ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2023

The MakeWaves Monthly

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



Superintendents' Message

'Tis the season to be a dolphin! Gulf Shores City is filled with excitement as our GSHS football team brought home the 2023 AHSAA 5A State Championship title and the Blue Map and our GSHS swim team boys winning the Red Map and the girls placing 4th in state. We are very proud of our school system earning straight A's on the 2023 State Report Card. As our first semester comes to an end and during the season of giving, we would like to give a big thanks to our students, employees, parents, and our community that make our school system the best. We wish you and your family a "Happy Holiday" and we are looking forward to what 2024 will bring to our district. Let's MakeWaves in the New Year!

Dr. Matt Akin - Superintendent makin@gsboe.org
Dr. Stephanie Harrison - Assistant Superintendent sharrison@gsboe.org

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL

VIRTUAL ACADEMY



Health & Wellness



Athletics



Arts Education



Teaching & Learning

Meet Our Student WaveMakers of the Month

Elementary School
Liliana Maraca
Grade - 4th Grade
Area of Recognition -
Citizenship & Academics



I'm a WaveMaker because...

Liliana is a dedicated academic student, always giving her best effort in the classroom. She is well focused and uses keen self-awareness to do whatever is needed to accomplish her academic goals. In addition, Liliana shows impeccable integrity and goes above and beyond what is expected of her to make our classroom and school a better place. Liliana can always be counted on as a responsible, reliable, trustworthy student and friend to her peers. Liliana consistently shows her leadership skills in the classroom. She is thoughtful, cooperative, and hardworking. She goes the extra mile to help her peers and teachers, often doing tasks before she is asked to do them. Liliana is dependable and always has a smile to share.
~Nominated by Christy Weems~

Middle School
Ella Grace Coop

Grade - 7th Grade
Area of Recognition -
Leadership



I'm a WaveMaker because...

I am thrilled to nominate Ella Grade for the GSMS Student WaveMaker award. Ella is an exemplary student who consistently goes above and beyond to contribute positively to our school community. Her willingness to help others is truly commendable, whether it's delivering packages for the office or warmly welcoming new students and showing them around the school. Ella's outstanding attitude and unwavering school spirit are infectious, creating a positive and inclusive atmosphere. She exemplifies the values of our school with her kindness, generosity, and pride in being a part of the GSMS community, making her a shining example of a Student WaveMaker.
~Nominated by Rachel Osborn~

High School
Alex King

Grade - 12th Grade
Area of Recognition -
Leadership
I'm a WaveMaker because...



Alex King would be a great choice for Gulf Shores City Schools "WaveMaker of the Month" award. Alex walks the halls every day at Gulf Shores High School with a positive contagious attitude. I have had the pleasure to be around Alex the last 4 years and have watched him develop into a great young man who displays great life skills such as time management, social ability and a hard work ethic. Alex is a leader for the Gulf Shores High School Baseball program and is a great mentor to our underclassman and middle school players. Alex pays attention to details and works as hard as any student - athlete not only in the weight room and field but also in the classroom as any player we have had in the last 8 years. Alex is a complete pleasure for me to be around every day and I look forward to watching him compete this year on the field and in the classroom.
~Nominated by Chris Jacks~

Virtual Academy
Coming In January...
Grade -
Area of Recognition

I'm a WaveMaker because...

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

Meet Our Staff WaveMakers of the Month



Elementary School
Adam Key - Physical Education

I'm a WaveMaker because…

Adam Key may be quiet most days, but one thing is for sure….he looks forward to and is passionate about our PE program and the job he gets to do every day! He has been a PE teacher at Gulf Shores Elementary for over 10 years and many of those years consisted of him teaching each day and coaching a variety of sports either early in the morning, late in the afternoon, or both on occasion. We have been told he has terrible "dad" jokes that he likes to tell kids to enlist a laugh and build relationships with them, all while helping them work on their athletic skills. He has been observed tying hairbows for little girls and teaching kids how to use their crutches. In the time he has been employed at GSES, he has worked for 4 administrators and seen the system change from county to city. Some years have been easy, and some have been hard, but at the end of the day, he loves his job and is here for the kids in every regard. He is a huge advocate for the PE program and an asset to our school family. We are proud to nominate him as December WaveMaker! He is more than deserving. ~Nominated by GSES Admin Team~



Middle School
Shery Butler - Social Studies

I'm a WaveMaker because…

I am delighted to nominate Mrs. Shery Butler for the GSMS Staff WaveMaker award. As a 6th, 7th, and 8th grade social studies teacher, Mrs. Butler has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her students' education. Her innovative teaching methods involve incorporating fun and engaging activities, making complex social studies concepts accessible and enjoyable for her students. Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Butler goes above and beyond by sponsoring the Christian Club, providing invaluable support for the spiritual well-being of our students. Her dedication to both academic and personal development makes her a true WaveMaker within our school community. ~Nominated by Blossom Hinyub~



High School
Carrie Barragan - District ELL Services Coordinator

I'm a WaveMaker because…

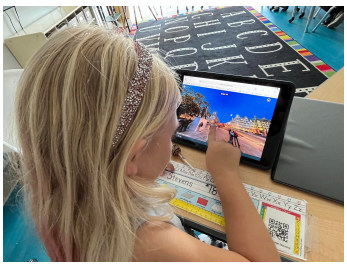
Mrs. Barragan is someone that keeps our English Language Learners afloat! Not only does she help them keep up with their schoolwork in their classes, she also pushes them to help improve their literacy and language skills in many ways. Her students show tremendous growth from one semester to the next, and the respect and trust they have for her is incredibly inspiring!
~Nominated by AnnaKate Burleson~

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

Elementary School

Exploring London and Big Ben!

Mr. Beard's class are studying time by exploring London and Big Ben!

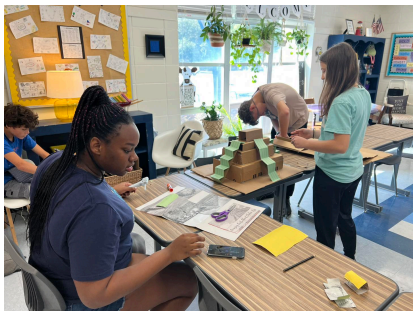





Middle School

Be Successful in School and Life!

Mrs. Ryall's class teaches students many different strategies that will make them successful in school and in life. This past week it was all about teamwork. The class worked together to help another student work on a class project. What an important life skill to learn!

High School

AP European History

Ms. Pitts's AP European History class put on an Enlightenment salon where students took on the persona of a philosopher of the period and debated the merits of each other's work.



Virtual Academy

BINGO! Pizza, Pie and Math Problems

K-6th grade virtual students had so much fun, showing off their learning by playing multiplication/division, addition/subtraction, alphabet, and animal BINGO! Thank you to our generous parents for providing prizes that were out of this world and delicious pizza, too!





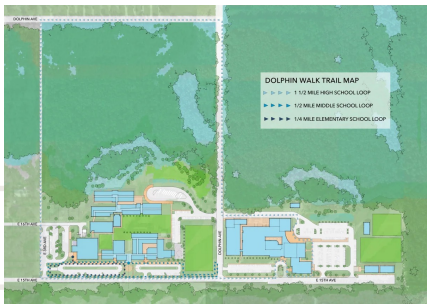
Connect With Us! Stay informed on what's happening with Gulf Shores City Schools!

District/Schools Websites. - Facebook - Twitter - Instagram - You Tube

Health & Wellness

Harvest of the Month: Butternut Squash

Get outside and enjoy the brisk weather by taking a walk or run! The Dolphin Walk has been reworked and is ready for those who wish to participate in the loops. The elementary loop is 1/4 mile, the middle school loop is 1/2 mile, and the high school loop is 1.5 miles. There are dedicated signs and markings to show the three loops.



Take Time For The Dolphin Walk!

Athletics

200th Win for Variety Wrestler

In the process of our wrestling team picking up it's 12th dual win of the year against Beauregard, Taylor Cheek picked up his 200th Varsity win, making him the all-time winningest Gulf Shores wrestler! Congratulations Taylor!



View our Athletics website!

Arts Education

GSMS: Designed Cake Drawings

Advanced art students designed cake drawings using the theme of their school house. Each student did a wonderful job! A Specialty Bakery selected two cakes that blew them away and brought them to life. We are so fortunate to have such a supportive community for our students! Thank you so much for encouraging our students and their dreams!





A Job Well Done!

Teaching & Learning

Learning from each other... The Leadership Environment Team at GSES

The Leadership Environment Action Team at GSES is seeking a donation of river rocks. If you or a local company would be willing to partner with us in this special project, please contact Lacey Childress at lchildress@gsboe.org or Kathy Helms at khelms@gsboe.org . We will be needing approximately 1200 palm-sized river rocks.
Our vision is that each student at GSES will paint a rock with a one-word mission statement that reflects their personal mission statement. The painted rocks will be used to create a rock garden that displays the positive contributions that our students are working to achieve.



Director of Soccer Chad Harrelson talking with the Middle School soccer players and parents on the upcoming season's expectations. The season begins here. Setting high standards yields higher results. Go Dolphins!



Makewaves GSCS

County Meet was a SUCESSS!!!
15 All-County Honors (must place in top 3, in event)
4 individual County Champs
- Liam Bickham 200 IM
- Ellie Flaig 100 Breast
- Hope Moyers 50 & 100 Free

1 Relay County Championship
- 200 free relay Xander Beal, Caden Metz, Gavin Cobb and Caleb Hamilton

Women placed 3rd to Fairhope & Daphne

Men placed 3rd to Fairhope & Spanish Fort



Congratulations to Jackson at GSMS for placing 2nd in the Shrimp Festival Youth Art Contest!





Congratulations to the GSHS Cheer team for FINishing TOP 3 in the state for the Varsity 5A Division! Go Dolphins!



Mr. Ellis and the Gulf Shores Middle School Band put on a fabulous concert! The talent and dedication of our musicians and their director shined!



These 3 ladies made GSHS Sports Medicine program history this semester!! They are the first Advanced Sports Medicine student interns! We are so fortunate to have local businesses agree to host our students for internships in the health care field! Thank you to Gulf Shores Family Pharmacy, Encore Rehabilitation, Inc.- Gulf Shores, and Dr. Martin/Rutledge Dentist Office for partnering with Sports Med this year! The new Advanced Sports Med students are so excited to start their internships in the Spring!





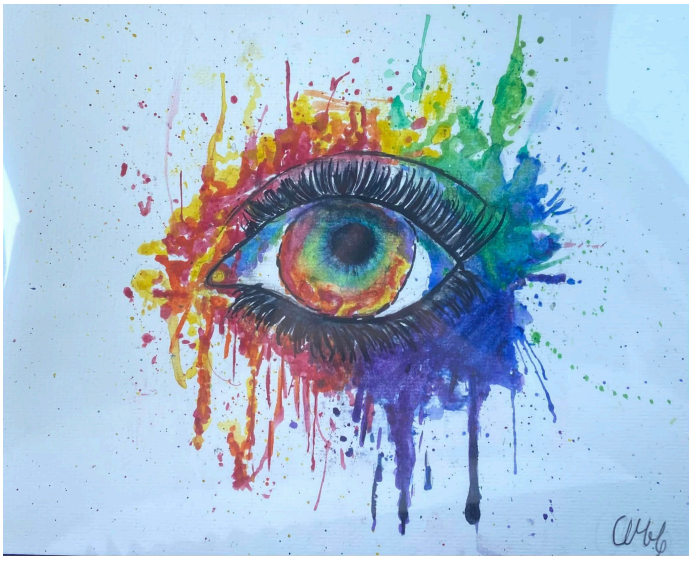


GSHS Cheer placed FIRST and received a PAID BID to Nationals in Orlando!

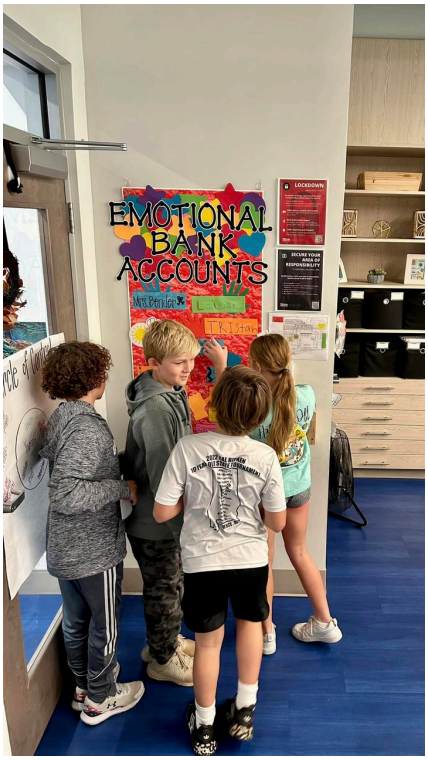




Mrs. Robinson's 5th grader Olivia Lou Bennett at GSES won second place in the Shrimp Festival's Youth for Art contest this year!! Pictured are Chamber members presenting her award today with our amazing art teacher, Mrs. Holland.



Mrs. Bender's 5th graders at GSES are making "deposits" into their classroom Emotional Bank Accounts. Students fill out a deposit slip and deposit them into their classmates' accounts when they catch a student doing something great, want to pay a classmate a genuine compliment, or acknowledge an act of kindness, honesty, or integrity. These small, but meaningful "deposits" foster classroom community and can truly shift trust and productivity.



4th and 5th grade Science Olympiad Club at GSES worked on their paper airplane building. Teams of two had 15 minutes to build an airplane and land it on a target.







@ NCTE Convention in Columbus, Ohio
From GSES Kim Pennington, Vicki Miller, and Kristy Phillips
From GSMS Celeste Gill
From GSHS Heather Mitchell

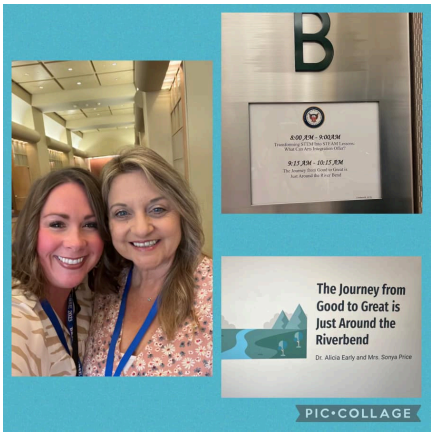


The safety of our students is always at the forefront of everything we do. Our Transportation/Safety Director and representatives from all 3 schools attended Nside PD. This professional development gives them the knowledge to help keep our students as safe as possible at Gulf Shores City Schools!

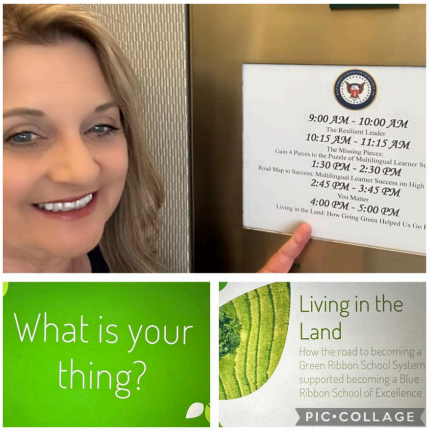


Thank you Gulf Shores Elementary KKids!
Drum roll, please... and the winner of the Alabama vs Auburn canned/perishable food challenge is Alabama at 425 and Auburn 265. Thank you for donating and thank you to these K-kids who ran this service project with such pride and empathy!





Dr. Early and Mrs. Price presented at the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Conference this week highlighting the great work we're doing here in Gulf Shores City Schools!



Several of our cheerleaders traveled to Orlando to perform at the Disney Thanksgiving Day Parade! These cheerleaders were named All-American at UCA camp this summer and were invited to perform with cheerleaders from all over the region.





Congratulations to our head volleyball coach, Ryan Gravlee, for receiving this great national recognition from @avcavolleyball ! He made their 30 under 30 list of coaches based on program development and success!

Merry Grinchmas from the STEAM lab at GSES! The Grinch was created in our laser-cutter from upcycled cardboard from our beginning of year supply boxes.



#PodWrestling won the Ryan 2023 Ryan Blackwell Invitational, which makes 3 years in a row that we've crossed the State Line and left with the big trophy! The Jr. High and Girls teams also won the Snow Road Showdown at Mary G. Montgomery High School and the JV team finished 2nd.





The Gulf Shores Turbo Dolphins took another trophy home in the Greenpower Santa Sprints.





The GSMS Cross Trainers club ran to the "top of the world", or at least the top of the island this past week when they did the "Bridge Run" which is one of the student's favorites. Cross Trainers is open to all middle school students who have a current athletic physical on file. It's a great way for our athletes to stay in shape, in between seasons while also enjoying some fun and comradery while running.

GSCS: Exceptionally Grateful Thanksgiving Feast

Thank you, Kiwanis Club of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach for making this dream a reality. You made a whole bunch of children and their caregivers very happy today at our first Island Exceptionally Grateful Thanksgiving Feast.









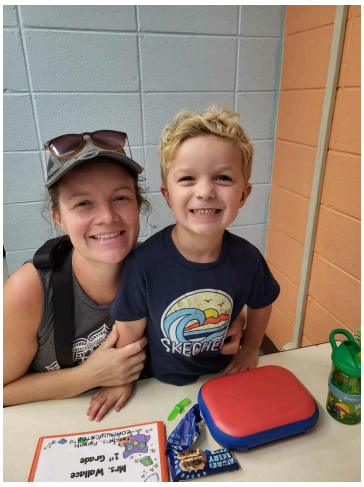




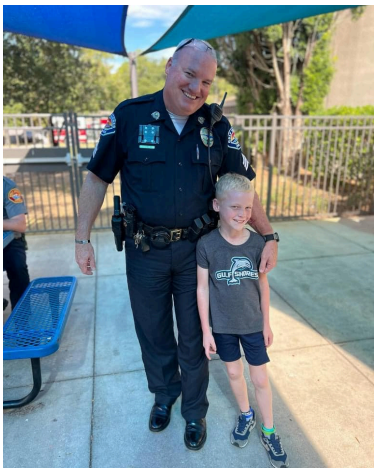


GSES: Heroes Luncheon 2023

Heroes Luncheon 2023 was a wonderful celebration of all heroes in our community and beyond! Thank you all for coming and allowing our students to see heroes in real life.








Thank you for your service!

GSES: Creating Patterns

Ms. Austin's 1st graders had fun creating different types of patterns: repeating, increasing, and decreasing!







GSHS: Experience the Oyster!

Our student ambassadors attended their November community service: Experience the Oyster! They hosted the GSHS booth and talked to the community about our school's sustainability program, including the Farm to Table event, the dune restoration field trips, and the oyster farming that many students at GSHS take part in. The student ambassadors also got to try the amazing oysters and other food at the festival.









GSHS: Meet The Student Ambassadors

Jewels Driskell is a senior at Gulf Shores High School, where she has attended for the past three years. This is her first year serving as an ambassador. Jewels is a student ambassador because she loves having the opportunity to showcase GSHS and all its programs. Her favorite part about being a Dolphin is having opportunities to better her future, such as receiving scholarships from participating in the GSHS ProStart Management Team and winning at the state level. Jewels is also a part of the Varsity Cheer Team, National Honor Society, FCCLA, and is the president of DECA.



Amanda Anderson is senior at Gulf Shores High School, where she has attended since kindergarten. She has served as an ambassador for the past two years and enjoys having the opportunity to meet new people and take part in community events.
Amanda is a part of the varsity girls golf team, National Honor Society, HOSA, and Environmental Club.



Robyn Stopp is a senior at Gulf Shores High School and has been in Student Ambassadors for 2 years. He's been going to Gulf Shores since kindergarten. He's a student ambassador because he enjoys helping the school and the community. He is a current officer in Drama Club and FCCLA and is a member in the Gulf Shores Marching Band where he is in the color guard. Something he enjoys about his school are the wonderful opportunities he has gotten (especially in theatre) and being with all his theatre and color guard family. After High School, he plans on going to the University of Southern Mississippi to study theatre with a concentration in directing and stage management and legal studies.



Dianna Moore is a senior at Gulf Shores High School, where she has attended for the past two years. This is her first year serving as an ambassador. Dianna is a student ambassador because she loves to serve her school and community. Her favorite parts of being a Dolphin are the unique opportunities she is granted to help better her future, like being one of the first six students to receive her scuba diving certification through a scholarship at school. Dianna is a part of the varsity volleyball team, FES, True Focus, and the National Honor Society, and is the senior class secretary.



Kaleigh Davis is a senior at Gulf Shores High School and has attended Gulf Shores since Pre-K! This is her second year serving as a student ambassador. Kaleigh is a student ambassador because she enjoys introducing people to the amazing opportunities and culture of Gulf Shores High School. Kaleigh is also a part of the Varsity Cheer Team, Bowling Team, Treasurer of SGA, Key Club, and Diamond Dolls. Her favorite part of being a Gulf Shores Dolphin is cheering on the sidelines for our Dolphins and competing in the final four at state for bowling. Kaleigh plans to attend Auburn University in the fall to major in education.



This is Claire Colvin. She is a junior here at GSHS. Claire has attended Gulf Shores for the last 10 years. This is her first year as a student ambassador. Claire became a student ambassador because she wanted to be more involved in her school and community. At Gulf Shores, Claire plays volleyball, is vice president of International Club, and is on the varsity Scholars Bowl team. Claire is a member of the ACT 30+ club with her score of a 35. Claire is a member of the Applied Design College Prep program and serves as the junior representative.



Victoria McFarland is a junior at GSHS. She has been at GSCS for 6 years, and this is her first year as an ambassador. She become an ambassador to be more involved in the schools and the community and to find more opportunities to build leadership skills and other skills needed for her future career. At GSHS, she is on the volleyball team and is a member of HOSA and International Club. She is a member of the Summer Wave CTE Health Science Lab program. Her favorite thing about GSCS is the endless opportunities available for every type of student. She is so excited to be a student ambassador this year and represent the school.



Amara Morales is a senior at Gulf Shores High School, where she has attended since 7th grade. This is her second year serving as an ambassador. Amara is a student ambassador because she loves the opportunity it gives her to meet new students that come to our school. Amara is a part of National Junior Honors Society, International Club, the Applied Design program, Vice President of Key Club, and Treasurer of HOSA.



DAR Good Citizen Essay Contest Winner

Congratulations to GSHS senior Dianna Moore! She is the Bon Secour Chapter's DAR Good Citizen Essay Contest winner for the 2023-24 school year! Dianna's essay will move on to the district level competition for a chance to earn additional scholarship money.
DAR Good Citizens are eligible for the awards beyond the chapter level. Each state winner receives an award in the amount of at least $500 and a special state DAR Good Citizens pin and certificate. Each of the eight division (multi-state groups) winners will receive a cash award in the amount of $1,000. A national winner will be invited to Washington, DC to attend Continental Congress and will be awarded a $10,000.00 scholarship, an inscribed silver bowl and a certificate.



Peer Helpers Jubilee at The Wharf!

GSES





GSMS





2023 PALS Recycled Art Contest

Last school year at GSMS, Mrs. Michaelson's art students worked together to create recycled fashion masterpieces. Phoenix Wallace and Ellis Andrews entered their dress into the 2023 PALS Recycled Art Contest for 7th through 12 grade. **It was no surprise to us when it was announced that they won 1st Place!** Phoenix, Ellis, and Mrs. Michealseon traveled to Montgomery to accept the award and be honored for their creative concept and message of protecting our future through















GSCS Teachers Working Towards National Board Certification

GSCS Teachers spent the last two days working on components toward their National Board Certification. Thanks to Brett/Robinson Vacations and Pheonix Gulf Shores HOA for providing the space for teachers to collaborate and work. Special Thank you to LuLu's Gulf Shores for providing lunch and Beach Girl Coffee for providing coffee to fuel our teachers. Also, thank you to The Dolphin Foundation for Education & Arts, which supports our teachers by funding their component fees. Teachers who have gone through the Board certification process say that it is the most valuable and transformative professional development they have ever received. The opportunity to connect professional learning with classroom practice brings to life a teacher's experience, helping them reflect on individual student learning needs.















GSMS: 8 Houses 1 GSMS 1 Community

8 Houses, One GSMS, and One Community! We implemented the house system at GSMS because we wanted to help foster a sense of community within our school. We had no idea the impact it would have in fostering relationships within our town as well. Eight businesses in our community decided that they wanted to have a part in this new initiative at our school and chose to sponsor a house. Thank you so much to the businesses listed below for giving back to our community.

Leslie T Herhold LCSW LLC, Counseling Services
Wheeles Realty-Gulf Shores, Al
AC By The Sea
Liberty Linen & Janitorial Products
The Kim and Brian Team at Remax Paradise
Georgia Kelley- Coastal Mortgage Team- NMLS 1790584
Crye Leike Gulf Coast Real Estate & Vacation Rentals
Waterfront Closing & Title Gulf Shores















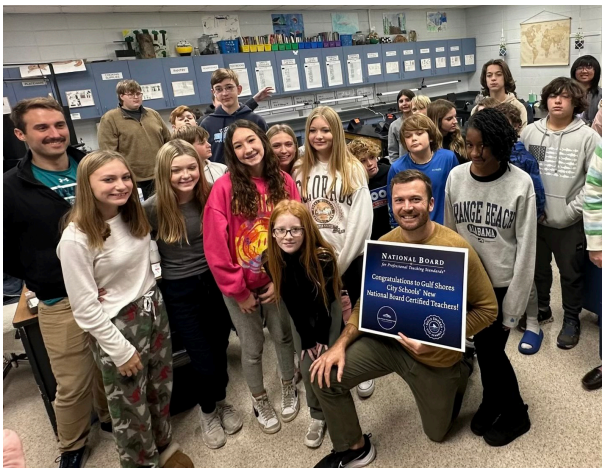


Gulf State Park Winter Break Fun



National Board Certification

Gulf Shores City Schools would like to celebrate Lacey Clanton, Anthony Schaff, and Lindsay Taylor who successfully achieved and maintained National Board Certification! Congratulations! It's a great accomplishment and an important statement about the high quality of your classroom practice. Your students are the real beneficiaries. Thank you for your work – it paid off! Thank you to The Dolphin Foundation for Education & Arts for your continued support of teachers throughout the National Board Process.









GSCS: Beginning on January 4, 2024, all students may eat breakfast and lunch at no charge. Gulf Shores City Schools has been approved by the State of Alabama Child Nutrition Department to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for breakfast and lunch beginning in January.

What does this mean?

- Beginning on January 4, 2024, all students may eat breakfast and lunch at no charge.
- If you make regular, automatic payments to the Meal Account Payment Portal, please have these payments stopped by December 15th. If money is past due on your child's account, please pay it.
- Only one free breakfast and lunch will be allowed daily. If your child selects a second breakfast, second lunch, or extra choices available in the lunchroom, your child will be charged.

Parents or guardians who need further information may contact Tanya Hill, Child Nutrition Program Director, thill@gsboe.org.

GSCS: MakeWaves of Kindness Day



T-Shirt Designer Winners

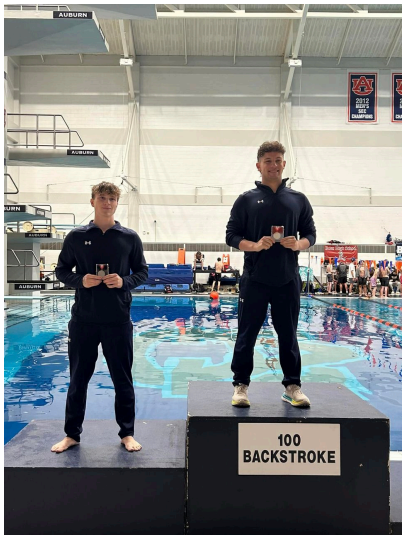
Suzette Smith - 8th Grade



Melissa Montiel - 8th Grade
(not pictured)



Dolphins: State Swim Team Meet



Liam Bickham
100 Backstroke State Champion
Gavin Cobb 2nd Place



Liam Bickham
100 Fly State Champion
1st Place



Gray Bias
500 Freestyle 2nd Place

Hope Moyers
50 Freestyle
3rd Place



Ally Midkiff
Ellie Flaig
Emma Lloyd
Hope Moyers
400 Freestyle Relay
3rd Place





Boys bring home the Red Map and girls placed 4th





GSHS Foundations of Engineering

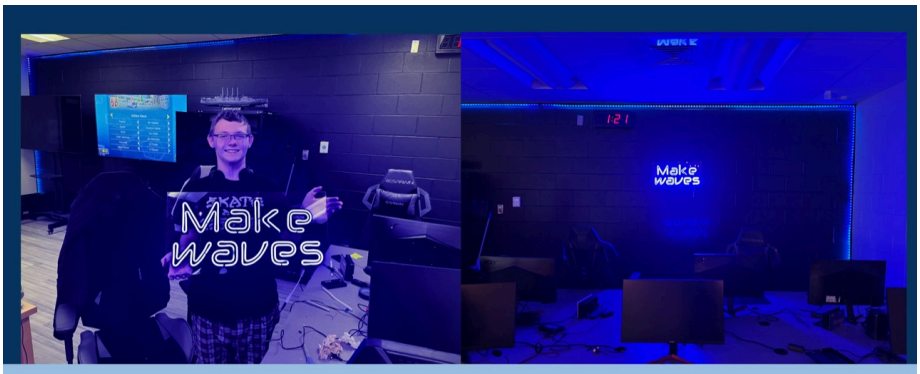
Students in Mr. Carson Schaff's Foundations of Engineering class presented their final projects today. Thanks to our amazing new prototyping equipment in the engineering lab, students could select an idea or passion and turn it into reality. Here are a few projects that really went above and beyond!



3D printing USS St. Louis

This ship is fully 3D printed. It has moveable turrets, anchors and lifeboats.

Tucker King learned how to prepare files for the 3D printer and assemble this historic ship.



LED Sign

One group created a sign for my classroom. They modeled, 3D printed and soldered wires to make the LEDs work on this awesome sign! Layne Reid and Cayden Hannah



Cereal Bowl

These students wanted to make a fun way to eat cereal. They followed the engineering design process to brainstorm design features, sketch, 3D model and prototype this cereal bowl. Keonja Morris, Aadon Motes and Lily Geier.

GSHS Visits The Reef Making Process

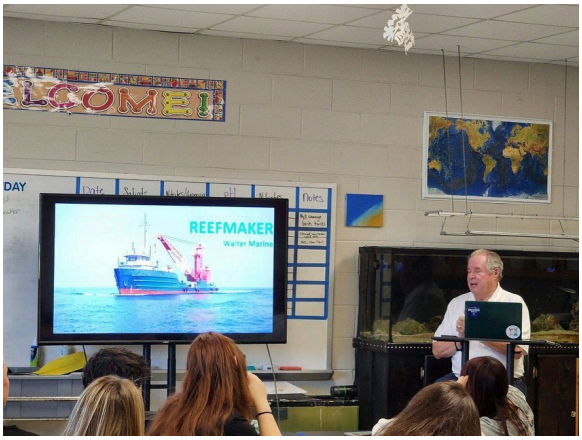
Thank you to David Walter from Reefmaker for speaking to Environmental Science classes about the evolution of his business. He discussed artificial reefs, snorkel reefs, and wave attenuator devices that prevent erosion. Students toured the facility to learn more about the reef making process. Students were impressed with the physics, engineering, and innovation happening in our community. We appreciate local businesses sharing their knowledge with our students.











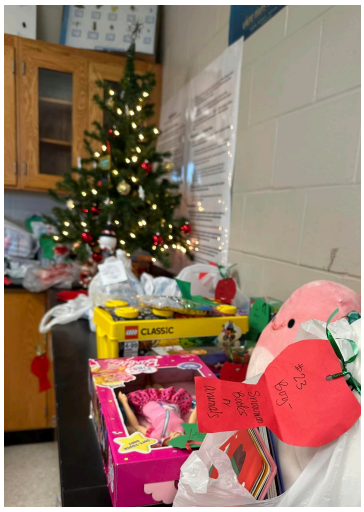


An Exceptionally Merry Christmas Party

Students had a wonderful time at the exceptionally merry Christmas party this morning held in the Middle School library. Thank you to the high school key club for sponsoring the Angel tree that provided all the Christmas presents. Thanks also to Santa and Mrs. Clause (courtesy of the island & Perdido Bay Optimus clubs) who handed out the gifts and posed for pictures with the children.















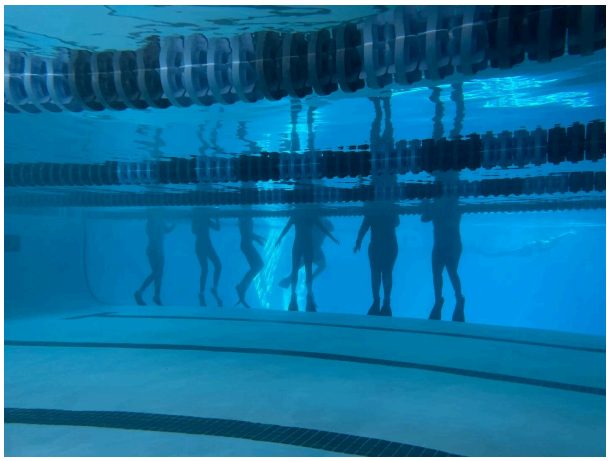




GSMS & GSHS Scuba Team in Pool

The @gscityschools #makewaves Scuba Team spent the afternoon in the pool with @downunderdiveshop working on maintaining their skills! Students from GSHS and GSMS, along with Mrs. Krista Fleming, Ms. Brittney Reeves, and Coach Sampley, worked with three dive instructors for two hours in the pool at the Bodenhamer. Thank you you to Down Under, especially Elizabeth Schrader, for planning this opportunity for our team to continue building their skills! And thank you to @city_gulfshores @bodenhamercenter for providing the space for us! Also, special thanks to the The Beach House Kitchen & Cocktails for opening early and accommodating our group for an awesome lunch!













GSMS Builders Club

Our Builders Club members have been busy this semester! Students helped provide a breakfast for teachers in October. November was spent baking, decorating, and delivering cookies to the residents of Seagrass Village of Gulf Shores. The students decided to focus on some of the most important members of our staff for December. They purchased and delivered Christmas gifts to our custodians and cafeteria workers. A huge thank you to the members of the Builders Club and sponsor Mrs. Shamblin for giving back and making a difference in our school and community!







GSVA Sing Songs and Delivers Cookies

Before our Christmas party time, the Gulf Shores Elementary Virtual Academy students were delighted to go sing Christmas songs with the residents of The Haven! We sang several favorite children songs that the residents joined in singing heartedly! We left them with beautiful Christmas cookies from A Specialty Bakery. It was such an honor to be with the residents and brought joy to us all.









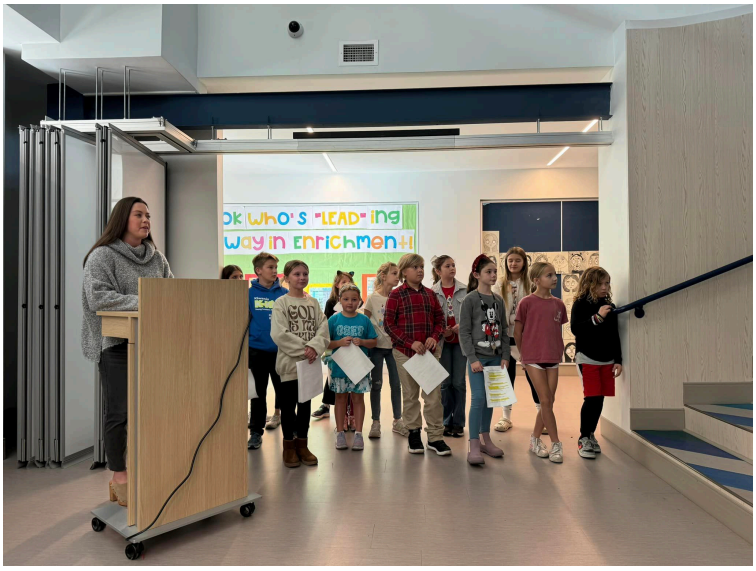
GSCS 2023 State Report Card

Congratulations to GSCS Admin, Students, Teachers, Staff, and Parents for earning Straight A's! MakeWaves!



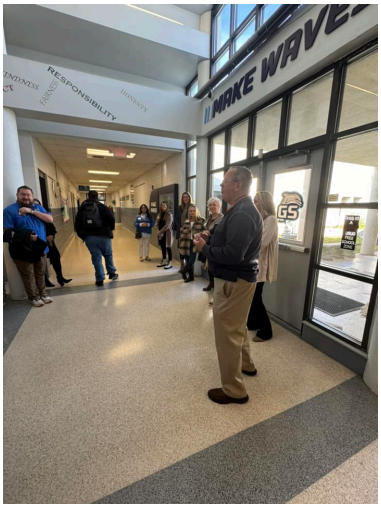
Coastal Alabama Leadership League Visits GSCS

We had a great day showing the Coastal Alabama Leadership League (CALL) around our campuses! CALL members visited all three schools and spoke with teachers, students, and administrators. They also heard from superintendent, Matt Akin, and GSHS principal, Cindy Veazey, spoke with the group about leading a school and leading with purpose. We are always excited to share with others the innovative and creative opportunities we offer to our students! Special thanks to Chef Jon Kastner of Southern Chili Lab for using the new Ooni pizza ovens to make lunch! He and his SCL partner, Tyler, created some awesome pizzas from scratch for everyone.













GSCS The Dolphin Walk

Here are photos from The Dolphin Walk Ribbon Cutting at GSES! Special Thank you to Our Nutrition and Wellness Committee Members who made this, among other things, possible for the Health and Wellness of our Students, Faculty, and Staff! The Dolphin Walk has 3 different loops; the elementary, middle and high school. Thank you to the members of Our City, City Council, School Board, Teachers, Staff, Students, and Cheerleaders who were at the Ribbon Cutting this morning! See more information at:











GSCS Staff Members & Teachers Of The Year!

GSES:

Staff Member • Jennifer McCurdy • Bookkeeper
Teacher • Heather Bender • 5th Grade

GSMS:

Staff Member • Jill Morgan • School Nurse
Teacher • Martha Morales • World Language • Working Towards National Board Certification

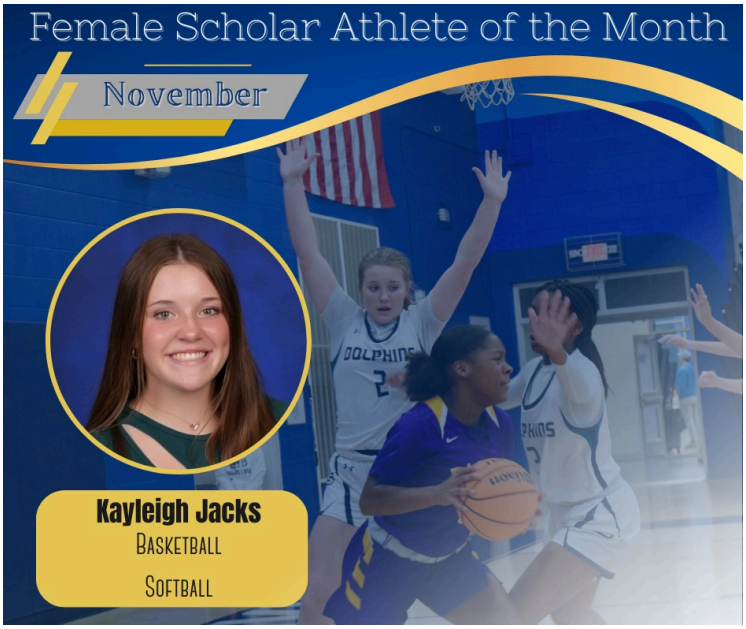
GSHS:

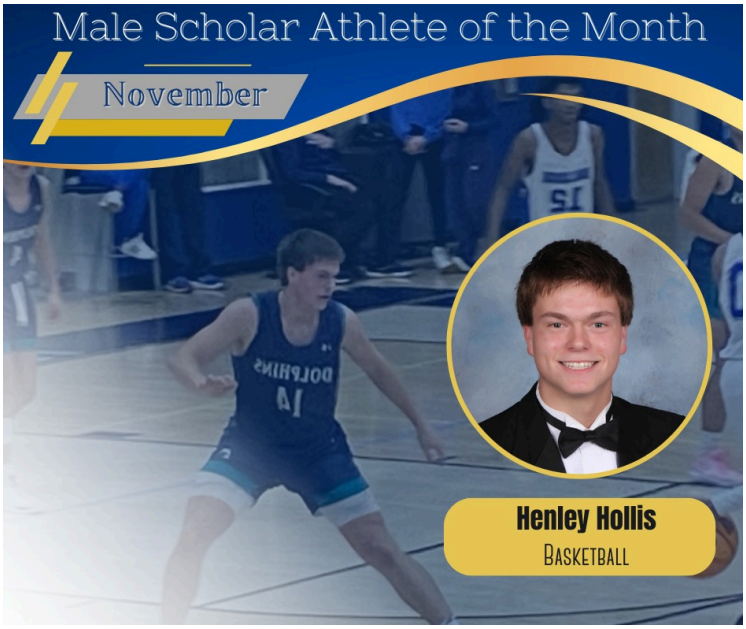
Staff Member • Danny Norton • Head Soccer Coach • Operations • Assistant Girls Basketball Coach
Teacher • Alisha Tolbert • High School Career Tech • Sports Medicine • High School Athletics

Video - Staff Members & Teachers Of The Year

GSHS November Student-Athlete Scholars of the Month

Congratulations to freshman Kayleigh Jacks and senior Henley Hollis for the being selected as November Student-Athlete Scholars of the Month!





Scuba Team from GSHS and GSMS

Members of the @gscityschools #MakeWaves Scuba Team from GSHS and GSMS visited @gulfshoresbeachrescue for a talk and tour and learned about rip currents, beach diving, beach safety, the GS Search & Rescue Dive Team, and lots more! Students also toured the headquarters. Thank you to Joethan Phillips and his team for hosting everyone! Our GS Beach Rescue are amazing partners! Did you know that they come to our campus and teach a lifeguarding class 5 days a week to 10-12 graders? The class goes off campus to swim twice a week, too! City of Gulf Shores - Municipal Government Gulf Shores Middle School.













GSES: Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School

Dr. Early, our GSES principal, accepted an award at the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence as Gulf Shores Elementary was named a Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Lighthouse School in the spring of 2023. We are so proud of our school! Thank you students, faculty/staff, and parents for making GSES a great place to be!





GSMS: ELF Jr. The Musical

The reviews are in and the Gulf Shores City Schools Choir's performance of Elf Jr. The Musical is a hit! Everyone left filled with holiday cheer! Mrs. Mixon and her students put on a fantastic performance and kept the audience laughing.

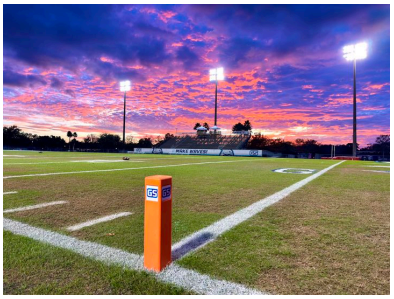




GSHS: Congratulations GSHS Football







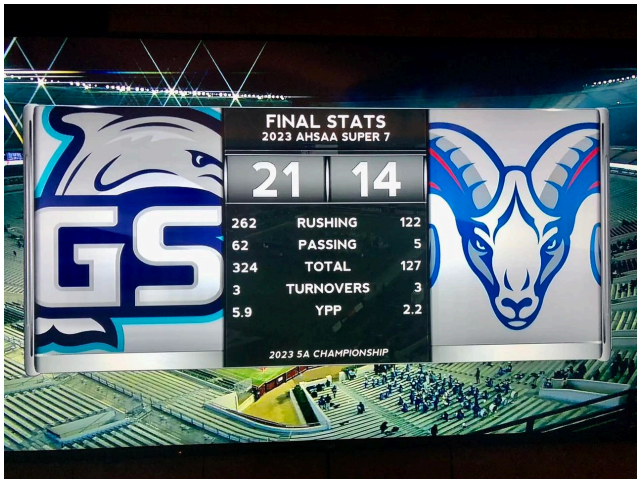


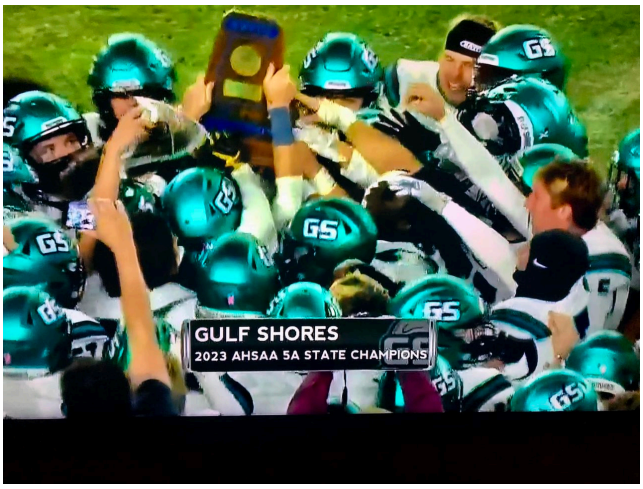










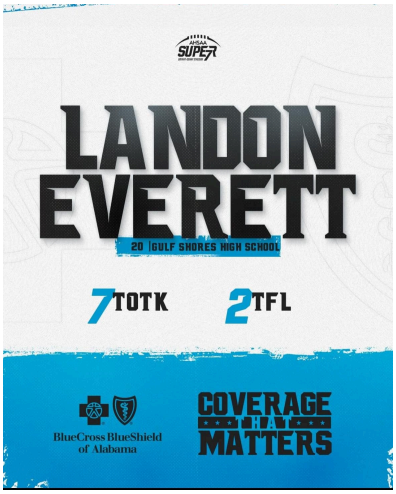


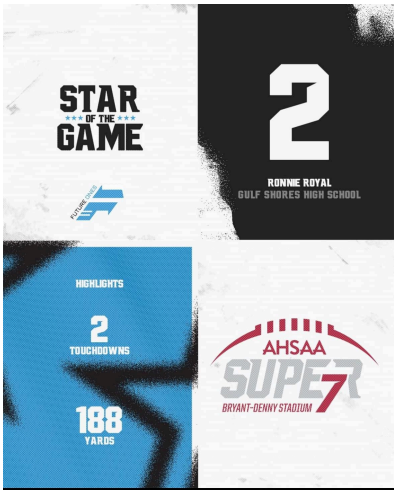
///MAKE WAVES!



GSHS: AHSAA 5A State Champions

Congratulations to Ronnie Royal and Landon Everett for being honored at the AHSAA 5A State Championship Game by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama. Ronnie was awarded the Future 1's #5A Star of the Game, and Landon Everett was awarded Alabama's Total Coverage Defensive Player of the Game!

















Night of the Champions

"Night of Champions! What a night! Thank you Gulf Shores for coming out to Lulu's to celebrate your 5A State Champions!

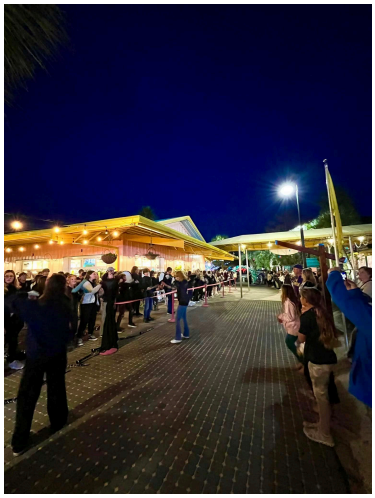














GSMS: Environmental Science

6th grade students had the opportunity to participate in hands-on experiences that enhanced their understanding of environmental science by observing decomposition and erosion processes, fostering an appreciation for the natural world and the importance of responsible waste management. David Deyton, Amy Galemore, Jennifer Doan, and Allie Barnette from Solid Waste Disposal Authority of Baldwin County, Al took the students on a bus tour through the Magnolia Landfill explaining all the different ways our waste gets processed and how we can make a difference in our environment with recycling. Amy and Jennifer also visited GSMS and talked with the students about the difference they can make with recycling in their daily lives. After visiting the landfill students then visited the Gulf State Park where Mr. Dennis Hatfield showed the students the different ways erosion affects us and how we can protect our land and beaches. Mr. Hatfield also shared his “Standing on a Mountain” and a “River of Sand” erosion presentation with the students. We are so thankful for our community that helps educate our students.







GSCS: CNP Team

"Spreading Christmas Cheer by making lunch for everyone here!"







GSMS: The Adams Bowl

Talk about an intense game that kept us on the edge of our seats till the last second! The crowd was sure that B. Adams and his "Blue Bombers" had clinched a win for the second year in a row with a score of 18 - 12 and just seconds left on the clock. J. Adams and his "Diffusers" weren't done fighting though and they pulled out an impressive play to tie the game up 18-18. Unfortunately, when your fans don't have driver's licenses and you're at the mercy of school buses there isn't always time for overtime. The Adams Bowl ended with an Adams tie! The coaches were able to come up with a fair solution for the home of the Adams Bowl Trophy. Each morning it will make the journey across the hall for the day to spend time with each Adams. As for bragging rights? We think we can still hear them debating the calls and plays in the classroom so we will have to get back to you on that one!





GSCS: Eat The Rainbow Week



RED





ORANGE



Yellow



Green



Blue/Purple



Meet Our Mental Health Coordinator - Sara Parker



I am Sara Parker and very excited to serve as Gulf Shores City Schools' first Mental Health Coordinator. In this role I will be connecting students and parents with community resources and supporting the mental health needs of students at all of our schools.

I have served students of all ages and families for almost 30 years in a variety of settings. After working with schools, local non-profits, and in private practice in Baldwin County, I look forward to being a part of the GSCS family!

Education:
M.A., Marriage and Family Therapy, University of Mobile 1994
B.S., Secondary Education, Texas A&M University 1989

Happening at GSCS:

District
Elementary School
Middle School
High School
Virtual Academy



12/18-1/3 GSCS: Winter Break

1/3 GSCS: Employees Return From Winter Break
1/4 GSCS: Students Return From Winter Break

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
Paul Wilson - Athletic Director
Joey Drews - Director of Educational Technology & Student Support Services
Beau Roode - Director of Operations
Sonya Price - Director of Exceptional Education
Carrie Barragan - English Second Language
Tanya Hill - Child Nutrition Program Coordinator
Randall Carlisle- 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