happier.

Juniors:

[March](#) – Give your child the goal of finding teachers, coaches, and mentors to write [letters of recommendation](#) before the month's end. It's also time to schedule spring and summer college visits!

[April](#) – Nail down summer plans. Here are a few options: a part-time job, summer camp, or volunteering. Summer experiences will look great on their college applications and give them some real-world experience to reference in essays or admissions interviews.

[May](#) – Start finalizing the college list. A helpful strategy is to narrow down schools into three categories: [reach, target, and safety schools](#).

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## Benefits of College Visits

College visits are a vital part of the college investigation process. Whether you are a freshman at the beginning stages of the college process or a senior trying to make a final decision, college visits can have a powerful impact. There is nothing quite like experiencing a college campus first hand. In many cases, investing in a college education might be one of the most significant financial investments one ever makes. Getting a chance to visit multiple campuses provides the added research needed so you can feel confident about whatever choice you make.



Here are 4 benefits of college visits:

1. **Get a better "feel" of the campus.** Each campus has a different style; something that makes it unique. Some campuses are large and spread out, while other campuses are small and compact. Getting a feel of the college environment can help students decide if a large state school or a small liberal arts school is a better fit.
2. **Going on a college tour.** Tours can take students into a classroom, meet students and faculty, and even get a chance to see what a dorm room looks like. This helps students to start to formulate what is important to them. For example, how do they feel about large class sizes? What benefits does dorm life provide?
3. **Chance to ask lots of questions.** College visits allow you to ask questions that you didn't even know you had. The process can be overwhelming, but having a chance to get on campus and ask as many questions as possible can be extremely helpful. College admission counselors



are ready and eager to answer whatever questions students and parents have. Provides motivation. Like all goals, having a vision of college keeps students motivated.

4. **Sets a vision for the future.** Seeing a college in person and becoming aware of all the exciting possibilities of their future puts a concept that might once have been black and white into color. This vision can help students to remember why every test, every assignment, and all their hard work matters.

Planning a college visit doesn't have to be difficult or even cost any money. The first step will be to visit the college website. Starting with local schools can be a great first step.

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## FAFSA for Seniors

As a reminder, a non-academic graduation requirement for seniors is that they either need to file the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) or complete the FAFSA Non-Participation Form. The non-participation digital form is now available [here](#). Please note that if you fill out the Non-participation form, you can change your mind and apply for FAFSA later.

Some tips for a successful FAFSA completion:

1. For those of you that have not created a FSA ID, please use [this linked document](#) to create it. It is advised that it is created at least 2 days prior to the filing the FAFSA. Both parents and students need their own FSA ID.
2. It is ideal for both students and parents to be in attendance for FAFSA completion.
3. Please bring your 2023 tax forms, W-2s, and social security numbers for you and your student.
4. Please also have a final list of colleges your senior is applying to.

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## GPS Glenbard Parent Series

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**LINK TO BROCHURE ON NEW WEBSITE:**

<https://gpsparentseries.org/#brochure>

### Upcoming Events



**HYBRID EVENT -- Cultivating Healthy Relationships For Joy, Peace and a Meaningful Life**  
Dr. Alexandra Solomon  
Wednesday, March 12 at noon and 7 p.m.  
Noon program held at College of DuPage and over Zoom



**From Struggles to Success: Foster Goal Setting, Responsibility and Compromise**  
Dr. Bryan Pearlman  
Wednesday, March 19 at noon and 7 p.m.



**How to NOT Raise a Narcissist in an All-About-Me World**  
Dr. Mary Ann Little  
Tuesday, March 25 at noon and 7 p.m.



**Tap Into Your Intuition to Connect with Your Child and Go Easy on Yourself**  
Meghan Leahy  
Thursday, April 10 at noon and 7 p.m.



**Emotional Agility: Skills to Navigate Change and Embrace Self-Compassion**  
Dr. Susan David in conversation with Dr. Kristin Neff  
Wednesday, April 16 at noon and 7 p.m.



**This is So Awkward: Helping Kids Manage Today's T(ween) Culture -- Modern Puberty Explained**  
Cara Natterson MD & Vanessa Kroll Bennett  
Wednesday, April 23 at noon and 7 p.m.



**Stop Calling them Soft Skills: The Essential Skills Employers Seek**  
Trevor Muir  
Monday, April 28 at noon and 7 p.m.



## Boosters

### Booster Plant Sale

Dear Raider Families,

Spring is just around the corner, and we're excited to share that the Glenbard South Boosters' Annual Plant Sale is officially live! This is a wonderful opportunity to bring vibrant color and life to your garden while supporting our school community.

What's Available?

- Combination Planters
- Hanging Baskets
- Sun, Shade & Combo Planters

- Veggies, Herbs, Fruit
- Premium Annuals
- Flats
- And more!

All plants come from a trusted local nursery and are known for their exceptional quality. Whether you're looking to brighten up your outdoor space or grow your own fresh produce, there's something for everyone!

Don't wait! ***The sale closes on Wednesday, March 19th!***

Place your order today: <https://bit.ly/GBS-plants>

Thank you for supporting Glenbard South Boosters! Let's grow something amazing together this spring and summer!






*Glenbard South*  
**PLANT Sale**

**On Sale NOW!**

- *Combination Planters*
- *Hanging Baskets*
- *Sun, Shade & Combo Planters*
- *Veggies, Herbs, Fruit*
- *Premium Annuals*
- *Flats*
- *And more!*

**SHOP MARCH 10 - 19**

**🕒 Pick up: Sat. April 26th**  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**🌐 <https://bit.ly/GBS-plants>**

**SCAN ME** 

## Join the Glenbard South Boosters Team ... We Need You!

Calling all Raider parents! Make a difference at Glenbard South by stepping into a shadow role for next year or taking on one of our many smaller positions.



We're seeking enthusiastic volunteers to shadow and potentially fill board positions, as well as to assist with key roles like managing concessions, serving as football ambassadors, handling Raider Wear merchandise, supporting ACTS planning, and organizing parent socials.

Shadowing opportunities are available now! Step behind the scenes, learn the ropes, and see how you can be part of the Boosters team. Whether you're ready to take on a leadership role or prefer to lend a hand with smaller tasks, every contribution makes a big impact.

Let's make next year a success as we boost our students ... one event at a time!

Learn more at: [gsboosters.org/get-involved](https://gsboosters.org/get-involved)

CURIOUS ABOUT HOW THE BOOSTERS MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN?

# Shadows NEEDED

- FOOTBALL AMBASSADORS
- CONCESSIONS MANAGER
- TREASURER
- 1ST VP, VOLUNTEERS
- ACTS CHAIR
- RAIDER WEAR CHAIR
- FALL SOCIAL/WINTER SOCIAL

*THESE POSITIONS CAN BE CO-CHAIRERD WITH A FRIEND!*

**Join Our Team!**



**SHADOW A CURRENT MEMBER TO LEARN THE ROPES AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



The purpose of the GBS Boosters is to encourage and promote all extracurricular activities at Glenbard South. GBS Boosters supports music, arts, academics (scholarships), and after-school clubs in addition to athletics. GBS Boosters raises money through membership fees, donations, concessions, Raider Wear sales, and social events throughout the year. All GBS families, alumni, teachers, staff members, and members of the community are invited to become part of the Boosters.

Please consider becoming a Glenbard South Booster. Click on the link below for more information.



# GBS Boosters

**SUPPORTING STUDENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND COMMUNITY**

**BELOW IS A LIST OF SOME OF THE EVENTS AND COMMITTEES HOSTED, PARTICIPATED IN, OR SUPPORTED BY GBS BOOSTERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

Freshman Parent Night & BBQ • Blue and White Night • local restaurant and giveback nights • Fall Mum Sale + Spring Plant Sale • Raider Pride Night • Fall Social Wine Bingo Night • Teacher/Staff Appreciation Breakfast • Gratitude Day



• Pack the Place • Winter Social Trivia Night • Valentine's for Vets • Floral Symphony • Teacher Appreciation Luncheon • Senior Farewell Fest • Annual Golf Outing • Volunteer Appreciation Night (Winter/Spring).

[gsboosters.org/joinnow](https://gsboosters.org/joinnow)



## **Become a Member - Glenbard South Boosters**

We invite all community members, alumni, parents, and faculty to join the Glenbard South Boosters.

[gsboosters.org](https://gsboosters.org)



## **Glenbard South High School**

**Website:** [www.glenbardsouthhs.org](http://www.glenbardsouthhs.org)

**Location:** [23W200 Butterfield Rd, Glen Ellyn, IL, USA](https://www.google.com/maps/place/23W200+Butterfield+Rd,+Glen+Ellyn,+IL,+USA)

**Phone:** [630-469-6500](tel:630-469-6500)

**Twitter:** [@GBSraiders](https://twitter.com/GBSraiders)



## **Maria Mazza**

Maria is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



RD SOUTH

the Raiders

ENTRANCE

