

The MakeWaves Monthly

We develop students to become the best versions of themselves so they can transform the world.




Superintendents' Message


Welcome back to the 2022-2023 school year. As we begin second semester, we are looking forward to the many exciting instructional activities our teachers have developed for our students. We also have many special events planned for this semester including: From Farm to Table, Earth Day, Field Day and numerous athletic, extra-curricular and arts events. If you have not had an opportunity to take advantage of our Tuesday Tour, you are welcome to come on January 27th to tour the high school and see their instructional programs first-hand. Sign up on any of our websites: Take the School Tour. We look forward to working with you throughout the semester.

Dr. Matt Akin - Superintendent makin@gsboe.org


Dr. Stephanie Harrison - Assistant Superintendent sharrison@gsboe.org




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[Athletics](#)



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[Teaching & Learning](#)



[ELEMENTARY SCHOOL](#)



[MIDDLE SCHOOL](#)



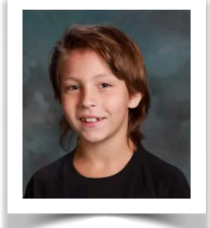
[HIGH SCHOOL](#)



[VIRTUAL ACADEMY](#)

Meet Our WaveMakers of the Month: Student

Elementary School:



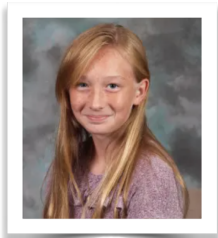
Boone Anderson

Grade - 4th Grade **Area of Recognition** - Citizenship/Academics/Leadership

I'm a WaveMaker because...

Boone Anderson is a hero! He is 10 years old and saved a toddler from drowning. He courageously dove into the deep end of a pool to rescue the child on his own. Two other girls were with him and got an adult to help. Boone is also an A-B student who shows up every day prepared and ready to put in 100% effort. He has earned several positive office referrals as well. He is a leader in my classroom and has the respect of his peers. He has the leadership role of "expectations inspector" and helps the class follow rules. He offers creative solutions and supports others in need. He is exceptional in every way! ~Nominated by Stacey Smith - 4th Grade Teacher~

Middle School:



Autumn Brandon

Grade - 8th Grade **Area of Recognition** - Work ethic in Social Studies

I'm a WaveMaker because...

This student regularly helps when it is not necessary. She is very respectful to adults and has a great work ethic in the classroom and out. She is always kind and helpful to the other classmates. She is always in class with a smile and ready to help where needed

~Nominated by Kenneth Nelson - Social Studies Teacher~

High School:



Isabella "Izzy" Salcedo

Grade - 11th Grade **Area of Recognition** - Theatre

I'm a WaveMaker because...

Izzy is constantly helping out with areas of theatre that she is not in charge of. She goes above and beyond to help her fellow classmates when it comes to acting, props, and mental well-being. She is an integral part of our program and without Izzy, our program would lose a ray of sunshine.

~Nominated by Paiton Lami-Doyle - Theatre Teacher~

What is a WaveMaker? Someone who incites action or activity.

Meet Our WaveMakers of the Month: Staff

Elementary School:



Lindsay Taylor



Ashley Weekley

I'm a WaveMaker because...

Lindsay Taylor and Ashley Weekley are the K-Kids Club sponsors at GSES. K-Kids is a worldwide elementary school service organization that helps students discover their passion to serve others, bettering their school and community through serving, and they supervise the K-Kids meeting each week and facilitate conversations among the students to plan and implement several student-led service projects each year. They encourage every K-Kid member to realize they each have the capacity to be a leader. Lindsay and Ashley also spend time after school supervising the multiple student-led service projects in our community. Lindsay and Ashley are deserving of the title "WaveMakers of the Month" for their enthusiastic and tireless dedication in encouraging students to be compassionate student leaders who serve through the K-Kids Club at GSES.

~Nominated by Sara Altmeyer~

Middle School:



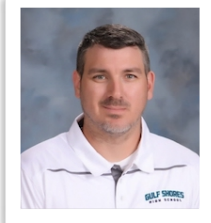
Megan Michaelson

I'm a WaveMaker because...

Megan is an extraordinary teacher and person! She not only incorporates a wide variety of art techniques and opportunities into her classroom to draw out the artist in all our students - she also seeks out opportunities and experiences outside of the classroom to promote her students and their skills nationally. She works tirelessly to ensure her students know their talents are valued, important, and worth pursuing. Dozens of Mrs. Michaelson's students receive awards or are published each school year thanks to her diligence.

~Nominated by Kenneth Nelson~

High School:



Britt Shaw

I'm a WaveMaker because...

Coach Britt Shaw is known throughout the state for his impeccable coaching abilities. His wrestling record, which already includes 101 dual wins in his tenure at GSHS speaks for itself. His standard is excellence for his wrestlers and himself. He expects much and rewards much. The team motto is "It We Me." It is the order he wants his team to prioritize wrestling - "It" is the sport; "We" is the team; "Me" is the individual. It isn't something he just preaches; he lives it out. Recently, a school in our 5A area started a brand new wrestling program. They travelled to GS for a duals match and brought fewer than a handful of wrestlers who were dressed in an assortment of football shorts, compression shirts, and tennis shoes rather than the standard singlet, head gear, and mat shoes. Following the match, Coach Shaw and the "Pod" (as the Dolphin wrestling family is called) gathered to collect donations to purchase singlets, head gear, and wrestling shoes for this competitor. Within 24 hours, over \$1000 was raised and the gear was ordered and a Christmas gift was sent. Coach Shaw exemplified his motto that it is about the sport first and saw the value of the big picture. He will give credit to everyone else for the success of the team and this gift, but his leadership on and off the mat is what makes him a true Wave Maker.

~ Nominated by Melissa Everett~

What is a WaveMaker? Someone who incites action or activity.

Elementary School

Riding the Waves of Education Together:
Educate - Inspire - Empower

Gulf Shores Elementary School community has high expectations for academic excellence for all of its students. Teachers/staff, parents, and students will work together to foster an environment in which students are excited about learning and working at the peak of their abilities. We believe that learning is a lifelong process, and one to which teachers/staff, parents, and students must be fully committed.

Middle School

Our school values both individual effort and group cooperation.

The purpose of Gulf Shores Middle School is to provide engaging learning environments, rigorous academics, and the incorporation of the unique resources of our community to empower all students to achieve success. GSMS realizes that all learners need to be rigorously challenged; that all learners need to be empowered with both the basic skills and the critical thinking ability that will enable them to become productive contributing members of a racially and culturally diverse, yet increasingly interdependent, world.

High School

GSHS is dedicated to the promotion and achievement of academic excellence.

Gulf Shores High School is committed to creating a learning environment that produces well-educated students with a sense of responsibility, knowledge, skills, techniques, attitudes, and values that students will need to be productive citizens of the future. GSHS provides courses and a rigorous college preparatory program for its academically diverse students. In a supportive environment that promotes respect and responsibility, students also develop through a rich performing and creative arts program and a wide variety of extracurricular and athletic activities.

Virtual Academy


Harnessing the power of technology and teacher creativity to offer a personalized, flexible learning experience

Gulf Shores Virtual Academy is designed to provide motivated, independent learners an opportunity to earn their Alabama High School Diploma through a flexible, personalized learning experience. Virtual education offers students numerous benefits in terms of time, flexibility, and program customization. Along with these advantages, students also assume increased responsibility in time management, organization, self-direction, and self-regulation.

GULF SHORES CITY SCHOOLS GETS A ON STATE REPORT CARD

...Ranked among best systems in state on 1st grading

Gulf Shores City Schools earned an "A" on its first-ever state report card placing us in the Top 10 in the state! The state report card evaluates many different measures, including graduation rate, chronic absenteeism, and academic achievement. Congratulations to all of our students, teacher, administration and community on helping us continue to MakeWaves!



State Rank	2022 Grade
1	Mountain Brook City
2	Vestavia Hills City
3	Trussville City
T-4	Piedmont City
T-4	Saraland City
T-6	Auburn City
T-6	Homewood City
T-6	Hoover City
T-6	Madison City
T-10	GULF SHORES CITY
T-10	Arab City
T-10	Hartselle City
T-10	Winfield City

Gulf Shores City Schools earned an A grade on its first-ever state report card

GULF SHORES CITY SCHOOLS

Source: Alabama State Department of Education

Health & Wellness

January is the month for Carrots!

Every month Gulf Shores City Schools is proud to bring in from “Local”, the Harvest of the Month. Carrots are the vegetables for the month! GSCS is excited to bring in local businesses to participate in “Farm to Table.” Each month we bring in vegetable recipes to enhance all of our cafeterias to promote the vegetable of the month.

**Make the right choice:
Carrots are this month!**

Arts Education

Make Plans to Attend: Shrek The Musical!

The moment we've all been waiting for... First day of Shrek Rehearsal!! Come see us in April as we join the likes of the "Scary" Shrek, his "Noble Steed" Donkey, and the "Fair" Princess Fiona! At least that's what the stories say! Will Shrek get his swamp back from the "Very Tall and Handsome" Lord Farrquod? Or perhaps find something more?

**The hard work pays off...
our GSHS students
getting ready for April!**

Athletics

Winter Sports are here to MakeWaves!

GSCS is excited for the sports that are taking place during the winter season. At Gulf Shores High School we have boys and girls basketball, bowling, wrestling and indoor track. The Middle School continues with boys and girls basketball for both 7th and 8th grades. And at the Elementary School, registration is open for spring sports. Please check on the City of Gulf Shores for what is available for signing up your child.

**Athletics are 100% at
GSCS!**

Teaching & Learning

It never ends... educators do not stop educating at GSCS!

No matter when or where, our teachers are educating our students. Regardless of whether it is in the classroom, on an outdoor lesson, or athletic, extra-curricular or arts event... our educators do their job to promote what we expect from our GSCS students! The Best!

**We are “The Dolphin
Family-Make Waves”**



Dominic Mallet commits to Montevallo baseball program.



NJROTC held their annual Navy inspection. The cadets performed at a very high level and passed the inspection with flying colors. The inspection included a uniform inspection, drill performance, awards ceremony, and a staff briefing with the inspector.



Students harvested their first batch of bell peppers. The bell peppers went to the school cafeteria for a taco fiesta salad.

Make Waves With Our Dolphin Family Achievements

Students and staff at Gulf Shores City Schools are excelling inside and outside the classroom. From arts, athletics, academics, leadership, and character, we develop students to become the best versions of themselves.



Coach Motes recognized Nichole and Lauren Harris, for outstanding students who ride his bus for second quarter.



Coach Britt Shaw recognized for 100 dual match wins with Gulf Shores wrestling.



GSHS Health Science Academy is celebrating the following students who passed the National Patient Care Technician Certification Exam!!!! Peyton Morris, Courtney Oden, Madison Robinson



Congrats to Aireonna Johnson for placing 1st in the High School category of the 2022 Shrimp Festival Youth in Art contest!

GSCS Teachers of the Year



Elementary School: Tiffanie Deese - Grade 1

My name is Tiffanie Deese. I have been with Gulf Shores Elementary for ten years. I started out as a substitute teacher, became a Paraprofessional and now a 1st grade teacher. I graduated from the University of Phoenix with a degree in Elementary Education. I have been married to my wonderful husband for 14 years and we have five beautiful children between us. I am thrilled to be at GSES and am excited for this new journey!!!

Middle School: Anthony Schaff - Grade 7 Science

I began my teaching career at GSES teaching 3rd grade back in 2012. During my 4th and 5th year in education, I served as a math specialist for Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative, AMSTI. Subsequently, I moved to Atlanta and earned my master's degree in Middle Level Mathematics and Science from Georgia State University. While studying, I taught 7th grade mathematics for 3 years at Sandy Springs Charter Middle School, where I was awarded Teacher of the Year in 2020. The following year, I returned to Baldwin County and had the great pleasure of teaching 6th graders social studies and language arts at Fairhope Elementary. I am excited now to be exploring 7th grade Life Science with my students as part of the Gulf Shores Middle School team!



High School: Amanda Talantis - Hospitality and Tourism

Amanda Talantis has been teaching for 17 years as a Spanish teacher, and most recently as a Hospitality and Tourism teacher. She is a member of the school's Sustainability Team and together with her classes, she leads projects such as the Farm to Table Harvest, Earth Day Festival, and the recycling program. Mrs. Talantis manages the *Small Town, Big Garden* project, which provides hydroponic lettuces to our cafeterias, among other produce. She coaches the Scholar's Bowl team and teaches the Yoga Club for all members of the Dolphin family. She is married to Ram Talantis, Assistant Principal at Gulf Shores Middle School. They have two children Alex and Izzy who attend GSCS. Mrs. Talantis is very grateful and humbled to be chosen as Teacher of Year among so many outstanding educators.



/// MAKE WAVES!

Dolphin Foundation for Education and Arts



One area at Gulf Shores City Schools the Dolphin Foundation supports is our New and Re-Certified National Board Certified Teachers!

This year recognized are: Sandy Dempsey, Jessica Sampley, Kathy Corlew, Elizabeth Davis, Megan Rogers, Sara Shaw, Jaclyn Holland, Deborah Whetstone, Lindsay Scogin, Lacey Clanton, Lindsay Taylor, Hilary McKinney, Mary Margaret Phillips, Ashley Weekley, Beth Pearse, Staci Robinson, Jackson Adams, Brooke Gilbert, Angela Kirby, Martha Morales, Roger Reetz, JT Gosnell, Anthony Schaff, Brittney Reeves,, Tera Cagle, Colbey Cleckler, Lynn Lowell, Jason Hill, Wendy Jones, Brandon Stephens, Austin Boyd, Amanda Reffit, Krista Marcum, Sonya Price. Congratulations and MakeWaves!

Upcoming Events:

BOE: Work Session - 1/5/23 4:00pm
 GSCS: Report Cards Distributed - 1/6/23
 GSHS: Blood Life - Life South & HOSA -1/10/23 8:00am
 BOE: Board Meeting - 1/12/23 5:00pm
 GSES: 7 Habits with Admin - 1/10/23 8:30am
 MLK Holiday - No School - 1/16/23
 GSCS: Community Conversations -1/17/23 - 6:00-7:30pm
 GSMS: Blood Drive - 1/23
 GSHS: School Tuesday Tour - 1/24/23 9:00am

Happening at GSCS:

[District Website](#)
[Elementary School Website](#)
[Middle School Website](#)
[High School Website](#)
[Virtual Academy Website](#)

Connect With Us:

[Matt Akin - Superintendent](#)
[Stephanie Harrison - Assistant Superintendent](#)
[Sandi Harris - Office Manager](#)
[Chad Green - CSFO](#)
[Marcelina Parrish - Human Resource Manager](#)
[Chezley Neth - Data Management & Reporting Analyst](#)
[Joey Drews - Director of Educational Technology & Student Support Services](#)
[Beau Roode - Director of Operations](#)
[Connie McNab - Director of Exceptional Education](#)
[Carrie Barragan - English Second Language](#)
[Tanya Hill - Child Nutrition Program Coordinator](#)
[Marcus Early - Student Engagement, Transportation and Safety Coordinator](#)
[Jessica Sampley - Career Tech Coordinator](#)
[Karen Pearson - District Testing Coordinator](#)
[Sara Parker - Mental Health Coordinator](#)

MAKE WAVES!

Do you have a
 suggestion or comment
 you would like to share
 with us?

[Connect with GSCS](#)

