ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2024

The MakeWaves Monthly

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



Superintendents' Message

As we begin a new year and semester, we are excited for the many events that are available for our parents and community. In January, we have Community Conversations, January 25th, GSES: Coffee With The Counselors, January 30th, GSMS: Coffee With the Counselor and GSHS: Coffee With The Counselors, both on January 31st. We look forward in February for the MakeWaves of Kindness Day, February 20th and the Tuesday Tour (GSES) also on February 20th. In March, our entire district will be participating in Gulf Shores Gives Back on March 14th. More information will be coming your way concerning all the events we have planned for our district. As always, make plans to attend! MakeWaves!

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

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

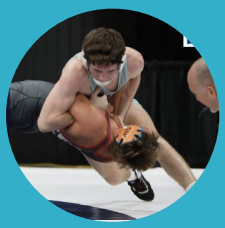
MIDDLE SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL

VIRTUAL ACADEMY



Health & Wellness



Athletics



Arts Education



Teaching & Learning

Meet Our Student WaveMakers of the Month

Elementary School
Anna Frances Roberson



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

I'm a WaveMaker because...

A-Rob works hard to obtain great grades while she also is a peer tutor, and loves helping others strive to be their best. Her character and leadership skills stand out above and beyond expectations. Anna Frances is a community leader on our school-wide Lighthouse Team and dedicates herself to always reaching for the stars! A-Rob is also an active club volleyball player and an extremely talented performing arts participant.
~Nominated by Jason Thompson~

Middle School
Benton Bremerton



Grade - 8th Grade
Area of Recognition - Leadership

I'm a WaveMaker because...

Benton Brereton consistently embodies the qualities of dedication and hard work, excelling not only academically but also as a remarkable athlete. His positive and sunny disposition brightens the entire school community, making him a true inspiration to peers and educators alike. Benton's commitment to both academic and athletic pursuits truly set him apart, making him an outstanding candidate for this well-deserved recognition.
~Nominated by Blossom Hinyub~

High School
Gerald Woodard



Grade - 9th Grade
Area of Recognition -
Integrity, Leadership, Kindness

I'm a WaveMaker because…

Gerald is conscientious of the needs of those around him. There is a particular student that Gerald goes out of his way to look out for and help. Gerald follows directions after only being told the guidelines once. He is willing to learn and to help those who do not understand. He is that student that does what he is supposed to do when no one is looking.
~Nominated by Brandi Owens~

Virtual Academy
Mason Hollingsworth



Grade - 2nd Grade
Area of Recognition -
Displays strong leadership skills,
willingness to help,
involved in all areas, positive role model.

I'm a WaveMaker because...

Much can be said about how Mason displays the characteristics of a student leader with his optimistic and joyful attitude, his willingness to help, and his leadership style that is centered on including others. Mason is also a hard-working and high-achieving student academically who takes part in almost every extracurricular activity offered in the Virtual Academy. I tend to think of Mason as a gifted "noticer" of people. Whether Mason is interacting with his second-grade peers or all the kindergarten through third grade virtual students, he is the leader of the group in such a congenial way. He notices new haircuts, insists that others go first, encourages his classmates with "you've got this," cheers them on, and keeps us all laughing with his fun sense of humor. Mason is also involved in several community activities where he again is noticing people who might not always stand out. He delivers Valentines to the assisted living home, takes goodies to thank the fire department, is well-known for his random acts of kindness, and is actively involved in his church. One of Mason's strongest leadership traits is that he is not afraid to be himself. He leads with confidence and is making waves in our school and the community with his delightful personality! I am certain Mason is an excellent example of a WaveMaker. ~Nominated by Sara Altmyer~

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

Meet Our Staff WaveMakers of the Month



Elementary School
Joey Drews
Director of Educational Technology & Student Support Services

I'm a WaveMaker because…

Mr. Drews has gone above and beyond to help us with technology this school year. He set up a system for our car line and has been available for help when problems arise. He also came to the elementary school to troubleshoot internet issues for one of our STEAM lessons. We appreciate his collaboration and attention to helping us serve students with technology.
~Nominated by Dr. Hilary McKinney~



Middle School
Kristin Weaver
Social Studies & Journalism/Yearbook

I'm a WaveMaker because…

Kristin Weaver consistently upholds high standards, holding students accountable while being exceptionally cognizant of their mental and emotional well-being. She actively nurtures and educates the whole child, understanding the crucial link between emotional health and academic success. Beyond her exemplary work in the classroom, Kristin's influential contributions extend to journalism and yearbook, where she passionately guides students toward their passions, showcasing their achievements throughout the school community and beyond. Additionally, her management of GSMS's social media platforms highlights the school's accomplishments, fostering a sense of community. Kristin Weaver's holistic approach to education, coupled with her impactful contributions to journalism and social media, make her an outstanding candidate for the Staff WaveMaker award, embodying the spirit of this recognition with exceptional dedication.
~Nominated by Kenneth Nelson~



High School
Petty Officer Edward Theodoro
Naval Science Instructor NROTC

I'm a WaveMaker because…

I am pleased to nominate Petty Officer Edward Theodoro as a Staff WaveMaker. Petty Officer Theodoro's exceptional dedication was pivotal in orchestrating an unparalleled Toys for Tots campaign this year. His innovative approach and unwavering commitment to positively impact the lives of children in our community, resulted in a record-shattering collection of over 1500 toys. Over 1000 children in need will benefit from his Christmas Spirit. Petty Officer Theodoro's passion for helping children reflects the spirit of our school system and his desire to make a difference has permeated all aspects of our program with a can-do spirit and a sense of service to others. It is with great honor that I nominate my partner and friend for Staff WaveMaker at Gulf Shores High School.
~Nominated by Lt Col Scott Meehan~

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

Elementary School

2nd Grade Learning Through Songs!

Mr. Zach Beard is teaching all the 2nd grade teachers and students how he uses a Song of the Week! This week's song is Secrets by One Republic as the students are listening for nouns, verbs, and pronouns. What a fun way to learn!





Middle School

Food From Our School Garden!

From planting to harvesting, our students have been hands on with growing food in our school garden. The rest of the school will enjoy salads made with the greens that were planted and tended to by their fellow classmates!



High School

Sports Medicine Class starts off strong!

Gulf Shores Sports Medicine classes are starting the Spring semester off strong!! Fundamentals students completed the Athletic Training Room Scavenger Hunt, identifying the location of all important medical supplies. Intermediate and Advanced students are practicing for Skills Checkoff Roulette where they will complete a checkoff they've formally learned on the spot as they draw them from a hat! It's great to be in Sports Med!!





Virtual Academy

Kindergartener in Blended Class at GSES

Kyara is a kindergartener at the virtual academy and is also in the blended enrichment class at the elementary school. She jumped right in, enjoying new friends and learning on her first day. What a great opportunity for our students that want the best of both educational choices!





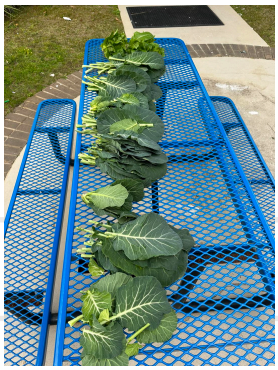
Connect With Us! Stay informed on what's happening with Gulf Shores City Schools!

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

Health & Wellness

Harvest of the Month: Cabbage

Students at GSMS and GSES have "green thumbs" as they are growing and learning the importance of green vegetables. The lettuce at GSMS is being used in the lunchroom for salads. GSES students are trying out the vegetables they have grown!





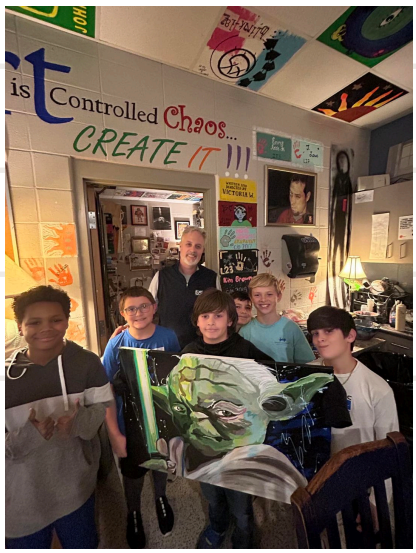


Take Time For The Dolphin Walk!

Arts Education

Club Day at GSES heads to GSHS for Art

GSES 5th grade art club Bridge The Gap - Art with Coach Boyd at GSHS.



A Job Well Done!

Athletics

Attention Dolphin Nation!

We have another incredibly dominant team making a playoff run for a State Championship! The GSHS Varsity Wrestling Team is once again 5 Region 1 Champions! The team is undefeated in 5A Matches this year and an incredible 25-1 for the year.



View our Athletics website!

Teaching & Learning

Happy New Year... 2024!

Ringing in the new year at GSES with our classes making goals for 2024!







Link: https://super-bowl-raffle-62227.cheddarup.com/

Facebook Live drawing
Friday, February 9 by Dr. Webb!




Advanced Placement
Parent Night
Target Audience:
Parents of Rising 11th Graders
Wednesday, January 17th at 5:00 pm
in the GSHS Library


DUAL ENROLL
PARENT NIGHT
TARGET AUDIENCE
PARENTS OF RISING
11TH GRADERS
E = MC²
THURSDAY
JANUARY
18th
5:00 PM
Gulf Shores High School Library

Club Day At GSES

Directed Drawing



STEAM





Photography





Repurposed Art



Health



Garden



All Shook Up Auditions: School Edition

Attention 7th-12th Grade Students!

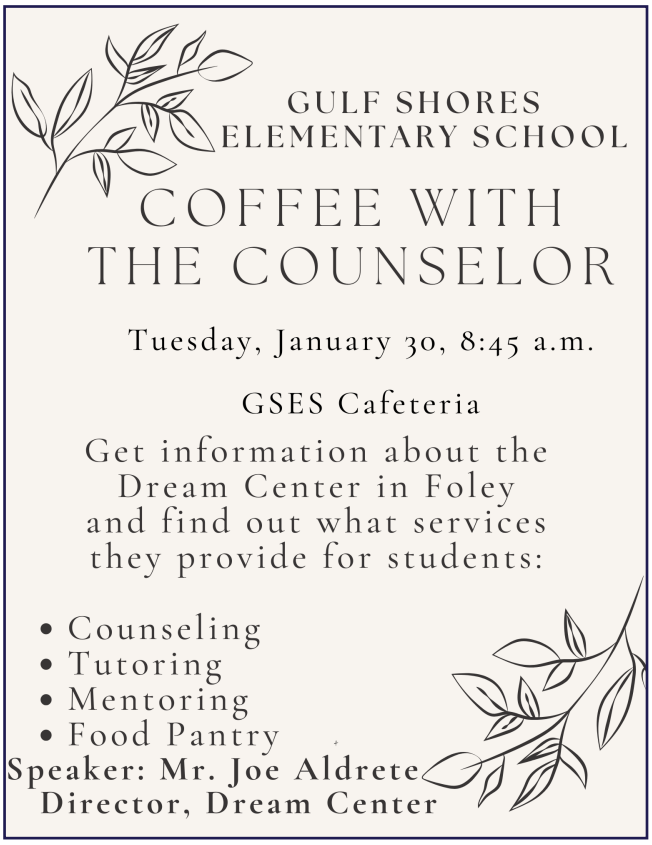
Get ready to shake, rattle, and rock ‘n’ roll because auditions are approaching for the electrifying musical "All Shook Up"! If you're ready to unleash your talent and have a blast on stage, this is the audition you don't want to miss!

About the Show:
"All Shook Up" is a high-energy, super fun musical that will transport you back to the 1950s with the timeless music of Elvis Presley. Filled with romance, mistaken identities, and non-stop rock 'n' roll, this show is a guaranteed crowd-pleaser that will have you dancing in the aisles!

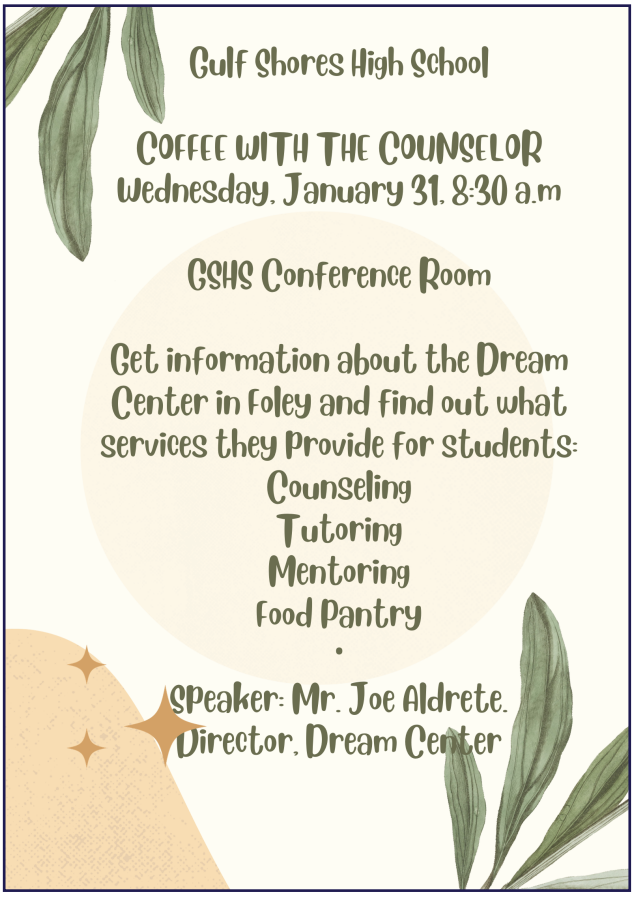
Available Roles:
We're looking for performers who are ready to bring the house down with their charisma and passion for the stage. Whether you're a singer, actor, dancer, or a triple threat, we want to see you light up the stage with your super fun energy! This is a HUGE show with so many interesting characters!



Coffee With The Counselors







GSHS: 3 Football Players Signed To Play College Ball







CHEERLEADER GSMS

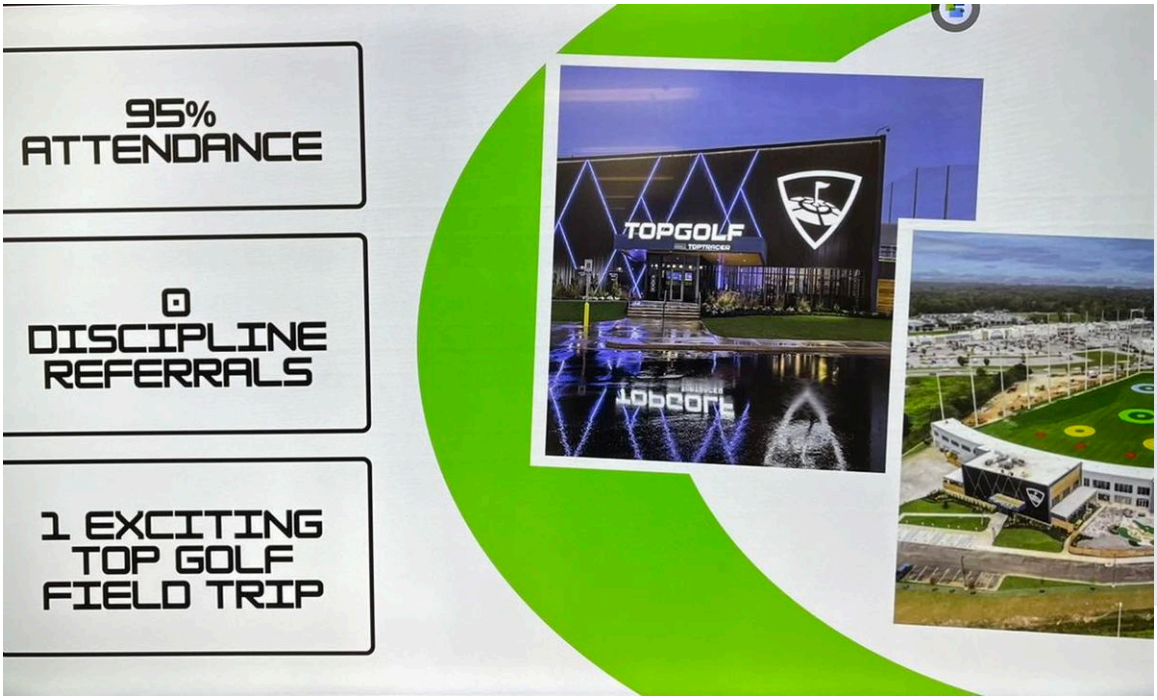
Tryout Information for current 6th and 7th graders

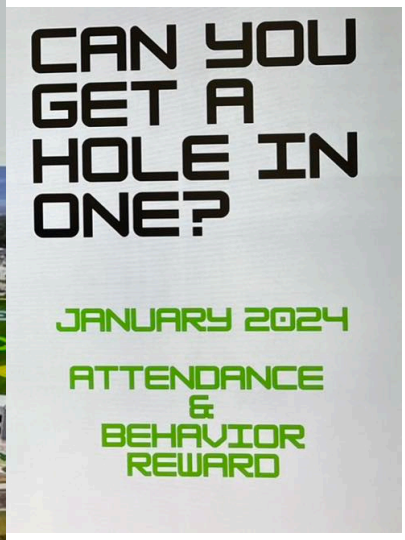
Mandatory Parent Meeting
Feb 5th
5:00pm at GSMS

Cheer Clinic and Tryouts
February 26 - March 1st
3:00 - 5:00 at GSMS

GSMS: Attendance Motivation

GSMS is starting the new year off with a bang! For all students who maintain 95% attendance and have positive behavior for the month of January, a reward trip to Top Golf awaits!



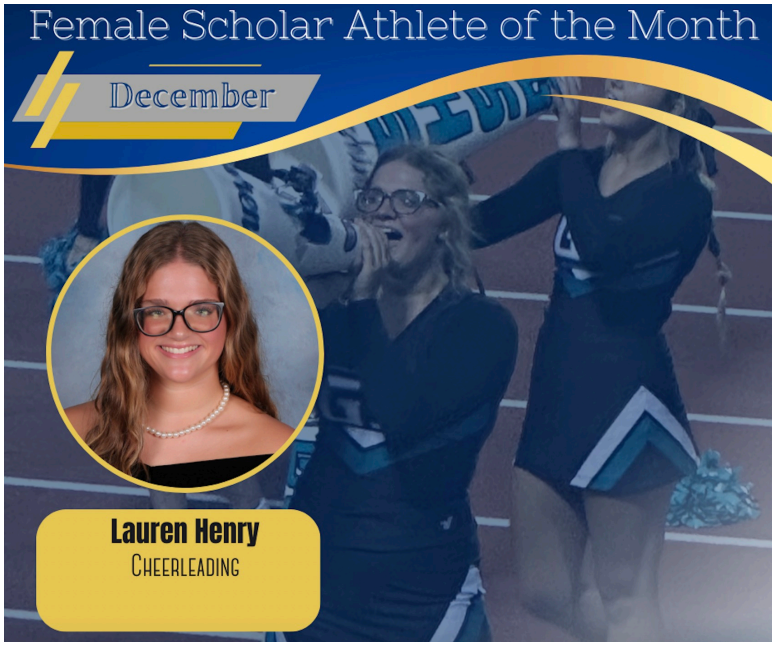


Resources To Help Raise Children



GSHS: Scholar Athletes of the Month!

Congratulations to senior, Lauren Henry, and freshman, Woods McElroy for being selected as December's Scholar Athletes of the Month!





GSCS: MLK Day - No School - Monday, January 15th!

Anna Frances Roberson & Piper Wade organized the MLK bulletin board for Coach Thompson's 4th grade class!

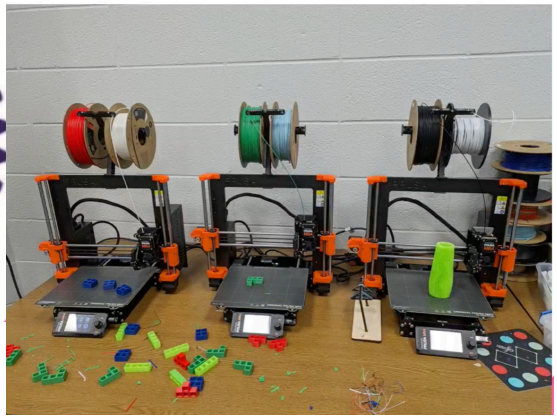


GSCS: Community Conversations!



GSHS: Center for Applied Design!
Volkert Lab - Teacher - James M. Savant

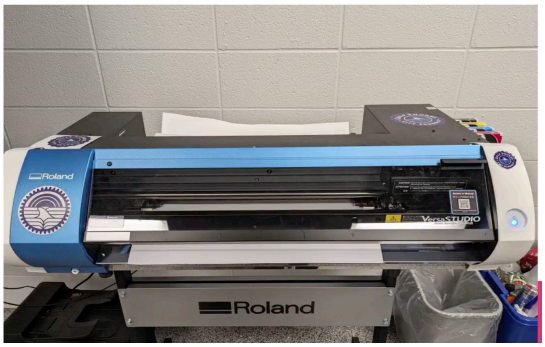
3D Printer Farm



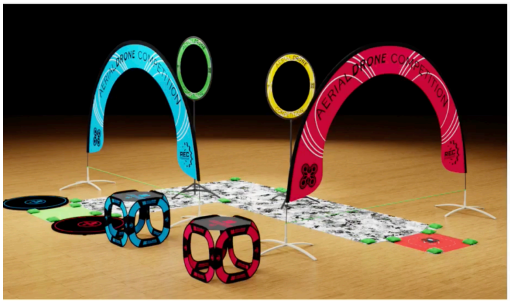
Nova 51 - 130 Watt - CO2 Laser



Roland BN-20A - Inkjet printer / cutter



Drones





Construction Class Equipment



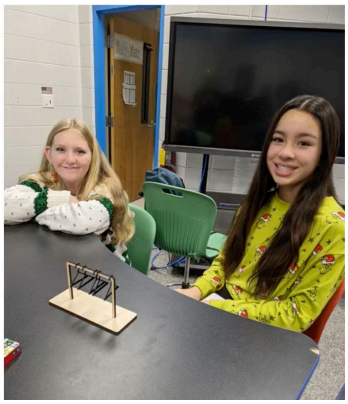




GSHS: Volkert Lab: Student Work & Collaborations

Student Projects

Amelia and Isis - Earring coat hanger rack – 3D printer and laser



Student Projects

Otto B. – Economics Class Project - Clearwater - Self Cleaning Water Bottle - V1 Bottle



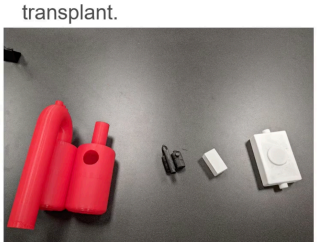
Student Projects - Laser cut catapults

Students testing a laser cut catapult



Collaborations - Health Science & Engineering

Ms. Murphy presenting to the Engineering Class about the heart. Students designed a bridge heart that can be used for a patient waiting for a heart transplant.





Collaborations - Art , Engineering & Marketing

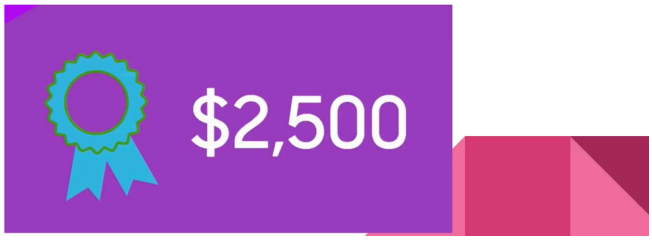
Classes collaborated together to make trophies for the Coastal Cook Off Challenge



GSHS: Volkert Lab Contest & Grants

Samsung - Solve for Tomorrow Contest - State Finalist

Gulf Shores High School has been named a state finalist in the 2024 Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Challenge. We have been awarded $2500 for winning at this level. We have submitted our activity plan which makes us eligible for the $12,000.00 State Winner prize. Samsung will be announcing our state winner in the upcoming weeks.



Looking Forward - Drones and Robotics Teams

We have applied for several AMSTI grants to help fund our vision of having an elementary to high school pathway for competitive drones and robotics teams in our district.

VEX IQ

VEX AI



PLTW

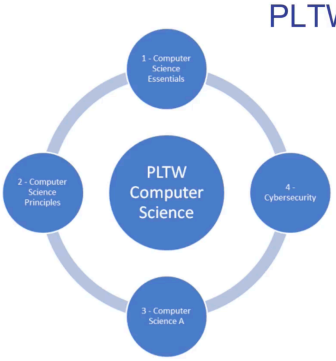
PLTW Engineering

- Introduction to Engineering Design
- Principles of Engineering
- Computer Integrated Manufacturing
- Engineering Design and Development
- Aerospace Engineering

PLTW Grants - Engineering

Gulf Shores High School has been awarded a $10,000.00 grant to offset cost of training and procurement of necessary equipment to implement this amazing curriculum to enhance to robustness of our college prep program.

PLTW Grants - Computer Science



Gulf Shores High School has been awarded a $10,000.00 grant to offset cost of training and procurement of necessary equipment to implement this amazing curriculum to enhance to robustness of our college prep program.

GSES: Blessing Box



Blessing box is full! Thank you K-kids, this club always go over and beyond!

GS Soccer Coaches at US Coaches Conference

Soccer Coaches in Anaheim for the United Soccer Coaches Conference. 4 coaches are attending:

Keeper Coach Johann Harris



Technical Director for Soccer, Aaron Warner, Boys Head Coach Danny Norton, Director of Soccer Chad Harrelson



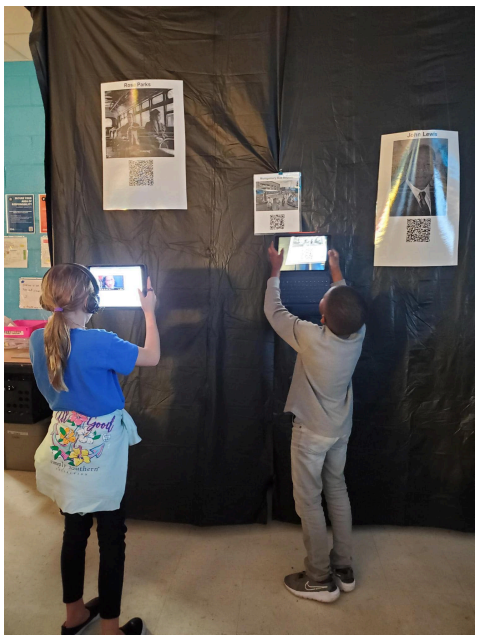
GSCS: Take the Tuesday Tour (Elementary School)

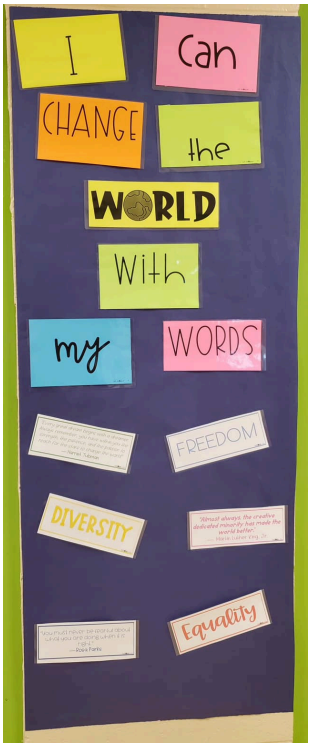


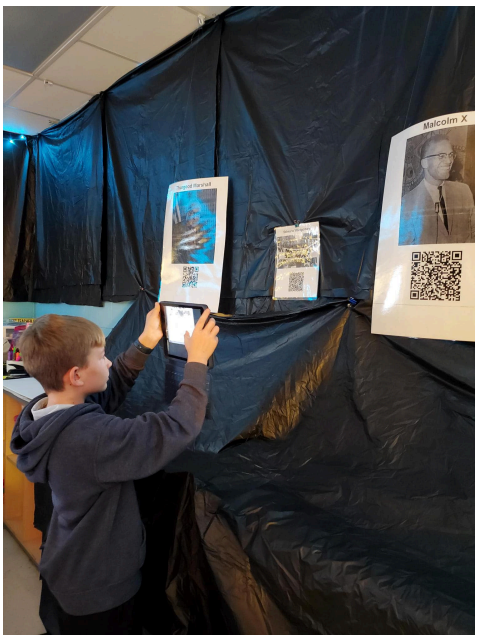
Gulf Shores City Schools is providing the opportunity for our community members, parents, etc. to tour each of our schools to see the wonderful things going on in our classrooms. **Our "Tuesday Tour" will take place on Tuesday, February 20th from 9:00am -10:30am at Gulf Shores Elementary School**. Visitors will have a chance to look inside our classrooms and experience the culture and innovation of Gulf Shores City Schools. To sign up, click on the following link: **Take The Tuesday Tour**

GSES: Civil Rights Gallery

Fourth grade students participated in a Civil Rights Gallery walk in their social studies classes. Students were challenged to identify the impact that each person and event played in our state's history.







Lady Dolphins: Soccer

Excitement is in the air as talented soccer stars from our high school team harnessed the power of HIIT in our new indoor cycling lab. From sprints to climbs, they're pushing limits and breaking barriers to elevate their game both on and off the field.

Imagine the energy of a soccer match infused into the rhythm of cycling – that's the vibe in our lab! The intensity is palpable, and the determination is unstoppable. We're thrilled to bring this incredible feature to our campus, providing a dynamic space for our athletes to share, grow, and excel. The Indoor Cycling Lab isn't just a training ground; it's a symbol of our commitment to fostering holistic development in our students.

Hats off to our dedicated soccer team and coaching staff for embracing innovation and embracing the grind! Together, we're not just building athletes; we're cultivating a community of resilience, teamwork, and passion.



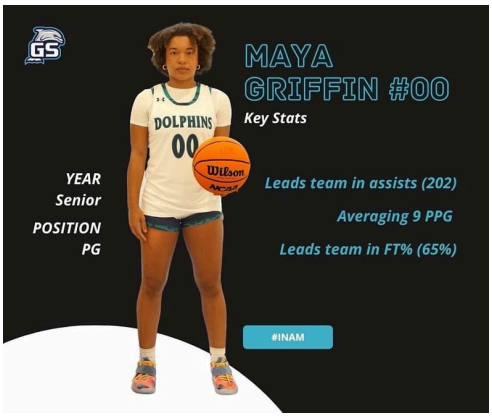


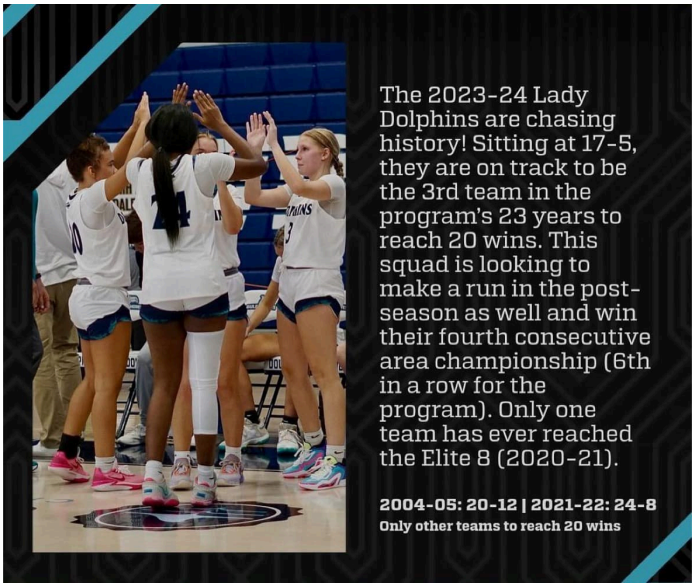


GSHS: Lady Dolphins On Fire!





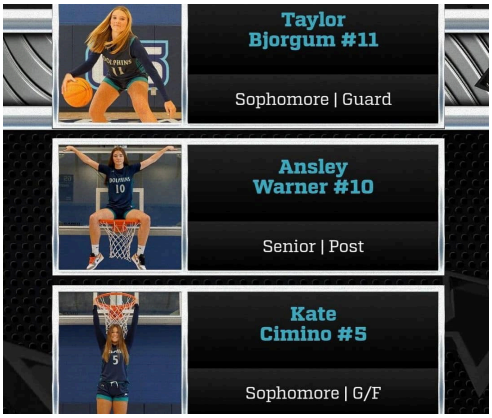












GSHS: 5A Region 1 Wrestling Champions



GSMS: Baldwin County Wrestling Champions!



GSCS 2023 State Report Card

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



Meet Our District Testing Coordinator: Karen Pearson



Karen's position at GSCS is the District Testing Coordinator. She is responsible for coordinating and supervising the testing programs for our students at all schools. She also works closely with our teachers and their professional development.
Karen graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth with a degree in Elementary Education in 1987. In 1997 she moved to Alabama with her husband and twin boys. She earned her masters degree from the University of South Alabama in 2005. Karen worked with Baldwin County Public Schools for 22 years before becoming an employee of Gulf Shores City Schools. She enjoys boating, reading, and quilting in her spare time.

Happening at GSCS:

District
Elementary School
Middle School
High School
Virtual Academy



1/3 GSCS: Employees Return From Winter Break
1/4 GSCS: Students Return From Winter Break
1/11 BOE: Combined Work Session/Board Meeting
1/15 GSCS: MLK Holiday - No School
1/25: GSCS Community Conversations.
1/30 GSES: Coffee With The Counselors
1/31 GSMS: Coffee With The Counselor
1/31 GSHS: Coffee With the Counselors
2/1 BOE: Work Session
2/6 GSHS: Blood Drive
2/8 BOE: Regular Board Meeting

Connect With Us:

MAKE WAVES!

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

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

Connect with GSCS

Joe McAleer-Social Media