The Make Waves Monthly

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



Superintendents' Message

April has been a busy and exciting month for our students and teachers. We are completing state testing, and students in our arts programs and spring sports have participated in several events and competitions. Our teachers are busy providing engaging activities and field trips for our students, and we just hosted out Small Town, Big Garden Farm To Table Dinner as well as the Island Schools Special Olympics. We have enjoyed seeing the many parents and community members who have attended these special events. As we move toward the end of the school year and the beginning of summer, please be reminded that attending school regularly is important. We want students to be with us every day to continue learning and developing their skills while enjoying all of the fun experience available to them. MakeWaves!

Dr. Matt Akin - Superintendent makin@gsboe.org

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





MIDDLE SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL



VIRTUAL ACADEMY



Health & Wellness



Athletics



Arts Education



Teaching & Learning

Meet Our WaveMakers of the Month: Students

Elementary School

Reese Swann Grade: 5th Grade

Area of Recognition: Demonstrates responsibility and displays leadership and a willingness to

help and consistently is a positive role model - Leadership

I'm a WaveMaker because...

Reese is an all-around model student. She is intrinsically motivated to work hard. She's responsible with her assignments and works with an unmatched diligence. She thoroughly embraces the learning process and loves school. She participates in K-Kids Service Group and is in the Spanish Club. She arrives at school early 2 days a week to attend meetings for the respective groups. She volunteered for the classroom technology management leadership role. She checks to make certain all students have placed their iPads in the charging stations at the end of class and plugs them in to charge nightly. We were experiencing some charging issues so Reese devised a plan to systematically check each charger. She identified all chargers are in proper working condition but would not work unless inserted with a particular side up. She problem-solved by marking the side that should face up to ensure iPads all charge properly. When she sees an iPad needs a new label she makes one. And, if she notices a problem that needs to be reported to IT, she alerts me promptly. Reese's initiative extends beyond the walls of the classroom. She is an active member of the Share the Beach program. She has been trained to walk the beaches and look for signs of sea turtle nests. The organization is so impressed by Reese's devotion and commitment, they have offered her a scholarship to attend a summer zoology camp. Being an animal lover, Reese has two bearded dragons. For a school invention project this year, she created a decorative harness for her dragons. Pet stores sell clothes for dogs, so why not bearded dragons, too. She created the pattern and handsewed a costume harness with a tiny backpack to fit her beloved dragons. Her mom brought the dragons to school for Reese to present her project. Needless to say, her invention and dragons were a colossal hit. Reese represents Gulf Shores Elementary so well. She is kind, respectful, and caring. She encourages her classmates and works cooperatively all the time. She is an excellent role model and ex

~Nominated by Kim Pennington - 5th Grade Teacher~

Reese is a model for how a true leader conducts herself. She enters every situation with a positive attitude and always offers help and words of encouragement to others around her. Outside of school, Reese volunteers her time to help protect our sea turtle nests. In school, she demonstrates self-motivation to accomplish her goals and she does not let setbacks deter her. Reese is a bright light at GSES. Her kind-hearted and spirited approach to life inspires others around her, myself included, to see the good in all things!

~Nominated by Lacey Childress - Speech Teacher~

Middle School Brody Shiver

Grade: 8th Grade

Area of Recognition - Positive Role Model

I'm a WaveMaker because...

Brody Shiver is an excellent candidate for the WaveMaker student of the month award. He is active in school activities, such as Beyond the Bell, football, and the eSports team, and is committed to enhancing his team building skills and expanding his horizons in a variety of areas. He also takes advanced classes, including Geometry as an 8th grader, which shows a strong drive for academic excellence. Not only is Brody academically talented, but he is also a great friend to others and is always willing to help classmates. His positive attitude and easygoing nature make him well-liked among his peers. He is always smiling and loves to joke around, which brings a fun and lighthearted energy to the classroom. Overall, Brody embodies the qualities of a successful student who is making a positive impact on his school community. His dedication to his school, his peers, and his own academic success make him a standout student, and he deserves to be recognized for his achievements. Therefore, he is highly recommended for the WaveMaker student of the month award. ~Nominated by Brittney Reeves - Assistant Principal~



Grade: 10th Grade

Area of Recognition - Hospitality Marketing and Management

I'm a WaveMaker because...

Bella is a fantastic role model for all students at Gulf Shores. She has a positive attitude, winning school spirit, motivation, personal drive, and a serious commitment to her school and community. I have had the pleasure of teaching Bella twice now and I hope I can have her every year! Last year she took Hospitality and Tourism with me and showed such promise to be a world changer. As a 9th grader she already knew she wanted to be a businesswoman and that desire was evident in the classroom. She takes the lead on projects, says "yes ma'am" to literally anything I ask her to do, and she does it with a smile on her face. This year I have her in Hospitality Marketing and Management where her talents have an opportunity to shine. She wowed the crowd at the Farm to Table event speaking to all the many ways she contributed to the overall project. The guests repeatedly told me how well-spoken she was. She worked tirelessly on this project, side by side with me. Now she is throwing herself into our next project, the Earth Day celebration. Bella truly cares about the health and well-being of our school, community, and planet. When I think of students who embody the ideals and values of Gulf Shores City Schools, Bella is at the top of my list!

~Nominated by Amanda Talantis - Hospitality and Tourism Teacher~





Meet Our WaveMakers of the Month: Staff

Elementary School Kelly Green Instructional Reading Coach I'm a WaveMaker because...

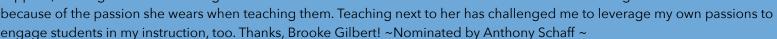
Mrs. Green is the true epitome of a leader. She works tirelessly for the students and teachers every day. I have seen her firsthand make a point to be available for teachers even when she has a busy schedule herself. Lately I have had the privilege to work more closely with her and her dedication it our school is undeniable. She wants



not only for the students to succeed, but she also wants the teachers to feel prepared regardless of what that may look like. I am honored and privileged to be able to be around such a talented reading coach and co-worker. Mrs. Green has been such a positive force in the lives of so many, and GSES is lucky to have her. Mrs. Green gives so much to our school, and the length she goes to do this is incredible. We all love her so much and I know the impact she has not only made in my life but so many others. To me this is what being a WaveMaker is all about. ~Nominated by Tiffanie Deese~

Middle School Brooke Gilbert 8th Grade Science/Cheer Coach I'm A WaveMaker because...

Brooke Gilbert raises the bar for engagement at Gulf Shores Middle School. Any given day of the week, she celebrates her students' opportunity to learn by dressing up in themed costumes that match their learning objectives. She uplifts her peers by readily sharing supplies and even offering advice on how she plans, supplies, and organizes her learning events. Brooke's lessons are more than costumes. Her lessons are great



Mrs. Gilbert does a great job selling her class/subject. Her class does so many hands-on activities which I think is important when it comes to science. I use her class 7th period and I always look forward when i walk in to see what she did with her classes that day. In my 35 years of teaching, she is definitely one of the best I have ever witnessed. ~Nominated by Lee Vinson ~

High School Kelly Quinley Receptionist

I'm a WaveMaker because...

Kelly has been at GSHS for almost 21 years. She is the first face you see when you come to school, the voice you hear on the phone when you call. She knows everyone's story and makes connections with the families. She is our go-to person when we need to identify a student or need to remember the details or a situation or a



connection that we missed. We could not survive without her. Days are not always as chipper as her voice and reception is, but the public would never know. Sometimes Kelly has to field calls that are unpleasant or difficult. She handles them with grace and patience. All of the office staff have different roles and schedules and nuances and she knows each one of us and navigates calls and visitors to tailor our personalities. She takes the lead on attendance which can be overwhelming with absences, check ins/outs, parents, students, admin, and accountability. She works diligently to ensure she keeps accurate records. The list goes on and on with what she does for the teachers, staff, students, parents, and the district. We are blessed to call her ours.

~Nominated by High School Office Staff~

Elementary School

Teddy Bear Health Clinic for PreK

PreK partnered with the Health Science students from the high school for a teddy bear health clinic. Everyone loved getting to check the health status of their furry friends! Pictured are Mrs. Pulliam's and Mrs. Lisa's students.





Middle School

Choir students participate in State Choral Performance Assessment

36 of our choir students participated in the State Choral Performance Assessment. This is the first year that Gulf Shores choir students have participated in this standardized testing for choir. We are so proud of these students and Mrs. Mixon for their awesome scores.



High School

From Greenhouse to Cafeteria

Project Smile students helped harvest bell peppers. The cafeteria workers came to the greenhouse to get produce for special salads they are making!



Virtual Academy

Fall Applications are Being Accepted Now!

If your child is interested in attending our virtual academy or virtual blended-learning for the 2023-2024 school year, the 2023 Fall Applications are now available. Our teachers at the virtual academy are Sara Altmyer grades 1-3, Sarah Beth Green grades K, 4-6, Susan Nelson grades 7-12, and Cheryl Searcy gifted and independent studies.

K-5 Fall Application

6-12 Fall Application



CATCH THE WAVE GULF SHORES CITY SCHOOLS PARENTS/GUARDIANS!

Registration for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year for grades K-12 will be opening soon. Information will be on our GSCS websites and social media for the opening date.

Health & Wellness

Harvest of the Month: Tomatoes

GSES and GSMS students, staff, parents/guardians, and any community members will have the opportunity to participate mornings in the Walking School Bus. The Walking School Bus will leave Meyer Park each morning and walk to GSES and then GSMS for drop offs. For more information click on the following link below. After the form has been completed, you will be ready to join the fun of walking to school with friends. What a great way to start your mornings! WSB is sponsored by RE/MAX Paradise.

Join the Walking School Bus!

Athletics

Spring sports are coming to an end at GSCS

If you have not had the opportunity to attend the many spring sport competitions, make a point to support our Dolphins and come out for an event. As the season begins to wind down, many of our sports are participating in area and sectional tournaments. Goals are to take these sports to state competition. MakeWaves!



View our Athletics website!

Arts Education

Shrek The Musical presented by GSHS Theatre

GSHS Theatre will be presenting Shrek The Musical this month at the Cultural Center on County Rd 6. Here is a schedule of the shows with dates and times.

April 20 - Thursday - 6:30pm

April 21 - Friday - 6:30 pm

April 22 - Saturday - 2 shows - 1:30 and 6:30



"What makes us special makes us strong!"

Teaching & Learning

Our students are constantly engaged in learning at GSCS!

The Kids Hope Mentoring Program appreciation breakfast was a success! We are very thankful for our community mentors who work with our students every week! You make

a difference at GSCS!

Thank You!



The Kids Hope Mentoring Program

Congratulations Artemije Turkic! Gulf Shores High School Student Awarded Prestigious National Honor Society Scholarship The National Honor Society (NHS) announced Artemije Turkic, a high school senior at Gulf Shores High School and member of NHS, has been selected as an NHS Scholarship semifinalist. As a Semifinalist, Artemije will receive a scholarship award of \$3,200. Recipients are chosen based on their demonstrated work to support the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, service, leadership, and character.



Ms. Barnes' third grade class had a great time learning about innovators. They learned about many different inventors and how they changed the world as we know it.



Sports Medicine students were getting some experience at the Gulf Coast Classic Baseball and Softball tournaments over the month of March!



Ample's
Pop House
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The GSES K-Kids loved helping out all around the community this week on their field trip! They visited Angie's Dog House and brought tons of donations for the animals! They also donated our time packing food cups for the animals at the Gulf Coast Zoo.

Gulf Shores wrestling coaches were recognized as the ALWCA 5A assistant staff of the year.



MakeWaves
With Our
Dolphin Family
Achievements

GSHS teachers, Amanda Talantis and Krista Marcum, along with Academies and CTE Coordinator, Jessica Sampley, and Auburn University professor, Lisa Kensler, presented today at the Green Schools National Conference in New Orleans. They spent the week learning and networking before sharing details of our journey towards integrating sustainability by leveraging community partnerships and resources.



Congratulations to our GSHS HOSA Future Health Professionals who went #BeyondAllLimits, joining 1,800 Alabama HOSA students, teachers, and industry leaders in Montgomery at the 2023 HOSA State Leadership Conference. Maura Hawkins, Alisa Kozyuk, Morgan McCartney, Madison Robinson, Courtney Oden, Lauren Henry, Marley Singleton, Davis Stephenson, and Jillian Wright.



Congratulations to our awesome band students! They participated in the yearly Music Performance Assessment and did awesome! They received all Superior Ratings PLUS a perfect score in the sightreading room! The students have been working incredibly hard all semester and it all paid off!



Ms. Weaver's STEM/Tech class has been learning all about virtual reality. They learned about the different types and the history behind the technology. They wrote paragraphs about whether or not virtual reality should be used in the classroom and which subjects would be the most impacted by this technology. After their learning, they got to break out the Oculus headsets and have some fun!









Ten students, along with faculty, admin, and BOE member, Dale Jernigan, attended Coastal Alabama Business Chamber's quarterly PowHER Hour. Everyone networked and then learned from Dr. Donna Van Natten about the effects of stress and sleep deprivation and their interconnectivity. "PowHER Hour is geared to bring together women in our community in a positive and empowering atmosphere!" Thank you, Coastal Alabama Business Chamber, for providing this amazing opportunity for our students and teachers!

National Peer Program Conference



Ms. Weaver's Journalism class traveled to the Fox 10 News Station today. They got to meet the news anchors and see the various job opportunities there are at a news station! Thank you Fox 10 News for this opportunity!



Attendance Works



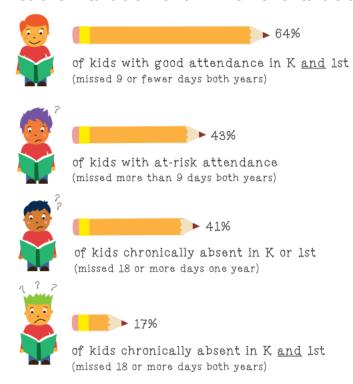
The Gulf Shores Board of Education attended training on "Student Attendance: Tackling Chronic Absenteeism." Our board is committed to the success of all students!



Why it Matters?

If children do not show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

The importance of attendance and the ability to read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade:





What Can Parents/Guardians Do At All Grade Levels?

- Make school attendance a priority.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's rest.
- Try not to schedule appointments during the school day.
- Help your child stay engaged in school activities.
- If your child is absent due to illness, etc., ensure that your child makes up any work missed.

Walk To School Day GSCS Makes a Difference!

Public Schools in Baldwin County celebrated Spring Walk to School Day on April 5th. A morning full of cheers, laughs and lots of smiles as students with Gulf Shores City Schools took part in the Walk to School Day. Students, parents, and teachers walked to school along with community leaders and volunteers from Meyer Park along the walking trail to GSES, GSMS, GSHS and the Board of Education.

Walk to School Day raises awareness for the need to create safer routes for walking and bicycling and emphasizes the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, and concern for the environment. These events also build connections between families, schools, and the broader community. Click on the following link to view the Walk to School Day Video



Student at GSVA observes Butterfly's Life Cycle at Home

Gulf Shores Elementary Virtual Academy student Mason received live caterpillars to watch a butterfly's life cycle at home. After each caterpillar formed a chrysalis, Mason waited 7 -10 days for them to emerge as beautiful monarch butterflies. He let them go on April 6th!



Gulf Shores City Schools Named 2023 Alabama Green Ribbon School District

Gulf Shores City Schools (GSCS) is excited to announce that it was selected as a recipient of the 2023 Alabama Green Ribbon Schools Award. The award recognizes schools that nurture and promote environmental sustainability education and practices. GSCS is the only district to receive this award across the state and is now nominated to receive the national Green Ribbon School award from the U.S. Department of Education which will be awarded this summer.

Click on the following link to view the news release: 2023 Alabama Green School District









Notable environmental sustainability education projects:

- Schneider Electric partnership to replace lighting and air conditioning systems, improved air quality, and installed solar features that are tied into the power grid to help reduce energy use.
- New STEAM building at Gulf Shores Elementary School
- Gulf Shores High School Farm-to-Table Program
- \bullet Upgraded transportation program at GSCS with half of the fleet of buses replaced with ultra-low sulfur, clean diesel engine models, reducing carbon emissions by 89.5%
- Science by the Shore outdoor, place-based science education program
- All students have access to bicycles throughout the day to support outdoor learning and physical activity.
- Comprehensive recycling efforts, composting, and water conservation
- Partnership with Center for Ecotourism including a school visit from Jean-Michel Cousteau
- Active health and wellness committee to support physical and mental health of students and staff

Walking School Bus







What exactly is a Walking School Bus?

- A walking school bus (WSB) is a safe and fun way for children to get physical activity as they walk to school with adult supervision.
- Each "bus" walks along a set route with one or more adults leading it. Children will meet in a designated area each morning to join the walking school bus.
- Students will have opportunities to learn about and practice road safety.
- There is the potential to save money on fuel and reduce car emissions.
- There is the potential to reduce traffic in school zones.
- There is the potential to meet other families and make new friends.
- Participating in the walking school bus is fun!

Walking School Bus will begin on April 12th and will end on the last day of school. Students will need to register before walking. The WSB operates every day that school is in session. Drop off is from 7:05-7:15 am at Meyer Park. Children are not to be dropped off before 7:05 am. The WSB begins to "line-up" by 7:10 and takes off promptly at 7:15am. For more information please refer to our Frequently Asked Questions, Expectations and Join The Walking School Bus Remind App buttons below.

Click the link below to get your child registered to participate in the daily Walking School Bus at GSES and GSMS.

Walking School Bus Registration Form (complete one form per child and only register once for the daily walks)

Frequently Asked Questions

Expectations

Walking School Bus Remind App (join Ms. Marcum's Remind for communication notifications)

RE/MAX Paradise

Island Schools Special Olympics 2023

The 2023 Island Schools Special Olympics were held on Thursday, March 23rd at the Gulf Shores Sportsplex. 60 athletes from Gulf Shores City Schools and Orange Beach City Schools competed. Shawn Weaver, a teacher at GSCS, has helped head up this year's first Island Schools Special Olympics . It was a perfect day for the athletes competing and a huge thank you to parents, students, staff and community members that came together to support the schools and athletes. What a great event! Click on the following link for more photos: **Special Olympics 2023**





















The National Elementary Honor Society

The National Elementary Honor Society has 73 new members from GSES!





Receipt of 2023 Bayleigh Hill Inspiration Award

John Lumpkin is the receipt of the 2023 Bayleigh Hill Inspiration Award. Each year a graduating senior is selected from the Project Smile class. The award is given to a student who has an outstanding personality.

Bayleigh Hill was our champion student. There was not a day that she did not laugh or smile. Everyone was her friend and she never met a stranger.

John Lumpkin has shown the same qualities through his four years as a student at GSHS. He greets students in the morning and speaks to everyone. John is very helpful during class and with fellow classmates. He is sincerely respectful to all teachers and students. We are very blessed to call John our friend. Gulf Shores High School Class of 2023



What's Available For Your Child This Summer!

Camp Invention - Grades 3-6 - June 19-23
Fine Arts Camp - Grades 3-6 - June 5-8
Summer Program (lottery enrollment) - Grades K-5 - May 31-June 30
GSMS EcoCamp - Grades 6-8 - May 31- June 30

Amanda Talantis: Alabama's District 1 Secondary Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to our amazing Amanda Talantis for being chosen as Alabama's District I Secondary Teacher of the Year! Amanda is one of 16 finalists for State Teacher of the Year!

We are so proud!

Amanda teaches Hospitality and Tourism and Spanish and serves as the "Small Town, Big Garden" Coordinator/Farm to Table and Earth Day Coordinator/Scholar's Bowl Sponsor (just to name a few of the many hats she wears!).





Congratulations to our Teachers! A job well deserved!

GSES Golden Apple Award: Tiffanie Reese

WKRG, along with the Golden Apple partners, is thrilled to honor local teachers who are making a difference in the classroom. The Golden Apple Award honors those who believe in the true spirit of teaching by making classrooms a creative and safe place to learn.

GSES had a special guest in the building, Bill Riales from WKRG News 5 - along with Mobile County Sheriff's Office, RH Radcliff Homes, Hembree Heating and Air and Rich's Car Wash. They presented Tiffanie Deese with the Golden Apple Award.

Congratulations Tiffanie for your hard work and dedication to make a difference in the classroom!

This Golden Apple segment will air on WKRG News 5 on Tuesday, April 18th during the 5:00pm newscast.







The Small Town, Big Garden Farm to Table Harvest!

Sixty students, along with teachers and admin, hosted over 100 guests at an amazing "Small Town, Big Garden" Farm to Table Harvest this week! Thank you to everyone who made the event a huge success, especially our community partners Navy Cove Oysters BILL E's SMALL BATCH BACON Bayou Cora Farms Southern Chili Lab Auburn Fisheries, Mushroom Man Tan Eckman Farm, Sweet Bee Farm, Knievel Farms Inc., The Hangout Gulf Shores Rouses Markets City of Gulf Shores - Municipal Government AND our awesome community! Everything tasted great, and students shared their learning and experiences with guests during the tours. We are so proud of our students and so super lucky to live in such a supportive community! Coach Sampley's favorite dishes were Bill-E's Firecracker Bacon; the Satsuma Ginger Jalapeño mocktail; Mushroom Soup; Navy Cove Oyster Trio; Shrimp and Bayou Cora Cheese Grits with Bill-E's Bacon; Aww, Shiitaco; and Beauty Betty Lemon Cheesecake. Tickets for next year's event will go on sale in January.

























Meet Our Board: Frank Malone

Frank Malone originally moved to Gulf Shores in 1978 and is a Foley High School Graduate. He received a BS in Accounting from The University of South Alabama in 1985. Frank became a CPA with Coopers & Lybrand in Birmingham in 1987, and then was hired to work in Construction Administration Management in Korea, Egypt and the Philippines, and later sold construction equipment at auction throughout Southeast Asia.

In 1996 he moved back home to Gulf Shores and joined the family Real Estate Brokerage firm. Today he is the broker of the Gulf Shores Office of Bellator Real Estate & Development. He has served on the Gulf Shores Planning Commission since 2002, President of the Baldwin County Board of Realtors in 2017, and has coached numerous recreation-league soccer teams. Two of Frank and wife Jennifer's three kids currently attend Gulf Shores City Schools and his oldest is a Gulf Shores graduate.



Happening at GSCS:

District **Elementary School** Middle School High School Virtual Academy





GSES: ACAP Testing 4-20 GSMS: ACAP Testing 3-14

GSCS: BOE Work Session 6 4:00pm

GSCS: Holiday-No School 7

GSES-GSMS: Walking School Bus Began 12

GSCS: BOE Regular Meeting 13 5:00pm GSHS: Spring Choral Concert 13 6:00pm

GSHS: Prom 15

GSMS: NJHS Inductions 18 GSHS: Shrek The Musical 20-22 GSES: Eat The Rainbow Week 24-28

GSHS: Senior Awards 25 10:30am GSHS: Choral Festival Huntsville 26-29

GSES: Bike Train Day 26 GSMS: Field Day 28

GSCS: Progress Reports Online 28

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

TBA - 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

IIMAKE WAVES!

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

Connect with GSCS

Joe McAleer-Social Media







