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***Dear Parents of The Governor's School for the Arts Students:***

Under the vision and guidance of Dr. Andrea Warren, Assistant Director, we are pleased to announce the formation of the **“Parents of GSA”**, a program similar in nature to your student’s school PTA.

A core committee has been formed, and we are extending the invitation for you to join us in this exciting initiative. Our mission is to assist the Board of Directors, Main Office of GSA, each Departmental Chair, and our students to garner resources and patrons of the arts to ensure the continued success of GSA – and to basically, **“Save the ARTS”**.

You may already be wondering... “Is GSA in the midst of some type of financial crisis?” To answer this, one must consider the precarious state of our economy. However, rest assured the Governor’s School is by no means anywhere near closing their doors. We are simply attempting to make an extraordinary institution better in any way we can. All schools within the Commonwealth have faced budget cuts. We want to raise awareness, funds (and some eyebrows!) by getting GSA out in the public eye more than ever.

To do this, we need more **“Parents of GSA”**. Many parents have approached department chairs and faculty and offered to “help out”. The Governor’s School, as you know, is different than most. They help mold our students into productive and responsible adults. As a Parent of GSA, you can help “behind the scenes” and make a difference.

Hopefully, you were able to attend the **GSA fundraiser on October 23<sup>rd</sup>**. It was a stellar evening! How did we help? We helped by soliciting donations of items for the auction, which in itself, raised nearly \$3,000 for GSA! This will definitely become an annual event!

The GSA Prom is slated for March 6<sup>th</sup> at Norfolk Botanical Gardens. We are presently making plans to hold the first GSA Golf Tournament next spring. We need your help and input to ensure the success of these events too.

By this notification, we are holding a membership drive. Our goal is to get at least one parent or guardian on board per each student. The fee costs less than a cup of Starbucks, nominal compared to a high school's \$13 PTA fee.

**To join us, please fill out the attached and include a check or money order in the amount of \$2.50, (pro-rated for the second semester) made payable to GSA (Parent Committee Membership in "for/memo"). We do not want to create extra work for each department; therefore, we are asking you to remit your membership fee for the 2009-2010 school year to:**

**The Governor's School for the Arts  
Parents of GSA  
Old Dominion University  
Norfolk, VA 23529-0556**

Believe it or not, your \$2.50 will go a long way to help GSA. In addition to helping with decorations for the GSA Prom, etc., we want to be able to show the outstanding professionals who teach our students how much they are appreciated. We want to recognize them on "Teacher Appreciation Day". Please know monies collected will be equally divided between all departments. A statement will be available to all members at year-end reflecting exactly where the funds were spent.

If you cannot afford the \$2.50 membership fee – we would still like to invite you to our next meeting. Just give us your email address and we will put you on our mailing list. Your willingness to help in any way is appreciated.

With all good wishes and thanking you in advance,

Shannon Leonard

President

Parents of GSA

cc: Dr. Andrea Warren

encl.

## **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

### **Parents of GSA**

***(Note: Please list each new member)***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**GSA Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home ph:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell ph:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail (Important!):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Method of Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In a paragraph, please sum up your areas of expertise and anticipated level of participation, i.e., desire to attend meetings, help with fund-raising, heavy lifting, etc.**

**THANK YOU!!!**