

# The MakeWaves Monthly

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



## Superintendents' Message

GSCS hopes you and your family had a wonderful July 4th holiday! As we are quickly approaching the beginning of school, please make sure you have completed your child's registration. They will not receive their teacher assignment or schedule until it has been completed.

During the summer, school offices remain open Monday-Friday from 7:30am-4:30pm. If you have any questions about summer assignments or registration for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year, please contact your child's school.

We look forward to seeing our students on August 8th. If you did not have the opportunity to complete the stakeholder input survey in May, please take a moment. We plan to use this information to continue to improve our schools. [COMPLETE THE SURVEY](#)

Dr. Matt Akin - Superintendent [makin@gsboe.org](mailto:makin@gsboe.org)

Dr. Stephanie Harrison - Assistant Superintendent [sharrison@gsboe.org](mailto:sharrison@gsboe.org)



ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL



MIDDLE SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL



VIRTUAL  
ACADEMY



Marching Band



Summer WAVE



Summer  
Assignments



Sale Camp  
Instructors



## Highlighting Our Students Over the Summer

Maura Hawkins is representing GSHS HOSA Future Health Professionals in Dallas at HOSA ILC 2023! Congratulations to Maura Hawkins and her coach/teacher/sponsor, Jennifer Murphy! Maura is a TOP 10 finalist for the Family Medicine Physician Competitive Event, competing against 51 students. Maura also placed top ten in the National Geographic Learning Academic Testing for Family Medicine Career Testing. She also placed top 10 in the National Geographic Learning Academic Testing for Family Medicine Career Testing.



The Lady Dolphins made it safely to Hammond, LA for the Ayla Guzzardo Team Camp at SLU! Both JV and Varsity teams Competed in 10 games.





## GSCS students enjoy being instructors at Sail Camp



Ian McCrady



Ian is one of our returning Sailing Instructors at City of Orange Beach Wind and Water Learning Center at Sail Camp. He is currently a student at Gulf Shores High School and started learning to sail as 6th grader.

We asked him what his favorite part about teaching is. "I really like seeing a kid who has shown up knowing nothing about sailing, or maybe they've never even been in a boat before, and by the end of the week they are able to sail around a race course on their own."

In the future, he hopes to join a sailing team...maybe at Auburn University.

We are glad to have Ian at the W&WLC for a third summer season and hope to get a few more Sail Camps in with him before University!

Lucas Waugh



Meet one of our new Jr. Instructors, Lucas Waugh! He's a Sophomore at Gulf Shores High School and we are thrilled to have him on board at the WWLC this summer.

Lucas started learning how to sail right here at Sail Camp three years ago. Since then, he has skippered Optis, Sunfish, and Club420's (he admits the Sunfish fleet is his favorite).

We asked him what the best part of sailing is. "I really like the adrenaline rush you get when a big puff of wind hits your sail and you get to hike out."

His biggest piece of advice to beginner sailors: "Take it at your own pace; don't scare yourself out of sailing while trying to do something that's above your current skill level."



## GSCS Sports are getting ready for the new school year

### Baseball

Gulf Shores Baseball is getting ready for the 2023-2024 baseball season. They have returned home from a fun-filled team camp at Samford University! We got better as a team this week! Can't wait to practice and perfect everything we learned!



### Wrestling

Gulf Shores Wrestling - 36 wrestlers traveled to Purdue University, and 36 wrestlers got better!! What an awesome learning experience for these athletes. Thank you Purdue Wrestling and Coach Tony Ersland.





## GSMS Teachers attend A+ College Ready Training

GSMS math teachers, Mr. Reetz and Mr. Warner, along with our Computer Science Teacher, Coach Brewer, attended A+ College Ready's training this week! They geared up to make the 2023-2024 school year an absolute STEM-sational experience for all of us! Our teachers benefited greatly from attending A+ College Ready's training. Firstly, they experienced professional growth by acquiring the latest teaching strategies and methodologies, enabling them to engage and inspire students in math and computer science effectively. Additionally, their participation in the training provided access to cutting-edge curriculum resources, tailored to meet the needs of the upcoming school year. This empowered them to design more engaging and comprehensive lessons, fostering a deeper understanding of the subjects. Moreover, networking opportunities at the training allowed our teachers to collaborate with other educators, sharing best practices, innovative approaches, and supporting each other in implementing new strategies. Together, they built a stronger academic community, further enhancing their teaching skills. We take immense pride in our teachers' unwavering dedication to continuous professional development and are excited that more GSMS teachers will be attending A+ trainings in July, along with various other professional development opportunities. By investing in these trainings, our teachers are equipping themselves with the latest instructional techniques, resources, and insights, enabling them to deliver an exceptional educational experience. Together, we are committed to empowering our students and preparing them for a bright future ahead.



## STEAM Invent Camp at GSHS: Scholarships Awarded

Thanks to a generous grant for Middle Grades Career & Technology Education, 9 girls received scholarships to attend STEAM Invent Camp at Gulf Shores High School in June. The US Census Bureau says that women are nearly half of the US workforce but only 27% of STEM workers. Gulf Shores City Schools is committed to providing opportunities for students from underrepresented groups in all STEM fields.





## What's Happening With the GS Marching Band?



Now is the time to view the Gulf Shores Marching Band website for both the middle school and high school. Band calendar and other information is available to parents and students:

### **GSCS Band**

### **Upcoming Events:**

GSHS - Color Guard Camp on July 5-8 from 2:00pm - 6:00pm at GSHS Gym & Band Room

GSHS - Marching Band Registration on July 9 from 4:00pm - 9:00pm at GSHS Gym & Band Room

GSHS - Percussion Camp on July 10 - 14 from 9:00am - 12:00pm at GSHS Band Room

GSHS - Marching Band Student Leaders on July 10-12 from 1:00pm - 4:00pm at GSHS Band Room

GSHS - Rookie Band Camp on July 12 - 14 from 5:00pm - 8:00pm at GSHS Band Room

GSHS - Band Camp on July 17 - 21 from 9:00am - 9:00pm at GSHS Gym & Band Room

GSMS - Information coming soon!





## STEAM Invention Camp at GSHS

We had so much fun at Camp Invention® creating, inventing and collaborating with friends at Gulf Shores High School! During the week, students created a mimicbot, a mini-skateboard park, a pop-up business, & planned a celebration. They learned about entrepreneurship, invention copyright laws, business laws & licensing, physics, budgeting, & party planning all while having fun! Thanks to a generous Middle Grades Grant, we were able to offer STEAM Camp Scholarships to promote Women in STEAM and partially funded all students' camp cost! Special thanks to Camp Director/teacher, Dr. Hilary McKinney, and teacher, Tish Gunter, for providing this amazing opportunity for our GSCS students! @InventorsHOF @CampInvention





## Registration is Open for 2023-2024 School Year

# WELCOME NEW & RETURNING STUDENTS

Let the learning journey begin!

Registration is now open for new and returning students to Gulf Shores City Schools. The following link will get you started in the process. If you have never attended GSCS, you will need to complete the enrollment process before you register. MakeWaves and become a Dolphin!

### Enrollment and Registration

### Schedule Pick Up For GSMS Students

If you have any questions, please call our front office at 251-968-8719 or email [mstrong@gsboe.org](mailto:mstrong@gsboe.org) or [rosborn@gsboe.org](mailto:rosborn@gsboe.org).



**GULF SHORES  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## SCHEDULE PICK UP

8TH GRADE - JULY 25, 2023  
7TH GRADE - JULY 26, 2023  
6TH GRADE - JULY 27, 2023

**8AM-12PM & 2PM-5PM**

**BY JULY 21ST, YOU MUST**

- Register Online
- Pay All Fees
  - Online or in Office
- Prove Residency
  - If new or have moved
- Update Blue Card (6th Grade)

**←** If ALL items are not completed by July 21st, your schedule will not be available until July 31st.

• Enter/Exit through the cafeteria doors • iPad & Charger pick-up at this time • No money accepted •

**OFFICE UNAVAILABLE DURING PICK-UP DAYS**  
**NO ITEMS OR MONEY COLLECTED JULY 25-27**

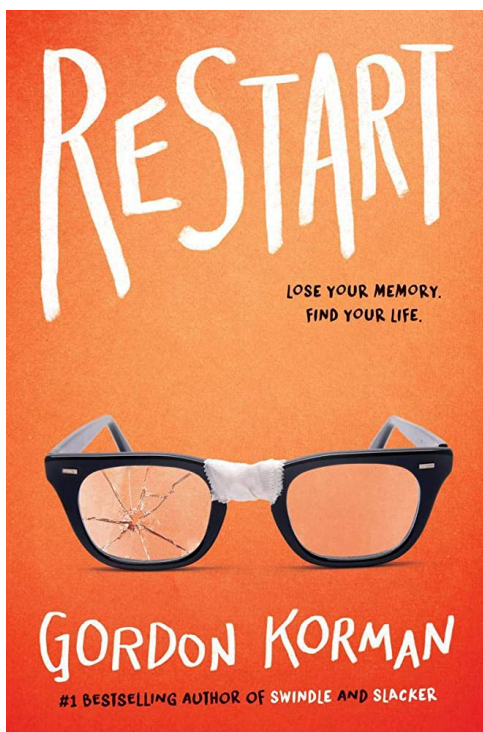


## Summer Assignments for Students at GSCS

**Gulf Shores Elementary School**  
(Reading assignments for grades 2-5). Click on the picture below for more information.



**Gulf Shores Middle School**  
(Reading assignments for grades 6-8.) Click on the picture below for more information.



**Gulf Shores High School**  
(Assignments for grades 9-12) Click on the picture below for more information.





## Art Contest Available at GS Public Library

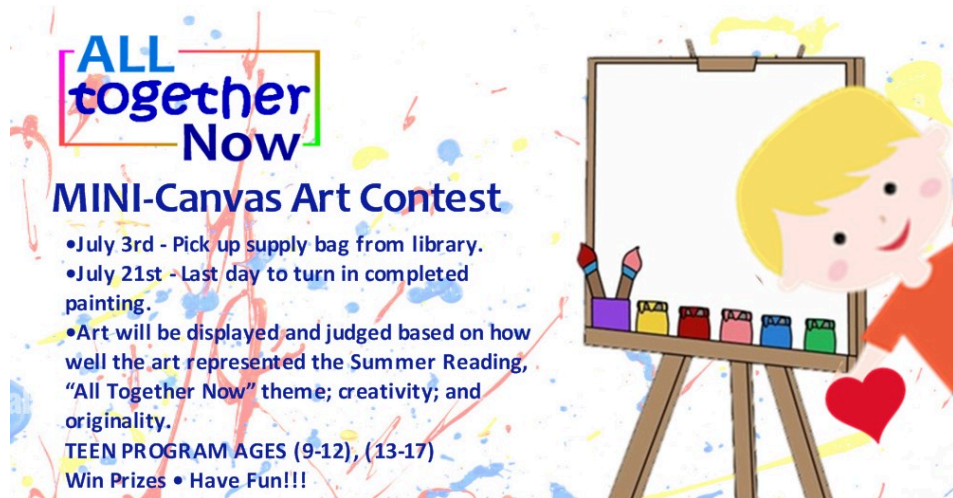
Mini-Canvas Art Contest  
Ages (9-12) and (13-17)

Pick up a supply bag from the Youth Service Area, design your mini canvas with the SUMMER READING THEME, "All Together Now", and turn your completed piece in by July 21st!

All canvases will be judged on theme, creativity, and originality!!

WIN • PRIZES • FUN

For more information contact the library at 251-968-1176 or [dfincher@gulfshoresal.gov](mailto:dfincher@gulfshoresal.gov).



## GSES: Lighthouse Leadership Team Getting Ready For A New School Year

The GSES Lighthouse Leadership Team, along with our principal, Dr. Early and assistant principal, Mrs. Creel, enjoyed a day of learning, reflecting, and planning for the upcoming school year!





## GSHS Summer WAVE and Coastal Alabama Community College

Summer WAVE and Coastal Alabama Community College Heavy Equipment Operator+Skidsteer class is complete! Rising junior, Weston Reed; recent grads, Patrick Conley and Lane Nolte; and Coach Jessica Sampley successfully passed all check-offs and earned their operator certificates! They spent the day practicing on the course before they took their tests this afternoon. Lane plans to attend welding school at George Stone Technical College and Patrick is taking the National EMT Registry exam next month. He plans to complete paramedic school. Weston is currently in the welding dual enrollment program at CACC and will complete the program by the time he graduates high school! All students hope this certificate will open up additional opportunities for them! This class would not have been possible without our awesome [City of Gulf Shores - Municipal Government](#), especially Noel Hand! Noel had a skidsteer and aggregate delivered to the site in advance. Thank you for the amazing support, as always! The awesome instructor, Meghan Dunkin, is a Gulf Shores City Schools bus driver and adjunct instructor at [Coastal Alabama Community College](#). We are so excited about this partnership! We hope to offer this opportunity to students during the school year, too.





## GSMS Summer WAVE Chemistry of Food and Health Science

Summer WAVE Chemistry of Food and Health Science reached all the way to Atlanta this week for a cross-curriculum field experience! Our students and teachers had a guided tour of the World of Coke, a great lunch of coal-fired pizza at Max's, and toured the Georgia Aquarium. They finished the night with an unbelievable meal of Dim Sum at Canton House Restaurant. The next day they toured the Health Science and Nursing School at Emory University and the CDC museum. They finished the day at the FSNS Food lab in Tucker, GA. Their guide was the lab supervisor and was an amazing host to our students. It was an action-packed two days with lots of learning and career exploration!



## Attention GSMS Athletics & After School!

Students must be either enrolled in our after school program or attending an athletic practice to be on campus after dismissal. If your child has a break between dismissal and practice, they can join our no cost after school program until it's time to hit the field or court!

What can your child expect from the GSMS After School Program?

Here's a glimpse:

- A quiet and focused environment for homework completion
- Access to assistance and resources
- A chance to relax and recharge with a snack

Convenient location right on campus for easy transition to practice

Option to attend a variety of STEAM activities

If you have any questions, reach out to [breeves@gsboe.org](mailto:breeves@gsboe.org). Ready to sign up? Head over to the GSMS website and navigate to the parent section to register. It's quick, easy, and ensures your child's smooth transition from dismissal to practice. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity!

**GULF SHORES MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### ATHLETICS & AFTER SCHOOL

Students may not be on campus after school unless they are in our after school program or attending an athletic practice. If your child has a break in time between dismissal and practice, they can attend the after school program until practice starts! It is a great way to get homework done and have a snack before practice.

Questions? Email [breeves@gsboe.org](mailto:breeves@gsboe.org)

**REGISTER ON THE GSMS WEBSITE UNDER THE PARENT SECTION!**



## New Faces Join “The Dolphin Family”



Jason Thompson - GSES



Tyler Head - GSES



Lisa Elmore - GSES



Meghan Hudson - GSES



Donna Holderfield - GSES



Ashley Arnold - GSMS



Tori Erdossy - GSMS



Jeff Harris - GSMS

Kristie Harris - GSMS

## Future Dolphins Girls Basketball Youth Camp

Don't forget to get registered

Our youth camp is set for upcoming 1st - 6th-grade GS girls! Come hoop with us at Gulf Shores High School on July 31-Aug 1 from 8-11 am. Registration is only \$25 and includes a t-shirt. Use the QR code or registration link to reserve your spot! Make sure you follow us on Instagram, Facebook & Twitter @gshsgirlshoops to stay up to date with the latest news.  
@gulfshorescityschools

Find us on Social Media: @gshsgirlshoops

Led by GSHS Staff & Players

**FUTURE DOLPHINS GIRLS BASKETBALL YOUTH CAMP**

**\$25** Includes t-shirt

**JULY 31 AUG 1**

1st-3rd Grade in Wave gym  
4th-6th Grade in Tank Gym  
8.00 AM - 11.00 AM

SCAN QR CODE OR USE THE REGISTRATION LINK BELOW.

<https://gofan.co/app/events/991854?schoolid=AL19814>

Gulf Shores High School  
The Tank and Wave Gym

More Information  
Email: [bsexton@gsboe.org](mailto:bsexton@gsboe.org)





**School begins on August 8th!  
Make sure you are registered  
for the upcoming school year!**

## Happening at GSCS:

District  
Elementary School  
Middle School  
High School  
Virtual Academy



GSHS - Color Guard Camp on July 5-8  
GSHS - Marching Band Registration on July 9  
GSHS - Percussion Camp on July 10 - 14  
GSHS - Marching Band Student Leaders on July 10-12  
GSHS - Rookie Band Camp on July 12 - 14  
GSCS: BOE - Combined Work Session/Regular Meeting on July 13 at 4:00pm  
GSHS - Band Camp on July 17 - 21

## Connect With Us:

Matt Akin - Superintendent  
Stephanie Harrison - Assistant Superintendent  
Sandi Harris - Office Manager  
Chad Green - CSFO  
Marcelina Parrish - Human Resource Coordinator  
Chezley Neth - Data Management & Reporting Analyst  
Paul Wilson - Athletic Director  
Joey Drews - Director of Educational Technology & Student Support Services  
Beau Roode - Director of School Operations  
Sonya Price - Director of Exceptional Education  
Carrie Barragan - English Second Language  
Tanya Hill - Child Nutrition Program Coordinator  
TBA - 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](#)**

Joe McAleer-Social Media

