

# The MakeWaves Monthly

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



## Superintendents’ Message

Gulf Shores City Schools continues to raise the bar in order to put our district on the map! Gulf Shores has approved the contract to build the new \$131 million **Gulf Shores High School**. Several winter sports have excelled to state championship events, while spring sports are now beginning. Our MakeWaves of Kindness Day is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20th. Our motto is “Kind People are my Kind of People”. More than 200 students from Gulf Shores High, Middle and Elementary schools participated in a day at the beach with **Dune Doctors**. Students installed 1,500 dune-building plants and learned about the importance of preserving and protecting our coastal dune ecosystem. **The Tuesday Tour** is another event scheduled for February 20th at Gulf Shores Elementary School. We have a few spots available if you are interested in viewing the school. GSCS welcomes the official **Spirit Store** with Dolphin Gear available. Make your purchases today! Our latest initiative, **Gulf Shores Gives Back** on March 14th will involve students, teachers, staff, central office, and our Board of Education. We welcome parents and community members to join us. More information will be coming soon.

We encourage our students, parents, and community members to get involved with events in our district. Full involvement will make our district stronger. MakeWaves!

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



**ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**



**MIDDLE SCHOOL**



**HIGH SCHOOL**



**VIRTUAL  
ACADEMY**



**Health & Wellness**



**Athletics**



**Arts Education**



**Teaching & Learning**

## Meet Our Student WaveMakers of the Month

**Elementary School**  
**Ryleigh Butts**

**Grade - Kindergarten**

**Area of Recognition -**

Ryleigh demonstrates a true model citizen through her daily actions.



**I'm a WaveMaker because...**

Ryleigh displays integrity through her daily actions. She ensures she treats others with kindness while seeking first to understand, then be understood. Her character shines bright when she quickly jumps in to help other students in the classroom without being asked. Recently, she even alerted teachers to a student who was choking on food leading to actions that ensured the student's safety. Ryleigh excels at being a WaveMaker!

*~Nominated by Gwen Merchant~*

**Middle School**  
**Graham Wooten**

**Grade - 8th Grade**

**Area of Recognition - Leadership**



**I'm a WaveMaker because...**

Graham Wooten is an excellent candidate for the WaveMaker award. Graham is an outstanding student who consistently exhibits a strong work ethic, a genuine passion for learning, and a positive attitude that uplifts his peers. Beyond academics, he shines as a supportive friend, always ready to assist others with a warm smile and infectious enthusiasm. As a dedicated member of the school band, Graham not only showcases his musical talents but also contributes to the overall positive atmosphere within the group. His sunny disposition and commitment to fostering inclusivity make him an invaluable asset to our school community.

*~Nominated by Kenneth Nelson~*

**High School**  
**Jewels Driskell**

**Grade - 12th Grade**

**Area of Recognition -**

Leadership



**I'm a WaveMaker because...**

It is my absolute pleasure to nominate Jewels Driskell for this month's WaveMaker. Jewels serves as the President of our new GSHS DECA club. It was no small feat beginning this organization. Through this process, Jewels has shown tremendous leadership from the development of the organizational structure to the program of work. Jewels, along with her leadership team, are focused on establishing a club that provides fun and educational experiences for club members. Moreover, students in the club truly enjoy working with her and value her leadership.

*~Nominated by Dr. Caroline Hamilton~*

**Virtual Academy**  
**Coming In March**

**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

Gay James



#### I'm a WaveMaker because...

Gay James has been a vital part of our school for an impressive 27 years. She has created a nurturing environment where students can thrive creatively, fostering a love for the arts that extends far beyond the classroom. Her ability to inspire and mentor young talents is truly remarkable. Mrs. James consistently goes above and beyond, putting in tireless effort to direct musicals for the school. She willingly sacrifices her time by holding rehearsals not only during regular hours but also in the mornings, during her lunch, and any break she can find. Her commitment to the success of each performance is evident in the outstanding musicals she brings to life with our students.

Her principal, Dr. Early adds-

I have had the opportunity to work in some great school systems with some amazing music teachers and can tell you there will never be another Gay James for me. Gay, please know I love you dearly and appreciate all you have done and continue to do for our kids and school. I couldn't think of anyone more deserving of public recognition; you make us all proud!

*~Nominated by Ashley Weekley and Alicia Early~*

### Middle School

Carolyn Moser

Student Support & Head Soccer Coach



#### I'm a WaveMaker because...

I would like to nominate Carolyn Moser as a WaveMaker. She works hard, each and every day to reach out and help our inclusion students. We have many shy students who don't speak up and ask for help. She is very observant and always takes the extra steps to help those students who need extra assistance, while building a rapport so they feel more comfortable in asking for the help they truly need. She doesn't hesitate to multitask in order to help both teachers and students, while making huge waves that positively impact our special needs students who struggle every day in reading and math. If she doesn't know the material, she will quickly find out. Saying "no" to a teacher's request or "I don't know" to a student is not in her vocabulary. She always finds a way to find a solution while building self-confidence in our students! And after 3pm, she makes time to serve as an amazing soccer coach and Mom to her precious sons.

### High School

Cindy White

Child Nutrition Program



#### I'm a WaveMaker because...

The quality and number of meals that come from the cafeteria is the best it has ever been at GSHS, and it is in much thanks to Ms. Cindy. She and her staff put out a great product each day and are willing, and sometimes even eager, to try something new. In December prior to the free meals, Mrs. Veazey collaborated with Mrs. Hill and the CNP staff at GSHS and began offering breakfast to the students. After a couple of days, Ms. Cindy recognized all students did realize the breakfasts were free, so she loaded up two rolling carts, made a "free breakfast" sign, and began weaving her way through students who were waiting before school. She went outside in the break area and down the lobby. No one asked her to take this initiative. In a month-to-month comparison, she and her staff served 1262 more breakfasts and 2713 more lunches in January 2024 than they did in January 2023. They stay busy. There are two lunch waves at the high school and Ms. Cindy stands at the register and greets the students by name while punching in orders and moving students through the line. She is constantly smiling even during the chaotic moments. Her optimistic attitude contributes to the overall product that is put out each day and it can be felt throughout the entire team. We are happy to have Ms. Cindy making waves in the high school cafeteria. *~Nominated by Melisa Everett~*

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

## Elementary School

### Kindergarten Nature Club

Mrs. Childress and the Kindergarten Nature Club enjoyed their guest speaker, Mrs. Tuttle, from the Gulf State Park Nature Center. She taught us about turtles, alligators, and snakes, and brought some with her, too!



## Middle School

### Cross-Curricular Activity!

Students in Mrs. Butler's history class got creative with their modern day cave art. Connor Morton created a Gulf Shores Middle School crest uniting all the Houses. Isabella Hancock created an inspirational painting to encourage all students at our school. Art meets history - we love a cross-curricular activity!



## High School

### Travel Around the World "Virtually"

Dr. Hamilton's Sports and Entertainment Marketing class explored sports venues in a fun and unique way. Students used the GSHS ClassVR headsets to "virtually" travel around the world and explore an Olympic stadium, the Tour de France, a snowboarding competition and more. This was a great way to immerse students in course content and have fun at the same time.



## Virtual Academy

### STEAM Lab at GSES

Gulf Shores Elementary Virtual Academy students tried their hands at engineering with Tinkercad in the STEAM lab at GSES. Dr. McKinney's expertise is unmatched in how well she teaches STEAM concepts to multiple grade levels. The students can't wait to see their 3-D keychain designs they created! The students also enjoyed recess time at Meyer Park afterward on this beautiful day.



**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: Celery

The Health Science Interns attended the final orientation and tour of the departments they will rotate through over the next few months @southbaldwinrnc We are thankful for the opportunity as we [#daretocreate](#) our future healthcare professionals!



## Athletics

### 100th Win for Brian Sexton! Congratulations!



### Take Time For The Dolphin Walk!

### View our Athletics website!

## Arts Education

### Dolphin Sound At GSES

Dolphin Sound Club having their first stage rehearsal! It was great!



## Teaching & Learning

### GSMS & GSES working together!

Mrs. Harris' class at GSMS visited a preschool class at [Gulf Shores Elementary School](#) this week and worked together on creating a book about Mardi Gras. This is part of a mentorship initiative that our students expressed interest in at the beginning of the school year. We love making waves together!



### A Job Well

### Done!





The GSMS Cross Trainers Club took a break from their bike ride last week to visit one of our lovely local lizards. This seven-foot gator was soaking up what rays it could before the cold front hit us this week. Alligators have burrows underground that they live in, in a state of near hibernation, during cold weather. Cross Trainers is the perfect educational exercise!



In addition to our 1st Girl's State Champion, we had 3 other girl's find a spot on the podium! Leah Guthrie finished as the State Runner-up in the 132 lbs weight class, losing the decision to a two-time defending state champion. Rhyleah Gleber lost a tough match early in the tournament and battled back to 5th Place! And Khloe Henshaw put the rest of the state on notice for the next 4 years, placing 8th as an 8th grader! All 12 of our wrestlers at the state tournament combined to give [#PodWrestling](#) it's first Top 10 finished at the AHSAA Girl's State Tournament Three of our state placers, as well as the other 8 girls that wrestled at the state tournament return for next season!

GULF SHORES WRESTLING



235 lbs State Champ

**TIA TITI, SENIOR**



132 lbs State Runner-Up

**LEAH GUTHRIE, SOPHOMORE**



126 lbs 5th Place

**RHYLEAH GLEBER, FRESHMAN**



235 lbs 8th Place

**KHLOE HENSHAW, 8TH GRADE**



## GIRL'S STATE PLACERS

2023 - 2024





The GSMS 7th grade boys basketball team came in 2nd place in the Baldwin County 7th Grade Boys tournament today. They won 3 games only losing to Fairhope on the finals. Bennett Taylor and Tanner Spiers made the Baldwin County All Tournament Team. This team finished the season strong going 13-7!



Congratulations to our 2023-2024 GSMS National Junior Honor Society officers.

President: Zach Shoemaker

Vice President: Greyson Goodman

Secretary: Hampton Howard (not pictured)

Treasurer: Lachlan Steffek

Reporter: Connor Morton

Sponsors: Mrs. Erdossy and Mrs. Holmes



Thank you to the GSHS PTSO for our new KitchenAid stand mixer! You guys are amazing! It was an early Christmas present for our kitchen. The students are going to love using it! Sugar & Spice muffins from Baking & Pastry.

Thank you to the American Red Cross for coming to Gulf Shores Middle School to help host a Blood Drive! A huge thank you to all our donors. At GSMS they collected 37 units of blood beating our total of 34 from last year.



HOSA members recognized the GSHS 2023-24 National Certified PCTs at the January HOSA meeting. The NHA certified cohort is equipped and ready to enter the workforce as they continue the path of being Future Health Professionals! Recent PCT Graduates/Alumni of the GSHS Health Science Academy are currently working as PCTs around the state while attending college. [#makewaves](#) Congratulations on your hard work!



Here is your cast for our spring musical, “All Shook Up”. Congratulations to everyone that came out to audition! This was one tough list to put together. You all showed up and showed out. Now, let’s rock!



## CAST LIST

Chad.....	Jameson Leeman-Ferguson
Natalie Haller.....	Reagan Back
Dennis.....	Nate Jones
Miss Sandra.....	Fiona Douglas
Lorraine.....	Louiza Espinheira
Dean Hyde.....	Cole Bowman
Mayor Matilda Hyde.....	Nadia Davenport
Sheriff Earl.....	Daniel Dumas
Jim Haller.....	Cade Wittman
Sylvia.....	Isabella Salcedo

### Townspople/Ensemble

M. Lawley (statue)	Jadon Stinnett (Warden)
Alayna Lambrecht (statue/#47)	Zuko Garner (Bus Driver/Guy 1)
Marley Singleton (statue/trio)	Mason Slater (Guy 2/Fella)
Maddie Mattson (statue/trio)	Delaney Bonds (Henrietta)
Katelyn Garner (statue/#3)	Mishka Johnson (statue)
Alisha Daily (statue)	Dasha West (statue/trio/solo)
Will Ferguson	Ethany Mars Snow
Noah Tiffany	Aidyn Becker (Dancer)
Sibylla Ramos (Dancer)	



How terrific to spend time with so many wonderful educators at the The Alabama NBCT Network conference. Presenting with Krista Marcum Fleming is the best. We never get tired of sharing the story of our district cohort with other school system leaders.



## 2024 Dolphin Athletic Club Drawdown

Please Come out and Support Gulf Shores Athletics!

2024 Dolphin Athletic Club Drawdown

Tickets on Sale Now!! Get your tickets today while your lucky number is still available. Don't miss your shot at the \$8,000 cash prize!!!

Date: Sat, Mar 2, 6:00 PM

Location: Meyer Civic Center

Each ticket includes dinner for 2 and live music!

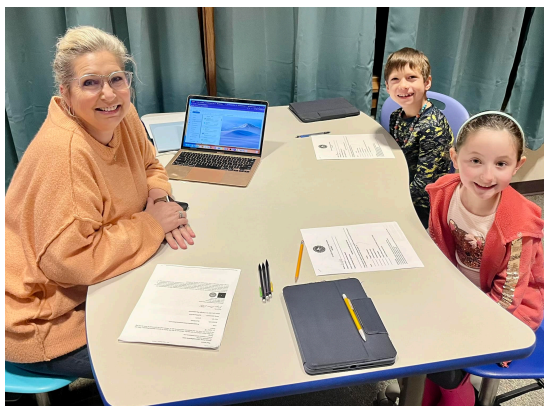
This event is BYOB!!!

100% of funds raised benefit Gulf Shores High School Athletics

Click the link below for tickets!!

[2024 Draw Down](#)

Our Blessing Box at school is being emptied as quickly as we fill it, which we are so grateful to be able to provide this to our community. We need help with more donations of non-perishable food (cans and/or boxes) to fill our box, please. Students may put items in the box or drop items off with Ms. Weekley in the library. Thank you so much for your continued generosity with our Blessing Box!



GSCS Gifted Specialist, Mrs. Waldrop, met with our virtual 2nd grade students in preparation for Alabama Child Find lessons.

Science, life, and gardening at GSMS meet head to head! Look at these impressive cabbage heads our students grew. Our cafeteria staff were able to cook these for lunch on Friday for everyone to enjoy. While they were working on their green thumbs, they got busy planting carrots, celery, and radish seeds. Gardening is not all about planting though so students spent some time weeding and balancing the compost with paper shreds they were able to divert from the landfill.





## **Congratulations to our MS & HS Band Students who were accepted into the All-District and All-State bands**

We are very proud of these band students being selected to the Alabama All State Band and All District Band! They are among the top musicians in the state and their hard work, dedication, and constant drive to improve never ceases! Congratulations!!!

### **GSMS All-State**

Jennifer Sundy, Flute  
Cooper Grindle, Baritone Saxophone  
Sophia Colmar, Alto Saxophone (Alternate)  
Tristyn Kutz, Percussion (Alternate)  
All-District  
Jennifer Sundy, Flute  
Sophia Colmar, Alto Saxophone  
Cooper Grindle, Baritone Saxophone  
Tristyn Kutz, Percussion  
Joshua Stitt, Percussion  
Hampton Howard, Trombone (Alternate)  
James Hawkins, Percussion (Alternate)



### **GSHS All State:**

Cooper Grindle, Bari Sax  
Jenny Sundy, Flute  
Gavin Burttram, Alto Sax  
Lex Schneider, Percussion  
Caiden Bennett, Percussion  
All State Alternate:  
Sophia Colmar, Alto Sax  
Tristen Kutz, Percussion  
All District:  
Cooper Grindle, Bari Sax  
Jenny Sundy, Flute  
Gavin Burttram, Alto Sax  
Lex Schneider, Percussion  
Caiden Bennett, Percussion  
Sophia Colmar, Alto Sax  
Tristyn Kutz, Percussion  
Amanda Larenas, Alto Sax  
Nathan Sansom, Trombone  
Joshua Stitt, Percussion  
Aidan Holdsworth, Bass Clarinet  
District Alternate:  
James Hawkins, Percussion  
Hampton Howard, Trombone



Congratulations to Claire Colvin and Skylar Gant who have been awarded the Baldwin EMC Youth Tour scholarship! They each get to represent GSHS in Montgomery amongst Baldwin EMC winners from Alabama then again in Washington D. C. amongst Baldwin EMC winners from all over the U.S. They each will receive a \$750 scholarship to their college of choice and Baldwin EMC also awards \$500 to the teacher each student submitted as their most influential teacher. Claire chose Mrs. Pitts & Skylar chose Mrs. Tolbert. There are only 4 students selected from all of Baldwin County and this year Gulf Shores has 2 winners! Congratulations! Make Waves!



Congratulations Ronnie Royal III  
He was named Alabama 5A  
Player of the Year in Montgomery!



Thank you families for your generous donations  
to our Blessing Box! It is in front of the school for  
anyone who needs items.





Congratulations to Jessica Sampley, one of our Nationally Board Certified Teachers!

Alabama's National Board Certified Teachers continue to do GREAT THINGS for students all across our state!

Our latest AL NBCT Network spotlight educator is Jessica Sampley, NBCT. She is the Academies & Career Tech Director for Gulf Shores City Schools. Ms. Sampley earned National Board Certification in 2022 in ELA-Adolescence & Young Adult. She has successfully developed and implemented innovative projects through the GSCS "Sustainability: Full STEAM Ahead" initiative by leveraging partnerships, resources, and grant funds. biking for STEAM learning; and the "Small Town, Big Garden" Project. Recent honors and awards include being awarded a 2023 US Green Ribbon School District; over \$800,000 in grants for related projects; the Governor's Award in WBL Regional Best Practices; and a CLAS Banner School Award. Congratulations!



Notice the new food trays that can be reused and have replaced the disposable trays we had in the past in the Gulf Shores High School Lunchroom! This another example of GSCS thinking about our environment!



We would like to introduce you to our 2024 GSHS Diamond Doll team! Ladies, we are thankful for everything you do for our program and volunteering your time to support GSHS Baseball! And thank you to Ms. Alisha for sponsoring this awesome group! Looking forward to a great year!







Thank you to @mygulfcoastchamber for hosting a few of our GSHS student ambassadors and Sports Medicine teacher, Ms. Alisha Tolbert, at the First Friday Forum! The students heard from guest speaker, Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth @willainsworthal, and spoke with him after the event! They also met US Representative, Congressman Jerry Carl @repjerryarl. Thank you all for taking the time to engage with our future leaders! The student ambassadors attending were Dianna Moore, Bella Qualls, Amara Morales, and Amanda Anderson.



Gulf Coast RC&D awarded Gulf Shores High School \$15,000 for their project "Small Town Sustainability". This project assisted Gulf Shores High School with funds to promote several different projects throughout Gulf Shores. Students and faculty in the Gulf Coast Sustainability Academy and on the Sustainability Team collaborated to raise oysters in Little Lagoon; host their annual "Small Town, Big Garden" Farm to Table Harvest; learn to scuba dive for conservation education; and grow vegetables and fruit hydroponically, traditionally, and aquaponically in their greenhouse and outdoor learning space. In collaboration with Dune Doctors, LLC, and Gulf State Park, students and faculty also planted over 3000 native plants to restore sand dunes on our beaches.





Join us for the Music of the Night, an evening of fun, music, and food! There will also be a silent auction filled with must-have items & experiences. All proceeds go to the GS band department. Tickets are limited, so click the link to get your tickets now!

[Music of the Night Gala](#)

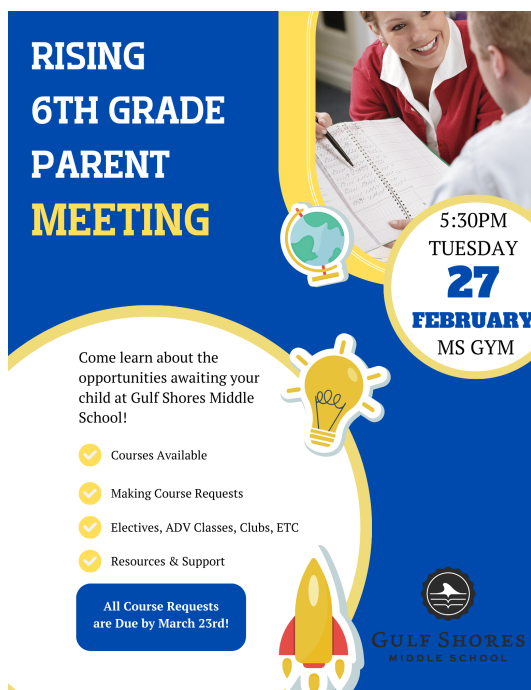


Students can click on the link below to apply for Space Camp this summer. This opportunity is out of this world so don't miss the deadline in March!

[Space Camp Application](#)

Congratulations Lady Dolphins!





**RIISING  
6TH GRADE  
PARENT  
MEETING**

Come learn about the opportunities awaiting your child at Gulf Shores Middle School!

- ✓ Courses Available
- ✓ Making Course Requests
- ✓ Electives, ADV Classes, Clubs, ETC
- ✓ Resources & Support

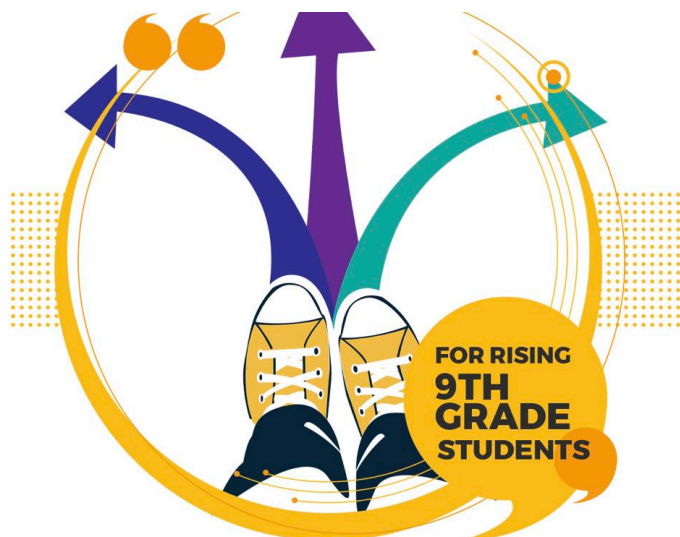
All Course Requests are Due by March 23rd!

5:30PM  
TUESDAY  
**27**  
FEBRUARY  
MS GYM

**GULF SHORES  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Parents of current 5th Graders - this information is for you and your student to learn about the opportunities awaiting them at GSMS!

Before we know it our 8th graders will be headed across the road for a new adventure! Make sure to look at this information so they are prepared and equipped to be successful. All schedule request forms are due by February 23rd.



**TRANSITION TO  
HIGH SCHOOL**

[LEARN MORE](#)

As we embark on the exciting journey of preparing our students for high school, we want to ensure that you are well-informed and actively involved in this process. GSHS counselors will soon begin meeting with students during history classes to discuss the selection of high school courses. To help your child prepare for this crucial transition, we encourage you to review the information provided below and additional details available on Canvas. A Parent Night Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 15th, at 5:00 PM at GSHS. This meeting is targeted towards students interested in taking HONORS courses, but all parents are welcome to attend. Additionally, on Monday, February 19th, Mrs. Bowling will meet with Mr. Nelson's Social Studies classes for Course Request Document assistance, followed by sessions in Mrs. Butler's Social Studies classes on Wednesday, February 21st (a date for Mr. B. Adam's classes will be scheduled soon). The submission deadline for all Google Doc Course Request Forms is Friday, February 23rd, at NOON. We appreciate your active participation in guiding your child's educational journey.

- **February 15th at 5PM - GSHS Parent Meeting for Honors Classes**
- **February 23rd at 12PM - GSHS Course Requests Due**



Congratulations the Senior Bowler Rylan Stefankiewicz on being named to the 1A-5A South All-Region Team. Rylan led the Dolphins all season with a 215 average and captained them to a South Region Championship.



**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

**In 1 week, students and staff at GSHS refilled 1807 bottles  
using the water refill stations.**

**#Reduce #Sustainability #MakeWaves**

The Gulf Shores Golf team was honored to spend time with some elementary students on the Walking School Bus! Go Dolphins!





## GSHS: Marine Science

Gulf Shores is such a beautiful place, this time of year is great for a bike ride. Students in Mr. C. Schaff's Marine Science class took a bike ride to visit Lake Shelby and talk about the important roles wetlands serve for our coastal town. Those services include, buffering storm surge and filtering nutrients and sediments out of our water. It is essential for students to love and advocate for our wetlands to maintain the health of our water ways that we rely on for food and tourism. We also caught some Comb Jellies, did you know that these are NOT jellyfish, instead they belong to the phylum Ctenophora and do not have stinging cells. They are perfectly safe to hold. The coolest part: they glow at night!





Mrs. Fralick's class at GSES studied Mardi Gras this week and ended the lesson by making king cakes with the help of our sweet cafeteria staff!

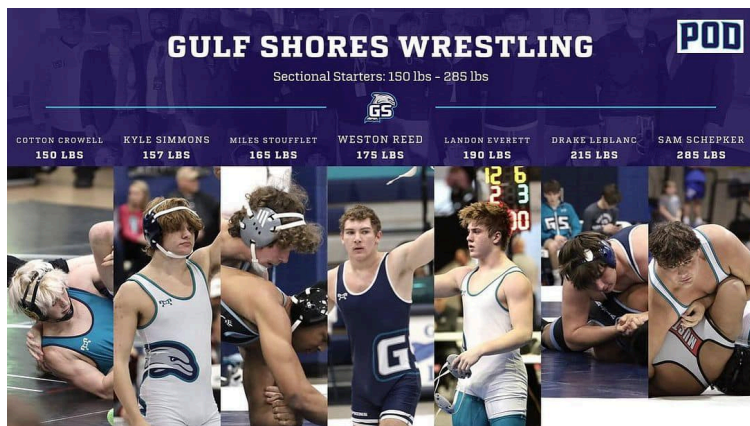


Valentine's Day falls on our E-Learning day so we had to celebrate a little early! The House of Amistad at GSMS held a heart-designing contest to get everyone in the spirit for their Day of Friendship. Students could design the heart out of any material and we were pretty impressed with their creativity. Congratulations to our winners!





Two days away from AHSA 5A South Sectionals! Now that all of the seeds have been finalized, let's meet the Gulf Shores Sectional Starters. Twelve of our fourteen Wrestlers are Seed in the Top 3 of their weight class at Sectionals this weekend!



Our fifth grade classes helped install dune-building plants at the beach today while learning about the importance of preserving and protecting our coastal dune ecosystem.





## Dune Restoration Day

With the help of 51 students from Gulf Shores City Schools and volunteers, we have placed 403 recycled Christmas Trees on the toe of the dunes that are going to catch windblown sand and build new dunes. These dunes will grow to protect Gulf State Park!

Gulf Shores Middle School and High School students are learning how to plant dune plants from Dune Doctors and will teach the 5th graders how to do it tomorrow during the Planting for Protection (P4P) Event.

Planting for Protection is [Dune Doctors](#) educational initiative designed to raise the next generation of coastal stewards and promote coastal resiliency.

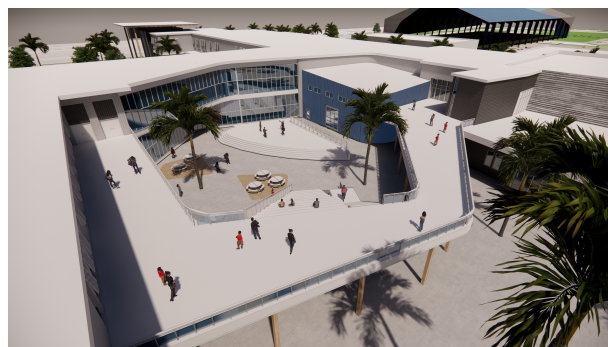




# Anticipating the New High School

Click on the following link for information and the photo gallery of the new [Gulf Shores High School](#)

Click on the following link for the press release, [Gulf Shores Approves Contract To Build New High School](#)





## National School Counseling Week February 5-9

The purpose of this week is to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems. National School Counseling Week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. Each day this week we will be spotlighting our counselors in our district.

### Monday

Today we are spotlighting the counselors at the elementary school. School counselors help students with making and keeping friends, setting goals, fostering leadership and self-confidence, making good choices, being responsible, managing strong feelings, and conflict resolution.

The Gulf Shores Elementary School Counselors are Mrs. Lisa Elmore and Mrs. Amanda Dalton.

Thank you for all that you do to help our school and support our students!



### Tuesday

Today we are spotlighting Wendy Holmes, the school counselor at Gulf Shores Middle School. Mrs. Holmes has been in the social services field for 32 years and has been the GSMS counselor for the past 19 years.

She helps with the cross-country team, Peer Helpers, and the National Junior Honor Society. You may often find Mrs. Holmes riding bikes or running with Gulf Shores Middle School students in the Gulf State Park.

She can also be found on the tennis court. Mrs. Holmes is very active in her church, Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel, in Pensacola. She is married and has three sons who all attend college in Florida. Thank you for all that you do!



### Wednesday

Today we are spotlighting our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade counselor at Gulf Shores High School is Chesley Bowling. This is Mrs. Bowling's 4<sup>th</sup> year at GSHS but she has been in education for 39 years. She has been an elementary, middle and high school counselor. She says that each level has been her favorite!

One of the things that Mrs. Bowling says she likes best about her job is interacting with the students and parents. "I'm thrilled when I see students grow and begin making decisions about their futures. I feel proud when I know that I was a part of something like that!" says Bowling. When she is not at school, you can find Mrs. Bowling outside taking long walks, doing yoga, or spending time with her children and grandchildren. She also likes to read—a lot!



### Thursday

Today we are spotlighting Mrs. Kelli Adkins, the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade counselor at Gulf Shores High School. She has been in education for 27 years and this is her second year at GSHS. She loves the students and staff at GSHS. Mrs. Adkins says, "It is exciting to hear each person's story - who they are, where they're from, and what their plans are for the future. I enjoy being able to connect students with opportunities that help them pursue their college and/or career goals." Mrs. Adkins describes herself as a lifelong learner who likes finding new things to do or explore. For example, she has tried glass blowing classes, woodworking classes, paddle boarding and kayaking in different places.



### Friday

Today we are spotlighting Dr. Denise Harrison who is our Career Coach. Dr. Harrison became interested in education when she was in high school and began her education at North Mississippi Junior College. Then, she transferred and received her bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University in secondary education. After she taught part-time, she pursued a master's degree in Guidance Counseling from the University of North Alabama. That is when Gulf Shores High School became her home. She began working at Gulf Shores as 9-10 grade counselor beginning in 2002. After 18 years of counseling, she transitioned to Career Coach. While at Gulf Shores High, she obtained a Doctoral degree in Education focusing on the specialty of counseling. Dr. Harrison is married to Harlan Harrison, who also works for the City of Gulf Shores as Landscape Supervisor. They have one daughter, Brina, who is an alumni of Gulf Shores High.





Many thanks to the Baldwin County Master Environmental Educator program with Alabama Extension for teaching our elementary virtual students today about the water cycle and water conservation.



## VALENKINDS WEEK

February 19-23, 2024

We will preform Random Acts of Kindness in our classroom and enjoy dress up days to celebrate World Kindness Week!

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**Team Kindness Monday**

Wear your favorite jersey or Dolphin Gear

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**Don't Hide from Kindness Tuesday**

Wear Camo or brown/black/green

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**HATS OFF to KINDNESS Wednesday**

Wear your favorite or most unique hat

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**Be READY to be Kind Thursday**

Wear RED

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**We DREAM of a Kinder World Friday**

Wear school appropriate pajamas

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Good afternoon! In recognition of World Kindness Week, GSE will be celebrating "ValenKIND Week" February 19-23.

## MAKE WAVES OF KINDNESS DAY!

Please Donate at <https://gsboe.square.site>,  
Use The QR code, and/or  
Fill The Bucket At Car Line on 2/20!

**TUESDAY**  
**FEB 20TH**

Funds benefit the Make Waves of Kindness Teacher Grants which are used to purchase classroom items that support students academic, social, and emotional needs.

- ✓ 2/19 - Be Kind to a Stranger
- ✓ 2/20 - Wear Your Kindness Shirt
- ✓ 2/21 - Be Kind to a Classmate
- ✓ 2/22 - Be Kind to Your Family
- ✓ 2/22 - Be Kind to Yourself

Thank You Tacky Jacks Gulf Shores!

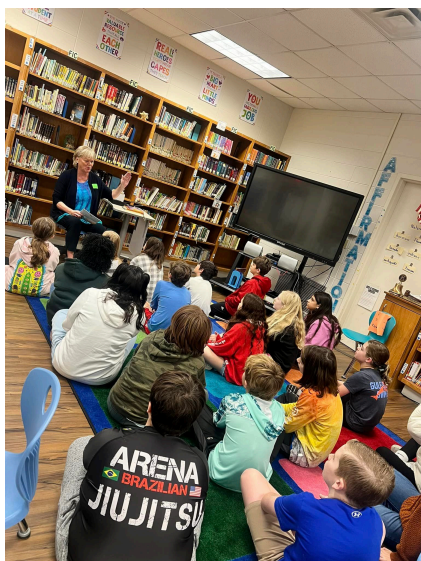




Health Science Academy students volunteered to work the Big Beach Full and Half Marathon this beautiful Sunday morning!! We were happy to see you at Water Station 1- Mile 2!! Congrats to all the participants!!  
#HealthScienceRocks  
#HydrationStation



The Beards met in the Nest at GSES with all of the other second grade classes to learn about our new “Song of the Week”. This week we are listening to Blackbird by The Beatles. Have you ever heard this song? What instruments do you hear?



AT GSES, Ms. Davis, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Nolan, Mrs. Clark, and Mrs. Robinson’s classes had the privilege of hearing Kathy Groth, sharing her three books that she has written and published. The Shell Box is one of our favorites. The students were actually able to make a shell box for their classroom. We were also able to do campfire writing activities with Kathy.



Congrats to the 3 athletes from our GSHS Track and Field team who have qualified for the Indoor State Championship meet:

Abigail Champlain- shot put

Andrew Roman- long jump

Morgan McCartney- high jump and triple jump.

Our qualifiers will compete this Saturday, Feb 3, at the Birmingham Crossplex.



Fundamentals of Sports Medicine students started learning how to take a patient's vital signs this week! Intermediate Sports Med students started the next anatomy unit focusing on the Elbow joint. And Advanced Sports Medicine students started their internships with local health care businesses!





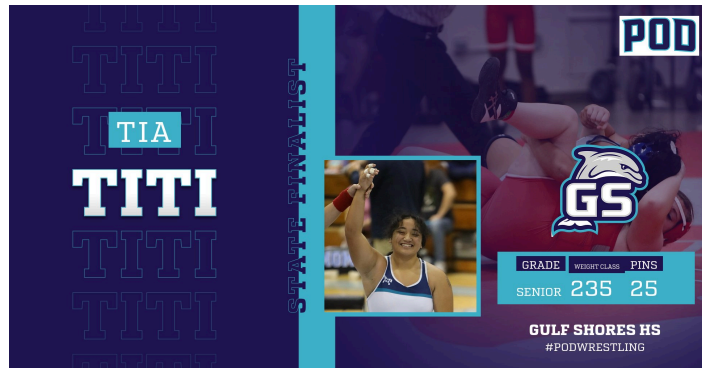
Congratulations to the Gulf Shores Middle School students that were chosen to be published in the Fall 2023 edition of the national Celebrating Art Contest. This is a huge honor as only the best artwork is chosen for publication out of thousands of entries. Pictured: 6th graders: Benjamin Plybon, Noam Ohayon, Norah Lowry 7th graders: Andrea Ortega, Ekaterina Harea 8th graders: Connor Morton, Isaiah Schmidt, Jackson Boudreaux, Tessa Madsen



South Region Champions!! The final match came down to us and our arch rival, Elberta. After being down 0-2 the boys rattled off 4 straight wins capping the final game with a 217! We look forward to continued success in 2 weeks as we bowl for a State Championship!



Tia Titi scores an 0:08 pin in the Semifinals to become the 2nd AHSAA Girl's State Finalist.



Congratulations to Tia Titi as she is our first Female Wrestling State Champion! We are proud of you!!!



CONGRATULATIONS to our very own Madison Marshall for being named to the [Al.com](https://www.al.com) Class 5A All-State Team! Madison was one of 14 selected throughout 5A volleyball. We're so proud of you and how you represent Gulf Shores volleyball! Go Dolphins



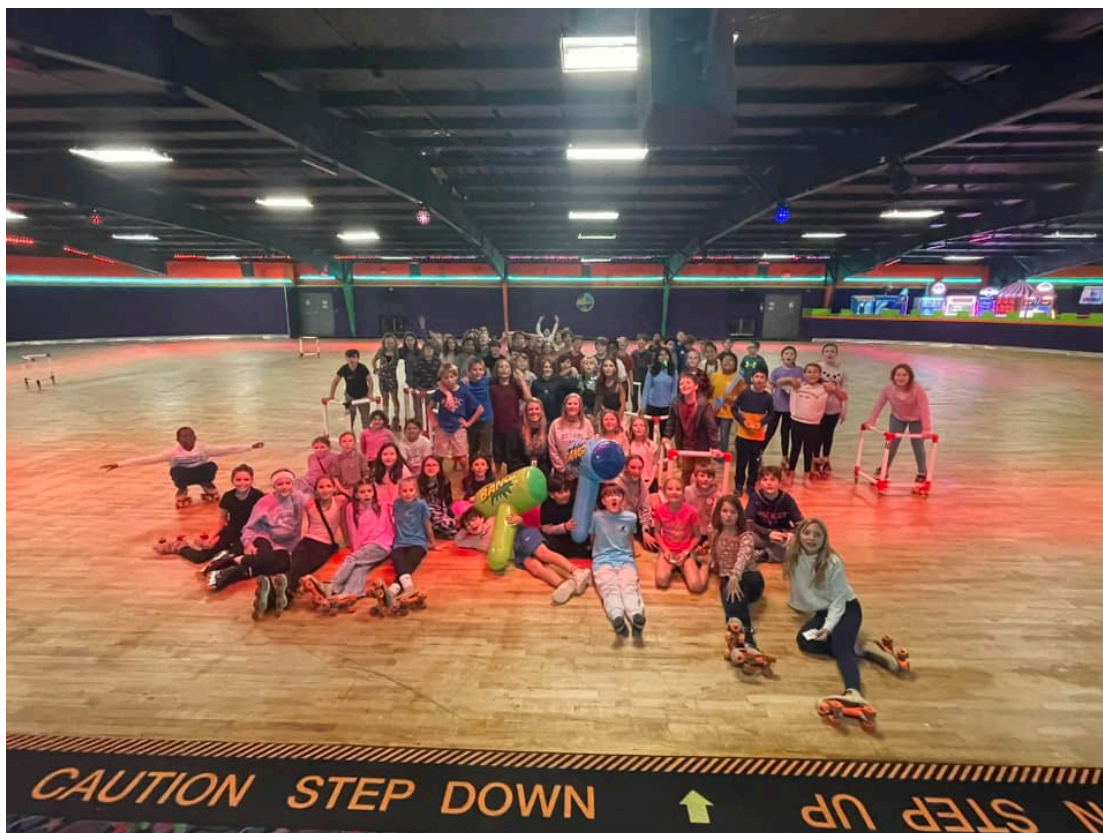






## GSES: 4th & 5th Grade Celebration

4th & 5th Grade rolled the day away at Hot Wheels Skating Rink in Daphne. Students celebrated earning their iReady Reading and Math WIG for the 1st semester.





# GSMS & GSHS: Soccer Getting Ready For The Season





# GSHS: Honor Student Alexandria Baumann Nominated for The Congress of Future Medical Leaders



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MEDIA CONTACT:**  
Alexandria Baumann, 256-655-4977  
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## Honor Student Alexandria Baumann Nominated for The Congress of Future Medical Leaders

**GULF SHORES, AL** — Alexandria Baumann, a Junior at Gulf Shores High School of Gulf Shores, AL is a Delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders to be held June 26 - June 28, 2024, just outside Boston, on the University of Massachusetts Lowell campus.

The Congress is an honors-only program for high school students who want to become physicians or go into medical research fields. The purpose of this event is to honor, inspire, motivate and direct the top students in the country interested in these careers, to stay true to their dream and, after the event, to provide a path, plan and resources to help them reach their goal.

Alexandria's nomination was signed by Dr. Mario Capecchi, winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine and the Science Director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent Gulf Shores High School based on her academic achievement, leadership potential and determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine.

During the three-day Congress, Alexandria Baumann will join students from across the country and hear Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science recipients discuss leading medical research; be given advice from Ivy League and top medical school deans on what to expect in medical school; witness stories told by patients who are living medical miracles; be inspired by fellow teen medical science prodigies; and learn about cutting-edge advances and the future in medicine and medical technology.

This is a crucial time in America when we need more doctors and medical scientists who are even better prepared for a future that is changing exponentially. Focused, bright and determined students like Alexandria Baumann are our future and she deserves all the mentoring and guidance we can give her.

The Academy offers free services and programs to students who want to become physicians or go into medical science. Some of the services and programs the Academy offers are online social networks through which future doctors and medical scientists can communicate; opportunities for students to be guided and mentored by physicians and medical students; and communications for parents and students on college acceptance and finances, skills acquisition, internships, career guidance and much more.

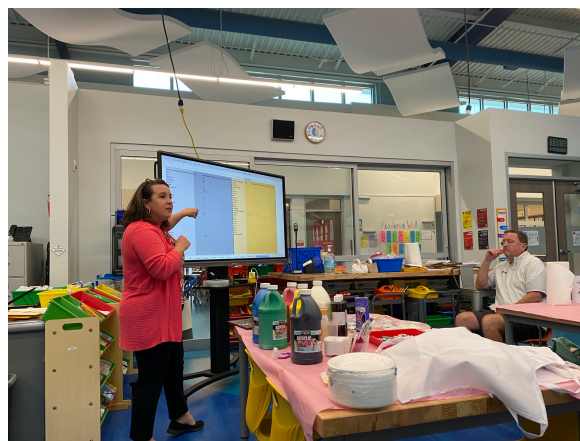
The National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists was founded on the belief that we must identify prospective medical talent at the earliest possible age and help these students acquire the necessary experience and skills to take them to the doorstep of this vital career. Based in Washington, D.C. and with offices in Boston, MA, the Academy was chartered as a nonpartisan, taxpaying institution to help address this crisis by working to identify, encourage and mentor students who wish to devote their lives to the service of humanity as physicians, medical scientists.

For more information visit [www.FutureDocs.com](http://www.FutureDocs.com) or call 617-307-7425.



## GSES: STEAM Professional Learning Team

The STEAM professional learning team (PLT) used STEAM to be creative and express ourselves by painting Mardi Gras door hangers that were made in our STEAM lab laser cutting machine. We also had a guest instructor, Tami May, an NBCT master science teacher from SARIC at the University of South Alabama. Mrs. May helped us brainstorm ways to improve student achievement in science vocabulary and informational reading.





## GSMS: Turbo Dolphins

Ask any member of the Turbo Dolphins at Gulf Shores Middle School what one of their favorite classes is, and most will tell you the same thing: Greenpower.

The Greenpower Program at GSMS puts the students in charge of the show. In the class, students do everything from assembling, designing and engineering racecars to making adjustments as needed and, of course, racing them. **Students take the wheel in Gulf Shores Middle School's Greenpower Program**



## Soccer: 5th & 6th Grade Lady Dolphins

Our soccer program is hard at work preparing the next generation of Lady Dolphins. These were 5th/6th grade girls training with Director of Soccer and Varsity Girls Soccer Coach Chad Harrelson along with the Technical Director of Soccer Aaron Warner.





## 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](#)**

## January: School Board Appreciation Month

**THANK YOU, SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS,  
FOR CULTIVATING BRILLIANCE  
IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS!**



January was School Board Appreciation Month! We say a Special Thank You to our School Board for their dedication and time they give to our Students, Faculty, Staff, and Community to make GSCS Great!





# Meet Our Director of Educational Technology and Student Support Services

## Joey Drews

Joey Drews began his technology career at STI providing support for the student information system used by the state of Alabama. He then moved on to Apple as an Enterprise Server Support Specialist, supporting schools and businesses on Apple hardware and software products. An opportunity to return to education drew Joey back to the Gulf Coast, working as a Software Support Specialist at Baldwin County Public Schools for six years. Joey has been the Director of Educational Technology and Student Support Services since January 2020. He has a wife and two children, with another child on the way."



**GSCS Board Meeting Round Up:** Too busy to attend school board meetings, but still wanna know more? Check out the episodes of "**Board Shorts**" to stay up-to-date.

## Happening at GSCS:

District  
Elementary School  
Middle School  
High School  
Virtual Academy



2/1 BOE: Work Session  
2/5-9 GSES: Kids Heart Challenge  
2/6 GSHS: Blood Drive  
2/8 BOE: Regular Board Meeting  
2/12-13 GSCS: Mardi Gras No School  
2/14 GSCS: E-Learning Day  
2/20 GSCS: MakeWaves of Kindness Day  
2/20 GSCS: The Tuesday Tour: GSES  
2/27 GSES: Coffee with the Counselors

## 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

