



APPLIED DESIGN ACADEMY

Newsletter

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Applied Design Academy Welcomes Its Third Cohort

Gulf Shores High School is excited to welcome its third cohort of freshman students into the Applied Design Academy for the 2022-2023 school year!



Design Students Create Their First Prototypes

GSHS Applied Design freshmen recently created their first prototypes, consumer-driven cell phone holders. As part of the engineering design process, students are inspired as they listen to stories that present design challenges—like raised roadbeds in Florida that flood neighboring homes or weasels in Germany that chew electric wiring in luxury cars or attractively designed public urinals in Paris that fail to curb boorish behavior. Students learn to empathize with people's concerns and properly frame a design challenge.

We are in the business of transforming lives through educational experiences to produce outcomes sought after by businesses and universities.

Within the engineering design process students research prior art, brainstorm ideas, draw sketches, and create prototypes in the workshop. They measure, estimate, and fabricate using hand tools and power tools. They face design challenges, consider alternatives, and iterate until they're satisfied with the result. Finally, students present and demonstrate their prototypes to their classmates, sharpening their skills in communication, storytelling, and marketing.

From start to finish the engineering design process gives students opportunity to learn by doing and think with their hands.



Applied Design students Anna Achimon and Kayla Rose created fun and functional cellphone holders based on customer-driven specifications.

APPLIED DESIGN ACADEMY

*Many of the best jobs in the future will require being good at using **both** sides of the brain—both logic and analytic thought combined with intuition and creativity.*

Applied Design Academy

Dr. Stephanie Harrison, Chair

Cindy Veazey, Principal

Chezley Bowling, Counselor

Daniel Jajeh, Engineering and AP Computer Science

Wendy Jones, AP Math

Sandra Dempsey, AP Statistics

Lynn Lowell, AP Biology

Jason Hill, AP Chemistry

Emily Stewart, AP Physics

Amanda Refitt, AP History

Amber Pitts, AP History

Mary Kate Harrell, Spanish

Amanda Talantis, Spanish

Tara Smith, AP English

Rexine Redd, AP English

“I’m glad to have started in the Applied Design Program as a freshman at Gulf Shores High School. While taking a rigorous AP history course my first year was difficult, the discipline instilled in me made me a better-prepared student”

-Amara Morales, Junior

Computer Science Club Leaders Hold First-Ever Coding Contest with Cash Prizes!

Applied Design Academy students Amara Morales, Henley Hollis, and Claire Colvin are officers of the GSHS Computer Science Club. This year they set out to design and implement the first ever GSCS Coding Competition for Gulf Shores students in elementary school, middle school, and high school. The competition kicks off in October as contestants are invited to code an app in any language to compete for cash prizes donated by generous local business sponsors. The GSCS Coding Competition will take place from October through mid-November. Winners of the competition will take their prowess to the next level as they participate in the statewide Alabama Governor’s App Challenge in the Spring.

The History Behind the Applied Design Academy

In 2019 the newly formed Gulf Shores City School District determined to offer a unique and rigorous college preparatory experience. Dr. Matt Akin and Dr. Stephanie Harrison led a small design team with a goal to achieve outstanding STEAM outcomes eagerly sought after by businesses and universities. The design team focused on curriculum, culture, and learning spaces when launching the Applied Design Academy in the summer of 2020. Through the generosity of the Dolphin Foundation and Volkert Engineering Inc., GSCS redesigned classrooms and invested in furniture and new technology including 3D printers, virtual reality headsets, interactive displays, and more.



Today the Applied Design College-Preparatory Academy at Gulf Shores High School is a four-year educational program in which STEAM courses are infused with design-thinking and rigorous and engaging hands-on experiences. Students take honors and Advanced Placement courses, volunteer to serve their community, and complete a STEAM capstone project in their junior or senior year.

Community Service Reminder!

Attention Applied Design Academy students: remember to keep track of your community service hours. If you have questions about your community service requirement, please reach out to Mr. Jajeh or Ms. Bowling.