

# The MakeWaves 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. Many of our students participated and learned doing activities about the solar eclipse. 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. The second annual Island Schools Special Olympics will be held on May 7th with start time at 9:30am and events will run until 1:00pm. This event is shared with Orange Beach; so this year they will be hosting it at the Orange Beach Sportsplex, located at 4385 William Silvers Pkwy in Orange Beach. We have enjoyed seeing our many parents and community members who have attended these special events. Please check our GSCS websites to sign-up for camps that are available during the summer for your child. 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](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**  
**Dathan Williams**



**Grade - 4th Grade**

**Area of Recognition -**

Character, hard work, positivity, leadership

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

Dathan works incredibly hard every day to achieve at his highest level. He is an amazing leader by demonstrating being proactive as well as ensuring other friends are meeting their potential. He is excited to learn and come to class each day. He remains positive and focused even when a challenge is presented. He works hard to show kindness to all and motivation through all academic subjects.

~Nominated by Mary Oglesby~

**Middle School**  
**Mae-Margaret Reed**



**Grade - 7th Grade**

**Area of Recognition -**

Outstanding Leadership and Compassion

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

Mae-Margaret Reed exemplifies outstanding leadership and compassion, as demonstrated through her remarkable contributions during Red Ribbon Week. Serving as the GSMS Red Ribbon Leader this year, Mae-Margaret went above and beyond in representing our school at the Veterans Court in Foley alongside Judge Thomason. Through her diligent efforts, Mae-Margaret organized a successful donation drive, both within our school and the community, raising funds to support veterans in need. With the collected donations, she assembled 25 gift bags filled with goodies and also contributed \$500 towards covering the cost of 50 drug tests for veterans. Her initiative not only showcased her dedication to serving others but also provided tangible support to those who have served our country. MaeMargaret's generosity and selflessness extend beyond this project; she consistently demonstrates a giving spirit and a kind heart, always ready to support and assist those around her. Mae-Margaret's exemplary leadership and compassion make her a true WaveMaker at Gulf Shores Middle School, and she is highly deserving of this recognition.

~Nominated by Brittney Reaves~

**High School**  
**Maya Griffin**



**Grade - 12th Grade**

**Area of Recognition - Dedication**

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

I am delighted to nominate Maya Griffin as the WaveMaker at GSHS. Maya's dedication both inside and outside of the classroom is truly commendable. As a standout basketball player, she has demonstrated exceptional skill and leadership on the court, serving as a role model for her teammates and peers. Additionally, Maya's commitment to her studies is evident through her outstanding academic achievements, showcasing her determination to excel in all areas of her life. Her positive impact extends far beyond the classroom, making her a deserving candidate for this recognition.

~Nominated by Ashley Watley~

**Virtual Academy**  
**Coming In May**

**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**  
**Kathy Brown**  
**Student Services**



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

Mrs. Brown joined the special education department just this school year, and she has already made a lasting impact. She is kind and compassionate with the students she serves, always challenging and encouraging them to work hard and give their best effort. Mrs. Brown is an absolute delight on the 400 hallway. Her joyful, enthusiastic spirit is infectious, and she is quick to offer her coworkers a smile, hug, chat, or a good laugh. Mrs. Brown's visible love for her students and coworkers definitely classifies her as a WaveMaker!

~Nominated by Christy Weems~

**Middle School**  
**Kelsey Canan**  
**Student Services**



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

Since stepping into the role of teacher in our MD unit, Ms. Canan has exemplified extraordinary dedication, compassion, and innovation in her approach to education. Her patience and unwavering compassion for her students are truly commendable. She demonstrates an understanding of each student's unique needs and challenges, ensuring they feel supported and valued every step of the way. What truly sets Ms. Canan apart is her adaptability and flexibility in meeting the diverse needs of her students. She has organized the classroom environment to cater to individualized learning, ensuring that every student is appropriately challenged and experiences daily successes. Ms. Canan's commitment to inclusivity is evident in her efforts to integrate her students into various school activities and classrooms. Whether it's participating in science projects or PE classes, she ensures that her students have every opportunity to engage with their peers and experience the full spectrum of school life. Her dedication to fostering positive relationships with students, parents, and colleagues alike has made her an invaluable asset to our school community.

~Nominated by Brittney Reeves~

**High School**  
**Ellyson Lawrence**  
**Student Services & OCS**



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

Ellyson goes above and beyond to help the students at GSHS - particularly those students who need a bit more encouragement and support than others. She works tirelessly to keep up with students' progress in a variety of programs. She is always available to meet with me to discuss strategies for improvement and she is able to share insights that are helpful. She is truly a WaveMaker!

~Nominated by Chesley Bowling~

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

## Elementary School

### Plants in Kindergarten!

Learning about plants and what they need to survive in Mrs. Younces' kindergarten class!



## Middle School

### New Raised Garden Beds!

Students worked in small groups to assemble our new raised garden beds for our outdoor classroom. Others packed water bottles with clean soft plastic to make ecobricks, and others worked on our outdoor classroom maintenance by pulling weeds and adding to our compost.



## High School

### Business and Marketing Academy

The GSHS Business and Marketing Academy would like to extend a huge thank you to Anne Norton and Cindy Vines of Southshore Insurance Agency. Personal Finance students were able to develop a greater appreciation of risk mitigation strategies and ask "what if" to these wonderful experts. They peeled back the curtains a bit and took students through the process of building financial risk scenarios and insurance underwriting. Students were engaged and impressed by the wealth of knowledge brought.



## Virtual Academy

### Teachers and students speak at Kiwanis Club!

Thank you to the Kiwanis Club for having the Gulf Shores Virtual Academy teachers and student speak to the members of the club telling what outstanding educational opportunities are available in the K - 12th grade GSVA.

Pictured l to r are teachers Mrs. Green, Mrs. Altmyer, Dr. Nelson, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Harrison and high school virtual student Cade Wittman.



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

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



## Health & Wellness

### GSES Dolphin Divas

The Dolphins Divas are getting in the last steps for the Dolphin Walk challenge!



**Take Time For The Dolphin Walk!**

## Arts Education

### Join the 2024 Marching Band

It's time to register for the 2024 marching band season!! Click the link below to fill out the form!

<http://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSdrvO47xG7rnug.../viewform>



**A Job Well Done!**

## Athletics

### GSHS Varsity Baseball

By the numbers....

- Area Champions for the 4th year in a row
- Since 2021, the Dolphins are 27-1 in area play.
- The last time the Dolphins lost an area matchup was on 4/19/2021.
- Currently, the Dolphins have a 21 game win-streak in area play



**View our Athletics website!**

## Teaching & Learning

### Teddy Bear Clinic

The second annual Teddy Bear Clinic was a success. The collaboration between Health Science Interns and GSES PreK students offered both age groups an opportunity to communicate and learn from each other. The Interns shared information on registration at an appointment, Vital Signs to be taken, how to handle BooBoos, bones of the skeleton, and how a little TLC can help.



We are excited about our 6th and 7th grade Masquerade Dance happening this month! Make sure to keep the dress code in mind as you prepare.



Thank you to @perdidobeachresort for hosting our Farm to Table students and teachers and for donating an amazing breakfast buffet! @jbrodyo We are so grateful for our community partners and the support they provide!



Dr. Neth and Coach Sampley spent the day in Mobile with Region 7 CTE and ALSDE CTE “Deep Diving into Data”—they reviewed proficiency of concentrators in CTE, graduation rate, and credential rates for overall CTE and subgroups. Thanks to TL Faulkner CTE Center for hosting and to ALSDE CTE for an awesome day of learning!



Be sure and order your Field Day Package by April 19th. Late payments are not able to be accepted because of T-shirt order deadlines.



**GULF SHORES**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**FIELD DAY PACKAGE SALE ENDS**  
**APRIL 19, 2024**  
OPENED JULY 2023  
**ONLINE PAYMENTS ONLY**

<https://gulfshorescityal.csiepay.com/Views/Payment/Pay.aspx>

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**  
**T-SHIRT, LUNCH, AND LOW-SUGAR SWEET TREAT!!**



**WE CANNOT ACCEPT LATE PAYMENTS**  
**DUE TO T-SHIRT ORDER DEADLINES.**



We are so proud and excited to announce our first ever Fin Fest Concert! Students can purchase tickets in the gym before homeroom every morning and during lunch on Thursday and Friday. Make sure to get your ticket this week because you don't want to miss out on this!



Zoom in to see great pictures from our Club Days at GSES!



What a fun trip in the books! A magical time for the GSMS marching band, color guard, and choir

A pair of all-state juniors from Baldwin County will represent their squads at the 28th-annual North-South All-Star Game this summer. Both Foley's Keiyonla Knight and Gulf Shores' Keyona Royal helped their teams record first-ever Final Four berths:



We are so proud of GSMS students, Ella Jones, Lewis Kakish, Charlotte Colvin, and Mirabella Matson for participating in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest! Local judges from the Gulf Shores/Orange Beach Optimist Club. First and Second-place winners, Mirabella and Charlotte, have the opportunity to compete for the title of winner for our zone in Lillian!





Ms. Canan's class at GSMS rocking their socks for World Down Syndrome Day!



Ring design and fitting for Liam Bickham, 2023 Swimming State Champion in 100 fly & 100 back.



Let's help the environment by donating your Easter eggs to the K-Kids club at GSES!

Save these dates!! We are excited for the next season!

**GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL Marching Band**

Save These Dates!

<b>MAY 15</b> PARENT MEETING 6PM <i>Cultural Center</i>	<b>JUNE 24-28</b> GUARD CAMP <i>Color Guard Only</i>
<b>JULY 8-12</b> PERCUSSION CAMP <i>Percussion Only</i>	<b>JULY 8-10</b> LEADERSHIP TRAINING <i>Section Leaders</i>
<b>JULY 10-12</b> ROOKIE CAMP <i>All new members &amp; section leaders</i>	<b>JULY 15-19</b> BAND CAMP <i>Everybody</i>

[www.gsboebands.com](http://www.gsboebands.com)

This relay team of (L to R) Harrison Wright, Ethan Sharkey, Beck Montiel, and Mason Nettles just broke the school record in the 4x800 by over ten seconds.



Please recycle your Easter eggs! The Gulf Shores K-kids will take them. Drop off/send with your child GSES library or Wheelers karate. Thank you! 🐣

# Egg My House!

50 Eggs-	\$35
75 Eggs-	\$50
100 Eggs-	\$65

WHEELERS REALTY
 WHEELERS KARATE and JIU JITSU
 Waterfront Closing & Title



Congratulations to our ACTE Regional Fair winners! Priscilla Silva received 1st place in web design block coding. Ana Guerra received 2nd place in web design manual coding. They will be competing in the ACTE State Fair at the University of Montevallo. Let's wish them good luck!



Having fun with friends on the GSES playground!

At GSMS, we cannot wait for you to stop by to see all of the progress your student has achieved this year! You received an email with a signup link from the school so make sure to sign up!

**GULF SHORES  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

# STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

6th Grade - 4/29  
7th Grade - 4/30  
8th Grade - 5/1

**30 MIN SLOTS**  
SEE WEBSITE TO SIGN UP

Student-Led conferences provide a unique opportunity for your child to take ownership of their learning journey and showcase their progress to you, the parents. They will share their reflections on their academic performance, extracurricular activities, and personal development throughout the school year. We believe that involving students in the conference process empowers them to become more accountable for their learning and fosters a deeper understanding of their strengths and areas for improvement. We look forward to seeing you and your child at the Student-Led Conferences.

@gshsbaseball Coach Jacks and his senior baseball players attended the @mygulfcoastchamber First Friday Forum yesterday to network and learn about our community. Thank you to @kray413 for hosting them and providing this great leadership opportunity!



Alexandra celebrates reaching 100 points in iReady! She is up to 75 in Math with a goal of reaching 100 before the end of the school year. This 2nd grader is all about "Beginning with the End in Mind"!



We are excited about our 8th grade happening this month!

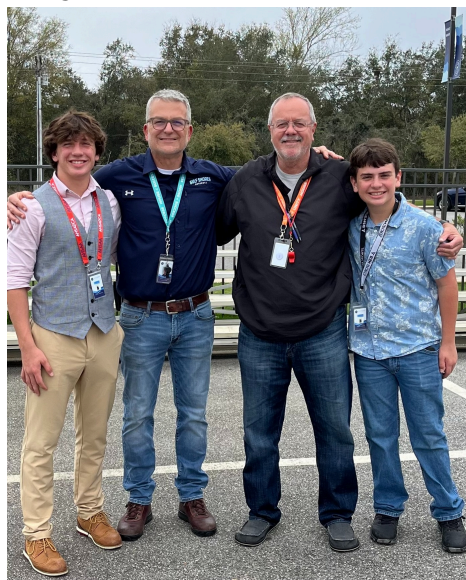


GSMS Band is excited to start planning for the next season! Parents mark your calendar!





The Steffek brothers at GSMS gave our admin a little bit of a break by taking over their duties. From teacher observations to making sure the halls were clear after the bell rang, they kept the school running smoothly during their overtaking!



A Taste of Child Nutrition: Food Tasting Day "The Latin Way"! Tanya Hill and the CNP team even went out in carline to deliver some samples!

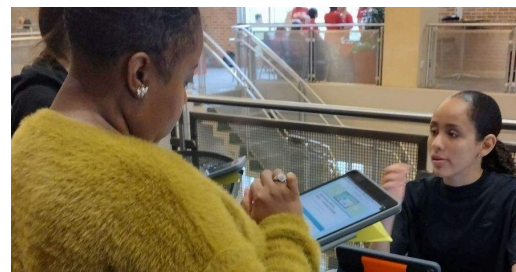


Thank you, [Kiwanis Club of Gulf Shores](#) for your generous donation to this year's Island Special Olympics! We appreciate all you do to support children in our community!





Several of our students at GSMS competed in the Alabama Consortium Technology in Education Regional Fair at the University of South Alabama. The students completed projects in different areas of technology in Ms. Brewer's Computer Science class. They competed against schools from 5 different countries in Southwest Alabama. We are so proud of these students and how well they represented our school and community!



With his sights set on the Coast Guard, [Gulf Shores](#) state champion swimmer Liam Bickham is getting his feet wet with the [Gulf Shores Beach Rescue](#) unit. In his second week on the job, he recorded his first four saves in one shift. As the [Dolphin](#) senior continues to rely on his training while running toward danger instead of away from it, Bickham feels that's just part of life.

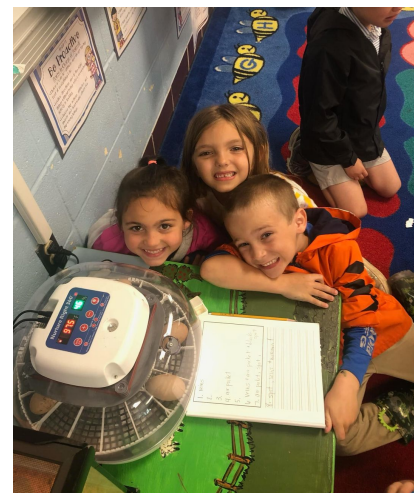
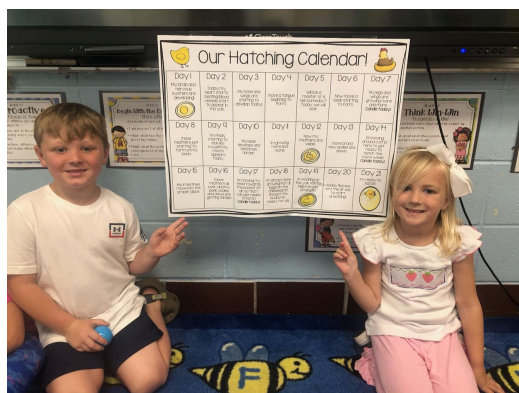
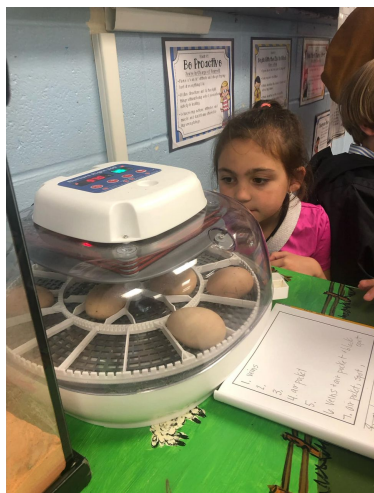


GSMS boys soccer season came to an end this weekend after advancing to the semifinal round of the annual St Luke's Tournament. The boys finished their season with a 8-2-2 overall record! We are so proud of the boys and all of their hard work! Go Dolphins!





Exciting things are happening at GSES in Mrs. Taylor's kindergarten!! The students are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our chicks!! 15 days left to watch them grow!!



Mrs. Shoemaker and her kids at GSES had a great trip to Alligator Alley today! The students were polite, kind, and represented GSES very well. It was an exciting day learning about alligators and their habitat!





## Coffee With The Counselors

Mark your Calendars! The next Coffee with a Counselor Series will take place April 30th and May 1st on all 3 campuses! Please see the flyers for details and contact information!



**COFFEE WITH THE COUNSELOR**  
GULF SHORES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
MAY 1, 8:45 A.M.

### Preventing the "Summer Slide"

**DEFINITION OF SUMMER SLIDE:**  
THE TENDENCY FOR STUDENTS TO LOSE SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENT GAINS THEY MADE DURING THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR.

Our Instructional Coaches will provide tips, websites, and other resources for families to help your student thrive academically this summer and arrive prepared for success in August!

**QUESTIONS?**  
Contact Sara Parker,  
Mental Health Coordinator  
at [sparker@gsboe.org](mailto:sparker@gsboe.org)

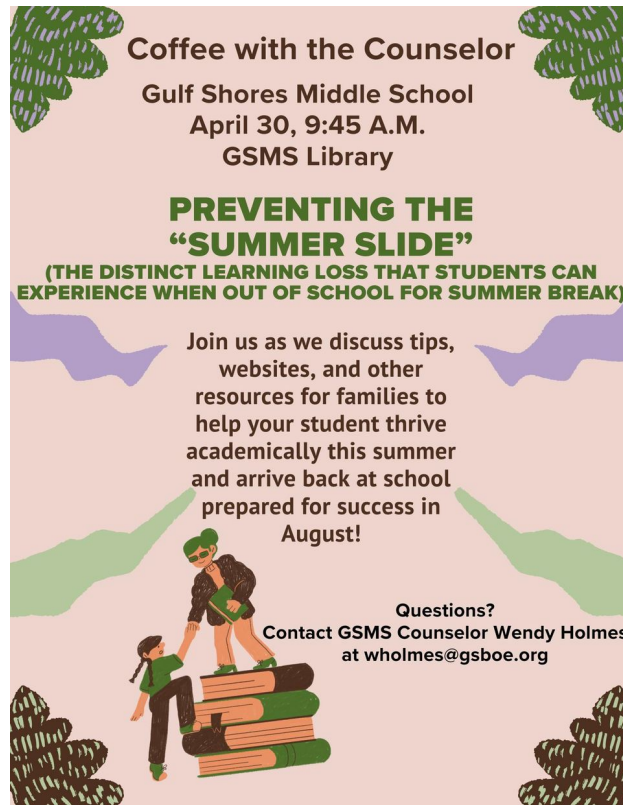
**Coffee with the Counselor**  
Gulf Shores Middle School  
April 30, 9:45 A.M.  
GSMS Library

### PREVENTING THE "SUMMER SLIDE"

(THE DISTINCT LEARNING LOSS THAT STUDENTS CAN EXPERIENCE WHEN OUT OF SCHOOL FOR SUMMER BREAK)

Join us as we discuss tips, websites, and other resources for families to help your student thrive academically this summer and arrive back at school prepared for success in August!

**Questions?**  
Contact GSMS Counselor Wendy Holmes  
at [wholmes@gsboe.org](mailto:wholmes@gsboe.org)



**COFFEE WITH THE COUNSELOR**  
**MAKING THE MOST OF SUMMER**

How to help your student maximize their summer to maintain (prevent the summer slide) and/or get ahead academically

The High School Counselors will be providing tips, websites, and other resources to help your student thrive academically this summer and arrive prepared for success in August!



**Join Us!**

April 30, 2024  
8:30 A.M.  
Gulf Shores High School



## Small Town, Big Garden

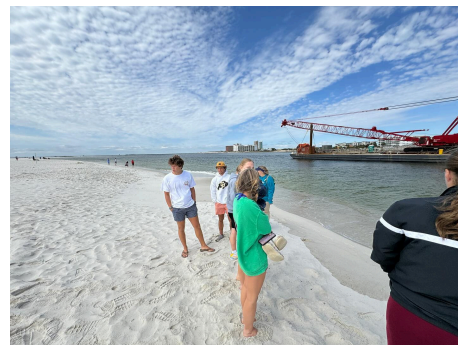
What an impressive event at Gulf Shores High School. Farm to table, recycling, composting, oyster, shell, recycling, organic farming, sustainability. Their dedication to our ecotourism will help these students thrive! Great things coming from this group!





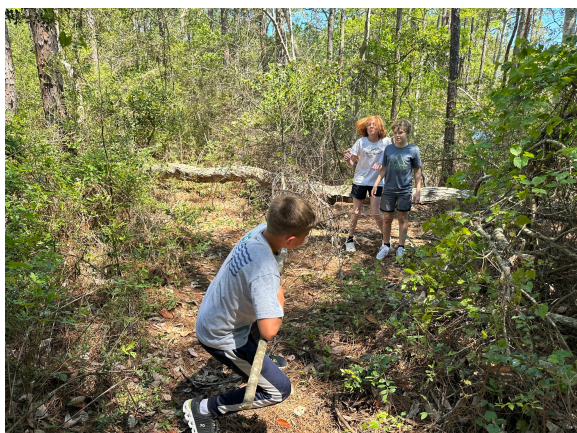
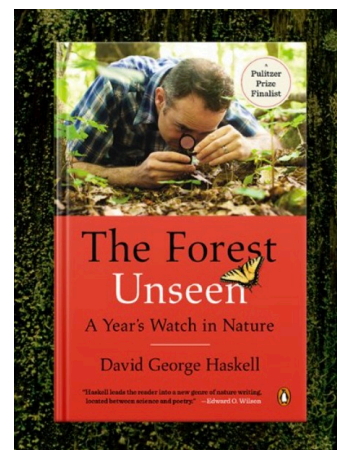
## GSHS: Scuba Team

The GSHS Scuba Team couldn't dive due to poor conditions, so [Down Under Dive Shop](#) planned an awesome day of learning—beach dive analysis, gear training (learned how to take apart and clean regulator and properly clean other gear), and a brief intro to nitrox (enriched air) diving—and provided a delicious lunch! Thank you so much, especially to Elizabeth, for being willing to work with our students! Special thanks to Mrs. Krista Fleming for helping with the trip and driving the bus!



## GSMS: Life Science with Schaff

Students listened to a chapter of biologist and author, David Haskell's *The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature*. They contemplated humans' consumption of resources and our need to protect our natural resources. They know that in order to protect something, it helps to love it. And in order to love something, they have to spend time getting to know it. So, students shared a place or time when they felt connected to nature. Then, they spent time creating and exploring new trails in our wetland forest.





# Invent Camp from the Inventor's Hall of Fame

Invent Camp from the Inventor's Hall of Fame is coming to Gulf Shores again this year!

SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY

Register at <https://www.invent.org/programs/camp-invention> or 800-968-4332

Grades: K - 6th (this is the student's current grade for 23-24)

Location: Gulf Shores Middle School 450 E 15th Ave, Gulf Shores, AL 36542

Date: July 8 - 12, 2024 Time & Cost: 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM \$270 (before discount)

Please send all questions to

Camp Director: Hilary McKinney [hmckinney@gsboe.org](mailto:hmckinney@gsboe.org)



## SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

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Grades: K - 6th

Location: Gulf Shores Middle School  
450 E 15th Ave, Gulf Shores, AL 36542

Date: July 8 - 12, 2024

Time & Cost: 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM | \$270 (before discount)

Camp Director: Hilary McKinney | [hmckinney@gsboe.org](mailto:hmckinney@gsboe.org)

This is limited to students in the Gulf Shores School District.

If these dates/times don't work for you, please visit [invent.org/camps](https://www.invent.org/camps) for other locations near you.



Scan to secure your spot today!



## GSES Summer Program



# GSES

## Summer

# PROGRAM

**REGISTRATION**  
4/1 - 7/2024



**MAY 29 - JUNE 28**



**LOTTERY ENROLLMENT DRAWING**  
4/10/24

**7:30AM - 5:30PM**




**\$675**  
\$575 if paid in full by 6/1/24  
\$50 Registration

### FUN & CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Math, Reading, Science, Art, Technology, Physical Activity, Environmental Education, and more!

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




# GSES

## Summer

# PROGRAM

## INFORMATION



- **TIME/LOCATION**
  - May 29 - June 28; Monday through Friday; 7:30am - 5:30pm; GSES Campus
- **REGISTRATION**
  - Space is limited. Registration is open April 1st at 8AM - April 7th at 8AM
  - Lottery drawing will be held at 4PM on April 10th.
  - If you are selected, a \$50 registration fee is due by April 12th.
  - Create an account on [www.EzChildTrack.com/GSBOE/Parent](https://www.EzChildTrack.com/GSBOE/Parent) to register.
- **FINANCIAL AID:** Can be requested during registration.
- **FOOD**
  - Breakfast will be served from 7:30-8. Lunch will be provided in the middle of the day, and a snack will be provided in the late afternoon. No other food will be provided.
  - All children need to bring a refillable water bottle daily.
- **CHECK IN/OUT**
  - Check in/out occurs in the GSES front lobby.
  - Check-in is from 7:30am until 9am. No check-ins are allowed after 9am.
  - Check-out must be done prior to 5:30pm.
  - Students are required to be checked in before 9am.
  - Due to the nature/location of some activities, there will be times students cannot be checked out, but you will be notified via Remind ahead of time.
- **CLOTHING**
  - Students are required to wear closed-toed shoes daily with clothing that allows for active play. Many activities will take place outside. School dress code must be followed.
- **ORIENTATION:** A mandatory parent orientation will be held virtually during the month of May.
- **GRADE(S):** This program is open to rising kindergarten through fifth grade students.

## GSVA: Board Game Day

K-6th grade GS Virtual Academy students enjoyed Board Game Day today at the Cultural Center. 4th grade student leader, Tristan Adams, did a fantastic job planning every part of this event and also provided the board games, prizes, treat bags and trophies! Thank you to all who came out for this fun, including our high school helper, Ava!



## GSHS: Lady Dolphin Basketball

The Lady Dolphins land three players on the 2024 Press-Register Coastal Alabama All-Region girls basketball team! Congratulations ladies!

**First Team:** Keyona Royal | Height: 5-foot-11 | Class: Junior | Position: Forward | The skinny: Royal was the inside force in Gulf Shores' run to the final four. She averaged 11.7 points and 9.6 rebounds per game and had 106 steals.

**Second Team:** Maya Griffin | Height: 5-foot-7 | Class: Senior | Position: Guard | The skinny: Griffin played a key role in leading the Dolphins to their first final four. As the team's point guard, she averaged 9.5 points, 2.4 rebounds and 3.3 assists for Brian Sexton's team. She also had 88 steals.

**Honorable Mention:** Maggie Myers | Height: 5-foot-7 | Class: Senior | Position: Guard



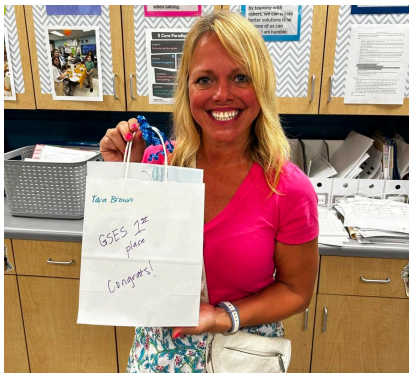
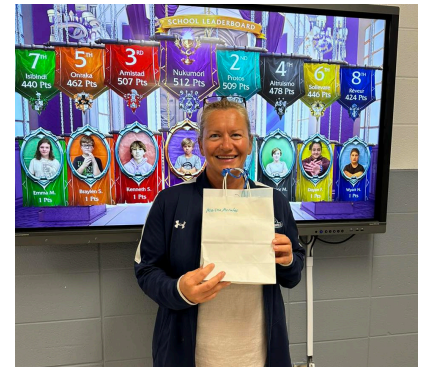


# Dolphin Walk Spring Challenge

Congratulations to the winners of the Dolphin Walk Spring Challenge! Teams from all 3 schools participated in a 5 week competition to get out and walk the school trails. The top winners from each school were Jeanette Hodge - GSHS, Ram Talantis- GSMS, and Tara Brown- GSES.

We want to give a special thank you to all of our amazing sponsors who donated prizes to all the winners. Thank you for supporting the health and wellness of our school community! These teachers are shining examples for our students.

The Dolphin Walk Challenge is an initiative of the Nutrition and Wellness Committee.



Kindergartners at GSES synergized at recess today to make a big leaf pile!



## **GSHS: Applied Design College-Preparatory Program**

Rising Freshmen and Parents/Guardians of Rising Freshmen:

Gulf Shores High School's Applied Design College-Preparatory Program applications are now open for the upcoming school year. Please click the link below to learn more about the program and requirements and apply if interested.

Contact Jessica Sampley with any questions: [jsampley@gsboe.org](mailto:jsampley@gsboe.org).

<https://gshs.gsboe.org/.../applied-design-college...>

# **Applied Design College-Preparatory Program**

**Rising Freshmen, applications are open for the Gulf Shores High School Applied Design College-Preparatory Program!**

The Applied Design College-Preparatory Program is:

- A four-year educational program in which all courses are infused with sustainability-focused design thinking and rigorous and engaging hands-on experiences.
- A learning model that promotes community, cohesion, and a culture of excellence.
- An authentic and transformative learning environment that encourages students to maximize their potential by engaging in meaningful project-based learning experiences, independent study, Advanced Placement courses, and internship opportunities.
- A focused curriculum in sustainability-based STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) with elective offerings designed to provide a strong educational foundation that will prepare students for success in a variety of career paths.

### **Entrance Requirements**

Students seeking admission to the Applied Design College-Preparatory Program must meet the following requirements to be considered:

- Completed online application by the deadline, Friday, April 26, 2024
- No lower than a B average in any courses in the 7th and 8th grades
- Completed accelerated math and honors core courses in 7th AND 8th grades with no lower than a B average

Must have:

- Teacher recommendations from three of student's current core teachers: math, science, social studies, English Language Arts
- Writing sample if selected to progress to the next step in the process

Also considered during the selection process:

- Standardized test scores
- Discipline record
- Attendance record

**Deadline to apply: Friday, April 26, 2024**

**Email Jessica Sampley with questions: [jsampley@gsboe.org](mailto:jsampley@gsboe.org)**

**Details can be found on the website and via email.**



## **GSCS: Vaccine Clinic - May 1st**

### **VACCINE CLINIC May 1, 2024**



Gulf Shores City Schools in cooperation with HNH Immunizations (Health Hero), will be offering a Spring Vaccine Clinic to our students. Health Hero is unable to vaccinate virtual school students. **The clinic will be held May 1, 2024**, and there is no charge for this service. If your child has Medicaid, All Kids, or private insurance, HNH will bill the insurance company for the vaccine. If your child is uninsured, the vaccine will be given free of charge. If your child is covered by PEEHIP – we cannot provide vaccinations for your child. We apologize for this inconvenience please contact PEEHIP at 1-877-517-0020.

Tdap- Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis: **Ages 11 and 12: REQUIRED FOR 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENTRY**

HPV- Human Papillomavirus: **Ages 11 and up**

MCV- Meningococcal. **Ages 11 and 12**

MCVB – Meningococcal B: **Ages 16 and up**

**Consent forms will be sent home with all 11- and 12-year-old 5<sup>th</sup> graders and may be requested at the middle school and high school by contacting the school nurse.**

Gulf Shores Middle: Jill Morgan 251-968-8719 or [jmorgan@gsboe.org](mailto:jmorgan@gsboe.org)

Gulf Shores High: April Barnett 251-968-4747 or [abarnett@gsboe.org](mailto:abarnett@gsboe.org)

**Your child will not receive any vaccinations without a completed consent form.**

**Completed consent forms must be returned to the school no later than April 24, 2024.**

# GSMS: Themed Camps

Registration has opened for our July Camps. Each week has different options for students so make sure to see all that is offered and click on the link below to sign up before all the spaces are filled!

<https://www.ezchildtrack.com/gsboe/parent/>

**GSMS  
THEMED CAMPS  
8AM - 12PM**

**WEEK 1: JULY 8 - 12**

**A World of Art**

Dive into a vibrant palette of creativity at our 'A World of Art' camp! Unleash your imagination as we journey through various mediums, crafting self-portrait collages, intricate zentangle dragonflies, capturing moments through photography, mastering the ancient art of Japanese tie-dyeing, and molding clay into decorative dishes. With each stroke and shape, you'll explore the depths of your artistic expression. Cap off your week with an Art Walk where proud parents can marvel at your masterpieces on display, showcasing the culmination of your artistic journey!

**Dip Your Toes into the Gulf of Mexico**

Get ready to dip your toes into the crystal-clear waters of the Gulf of Mexico! Embark on an immersive exploration of our coastal paradise as we delve into ocean zones, uncover fascinating habitats, and encounter the diverse species that call this stunning region home. From sandy shores to vibrant coral reefs, every splash unveils a new world of wonder and discovery. Let's dive in together and unlock the mysteries of our coastal ecosystem!

**SkateCraft: STEAM Skateboard**

Embark on a week-long adventure at our STEAM Skateboard Camp where students dive into the realms of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics to build their very own skateboards from scratch. From shaping the deck to engineering the trucks and wheels, participants will delve into the physics of balance and motion while exploring their creativity through custom grip tape designs. Once their creations are complete, campers hit the pavement to test their boards, mastering new tricks and conquering obstacles with the thrill of adrenaline-fueled excitement. Whether beginners or seasoned skaters, this camp promises a blend of learning and fun, fostering camaraderie and unforgettable experiences on wheels.

**SEE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO SIGN UP**

**GSMS  
THEMED CAMPS  
8AM - 12PM**

**WEEK 2: JULY 15 - 19**

**All Things Science**

Gear up for a whirlwind adventure through the wonders of science! From biology to earth science and everything in between, prepare to roll up your sleeves and dive headfirst into a series of mind-bending experiments. Grow plants, build contraptions, and even sample some daring culinary concoctions—all in the name of scientific exploration! With each discovery, you'll ignite a spark of curiosity and unleash the scientist within. Get ready to get messy, get curious, and get scienced!

**Calling All Readers**

Attention all bookworms and literary enthusiasts! It's time to bring your favorite stories to life in our Immersive 'Calling All Readers!' camp. Dive into the pages of your most cherished books as we create maps of fantastical worlds, craft costumes inspired by beloved characters, whip up delectable meals or snacks straight from the pages, and perhaps even embark on a thrilling literary field trip. Let your imagination run wild as we celebrate the magic of reading and storytelling together!

**RC Rev-Up: Build and Drive**

Gear up for a week of high-octane excitement at our RC Car Build and Drive Camp! Dive into the world of remote-controlled vehicles as you design, assemble, and customize your very own RC car from the ground up. Delve into the realms of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics as you learn about circuits, motors, gears, and aerodynamics. Unleash your creativity through custom paint jobs and personalized decals, then buckle up and hit the track as you race against fellow campers in thrilling competitions and obstacle courses. Whether you're a novice enthusiast or a seasoned pro, this camp offers an electrifying blend of hands-on learning and adrenaline-pumping fun that will leave you revved up for more!

**SEE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO SIGN UP**

**GSMS  
THEMED CAMPS  
8AM - 12PM**

**WEEK 3: JULY 22 - 26**

**Archeology and the Alabama Indian Canal**

Embark on a journey back in time to uncover the secrets of Gulf Shores' ancient past! Join us for a week of archaeological exploration as we delve into the fascinating history of the Mississippian Indians who once inhabited this very land. From ancient artifacts to sacred sites, each dig reveals a new chapter in our region's rich cultural heritage. Get your hands dirty and your minds engaged as we unearth the mysteries of the Alabama Indian Canal, connecting past and present in a thrilling archaeological adventure!

**Game On: Virtual Arena eSports**

Step into the virtual arena and level up your gaming skills at our eSports Camp! Get ready for a week-long gaming extravaganza where you'll dive into the worlds of Rocket League, Fortnite, League of Legends, and more, alongside thrilling virtual reality experiences. Whether you're a seasoned competitor or just starting out, our expert coaches will guide you through strategies, teamwork tactics, and individual techniques to help you dominate the digital battlefield. Engage in heart-pounding matches, hone your reflexes, and collaborate with fellow gamers in a supportive and immersive environment. With state-of-the-art equipment and cutting-edge technology at your fingertips, this camp promises an electrifying fusion of competition, camaraderie, and endless fun. Get ready to game like never before and unleash your inner champion!

**Live Your Best Life**

Get ready to embrace the power of wellness and live your best life at our energizing camp! Explore the fundamentals of nutrition, decode food labels like a pro, and uncover the secrets of how diet and exercise fuel your body and mind. From invigorating workouts to scenic walks and bike rides, each day is packed with opportunities to move, groove, and feel your best self. Get ready to unlock the keys to a healthier, happier you—and unleash your full potential!

**SEE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO SIGN UP**



## GSMS: EcoCamp

Registration for our EcoCamp opens up tomorrow so make sure you are ready to register your child for this amazing summer opportunity!



**GSMS**  
Alabama's 21<sup>st</sup> COCLAS  
Sustaining Beyond Expectations

# EcoCamp

**SUMMER CAMP 2024**

**MAY 29 - JUNE 28**

Monday - Friday  
8am - 12pm  
**NO COST**

Join us this summer at Gulf Shores Middle School for incredible summer opportunities! There will be STEAM experiences, fitness activities, academic support, and more. We have also partnered with Jean-Michel Cousteau's **Ambassadors of the Environment** to provide outdoor adventures such as kayaking, biking, hiking, and Oyster Farming. We look forward to seeing you there!

PROGRAM FOR RISING 6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADERS  
REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1, 2024

## Information

**How do I register?**  
Visit [www.EzChildTrack.com/GSBOE/Parent](http://www.EzChildTrack.com/GSBOE/Parent) > Click "Register" under New Parent Account and follow the prompts. Registration is only available online. Registration opens April 1st at 8am and closes April 30th at 3pm. **NO LATE REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED.** A mandatory parent meeting will be held virtually in May.

**Is there a fee?**  
There is **NO COST** for this camp. We do have limited spots available on a first come, first serve basis.

**Does my child have to attend daily?**  
While we understand illness and incidents occur, we do request students plan to attend the full camp experience.

**When and where will camp be held?**  
Camp is May 29 through June 28 - Monday through Friday - from 8am until 12pm daily. Drop off and check out will take place in the GSMS cafeteria. Activities will take place both on and off campus. We will spend a great deal of time at the Gulf State Park. Early pickup will not always be feasible.

**What about food, snacks, and drinks?**  
Students will be provided a breakfast each morning and lunch before leaving, but they are encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle each day. No additional food or drinks will be available.

**Check In & Check Out:**  
Students may be dropped off at the GSMS cafeteria where they can check themselves in. Check in takes place from 8am-8:30am each day. No early drop off is available. Parents must come into the cafeteria for checkout. You must checkout your child by 12pm. All students will be in the cafeteria by 11:45am for a speedy checkout process. Early checkout is rarely available due to activities.

**Clothing for camp:**  
Due to the nature of many activities, students will need closed toed shoes almost daily. All other clothing requirements will follow school dress guidelines. Students will be permitted to wear open toed shoes for water day activities.

**SEE THE PARENT HANDBOOK FOR SUMMER CAMP ON THE GSMS WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.**  
**EMAIL [BREEVES@GSBOE.ORG](mailto:BREEVES@GSBOE.ORG) WITH ANY QUESTIONS.**

## GSMS: Marketing Principles Class Trade Show

Dr. Hamilton's Marketing Principles class hosted a mock Trade Show today. Students were asked to identify a business idea that would benefit the greater Gulf Shores area. In completion of the assignment, students:

- ~ determined the name of the business
- ~ developed a motto/slogan
- ~ identified 2 services/products offered
- ~ established pricing of products/services (based on the local market pricing trends)
- ~ developed an advertisement that would appeal to the designated target market
- ~ developed a sales pitch
- ~ created a promotion for this Tradeshow

Winners from the event are as follows:

- ~ 1st Place: Giovanna Jones and Katherine Castanon
- ~ 2nd Place: Elisa Bruson and Eleanore Flaig
- ~ 3rd Place: Dylan Pruitt and Aiden Smalley





## GSHS: Golden Apple Award

We had some special guests from [WKRG](#) come to the high school to surprise Coach Boyd with the Golden Apple Award! Three of his students, Reece, Marina, and Addison nominated him and were able to be there when Bill Riales and sponsors presented the award. The piece will air later in April. Congratulations! Make Waves!



## GSMS: Turbo Dolphins

The race team is making their final preparations before loading the race trailer for the Toyota Classic in Huntsville!





## GSCS: Take the Tuesday Tour (High 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, April 16th from 9:00am -10:30am at Gulf Shores High 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: [Take The Tuesday Tour](#)



## Gulf Shores Groundbreaking Ceremony: New High School

Gulf Shores is taking a step forward for educational development in the region. The City of Gulf Shores, in partnership with Gulf Shores City Schools, is set to begin a new chapter with the groundbreaking ceremony of the Gulf Shores High School. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Gulf Shores High School will take place on April 26 at 10 a.m. at the construction site located at 21656 Coastal Gateway Blvd, Gulf Shores, AL, at the corner of Coastal Gateway Boulevard (County Road 8) and the Foley Beach Express.



## GSHS Gives Back & Shreve's Story

This is about as “feel-good” as it gets!

Several weeks ago, I emailed James Salvant with Gulf Shores High School about a possible project for their Center for Applied Design students to help [Shreve's Story - Finding a Cure for Ctnnb1](#). I was met with an enthusiastic “YES!!!!!!” and James and I messaged back and forth planning the initial details of the project.

I asked him if they could take our off the shelf toy bumper car and make modifications so that Shreve could easily use it to have some mobility around the house. As sold it has two joysticks that were pretty complicated to steer and use and obviously weren't going to work for her. A similar adaptive chair is \$3,000 and insurance won't cover it so this was a fun experiment for just 150 out of pocket.

Mr. Salvant and his students were very happy to take on the project as part of the Gulf Shores Give Back program. The team brainstormed and came up with multiple solutions to make the bumper car useable for Shreve. The students were able to use their 3D modeling skills using industry standard software to create multiple solutions for the project. Students used their prototyping equipment located in the Volker Center for Applied Design to 3D print custom controls for the bumper car. Students also used graphics printer to make stickers of Shreve's favorite TV personality, Ms. Rachel and put them on the bumper car.

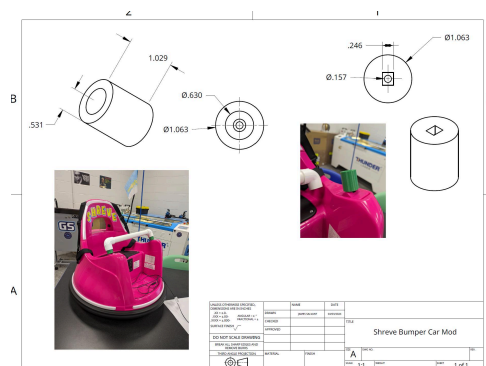
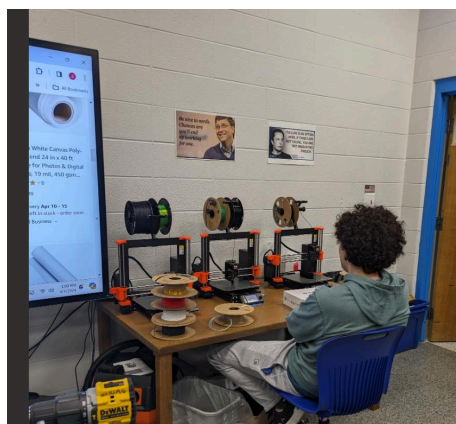
We came to Gulf Shores High School this afternoon to pick up the modified car and it was a huge hit with Shreve! She was able to move it forwards and backwards but I'll admit we need to work on her driving skills.

The students' design of only allowing the car to go forwards and backward with the ability replace the original joysticks at a later date was nothing short of genius. Shreve was all smiles when introduced to the car and had a blast driving it for the room full of students. She only almost took out about 3 of the robots in the ring.

Shown are pictures from meeting the students, a photo of Ben watching the 3D printers do their work, and some CAD drawings from their final design. The project was sponsored by James M. Salvant and the students involved were Lucas Pruett, Noah Tiffany, Ben Whatley and Jonnatan Batiz-Olivas.

My husband, Brenton, and I are so appreciative of their generosity and innovation to create a solution for our sweet Shreve. Thank you!

Please consider donating to help us find a cure for CTNNB1 Syndrome: <https://givebutter.com/hsC7RL>





## GSMS: 2024 Estuary Corps Program

Attention all 6th and 7th grade students and families: Mobile BayKeepers and Dauphin Island Sea Lab have partnered to create an awesome summer camp for students interested in marine and environmental sciences.

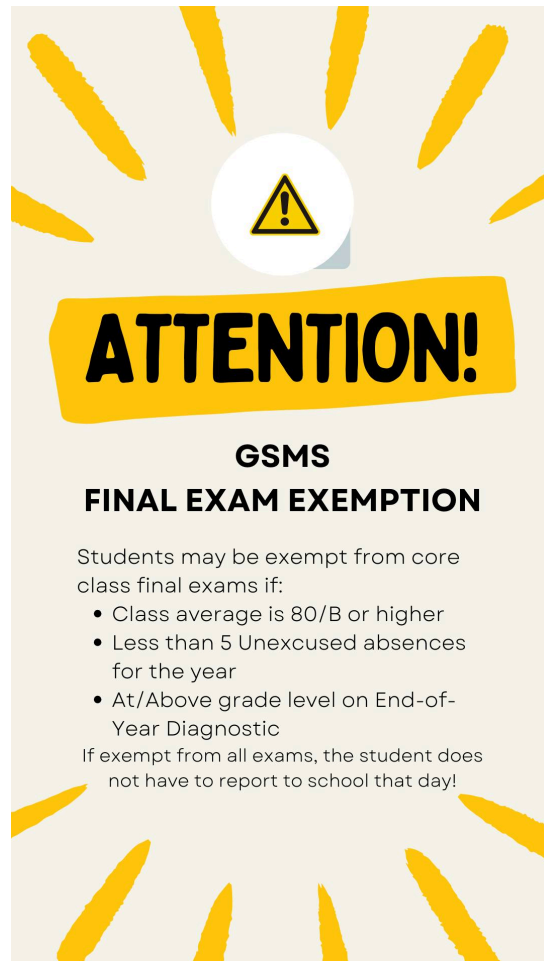
APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 26th... \$90 to participate all 3 days.

<https://www.joinacf.org/estuary-corps>

The following is the schedule for the 2024 Estuary Corps Program:

- **Day 1: Thursday, June 20** Students will learn about Alabama's pitcher plant bogs, Underwater Forest, participate in team building exercises, tour Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, and learn about the Mobile Bay Watershed.
- **Day 2: Friday, June 21** Students will be treated to the Wild Native's Dolphins and Wildlife Kayak Experience in Oyster Bay and then tour a water treatment plant.
- **Day 3: Saturday, June 22** Students will travel to Dauphin Island where they will board the Dauphin Island Sea Lab's *Alabama Discovery* vessel to explore the waters surrounding Dauphin Island. Next, they will return to the island to learn about initiatives centered around protecting our wildlife, including seagrass and sea turtles. The day will end with a graduation ceremony, which parents/guardians are invited to attend.

GSMS finals are quickly approaching! Students can be exempt from their finals but must meet all the qualifications listed here. Reach out to your teachers if you have any questions about their final.

A poster with a light beige background and yellow brushstroke-like rays emanating from the top and bottom. At the top center is a white circle containing a yellow warning triangle with a black exclamation mark. Below this is a large yellow banner with the word "ATTENTION!" in bold black capital letters. Underneath the banner, the text "GSMS" is in bold black, followed by "FINAL EXAM EXEMPTION" in bold black. A paragraph states: "Students may be exempt from core class final exams if:". This is followed by a bulleted list: "• Class average is 80/B or higher", "• Less than 5 Unexcused absences for the year", and "• At/Above grade level on End-of-Year Diagnostic". A final line reads: "If exempt from all exams, the student does not have to report to school that day!"

**ATTENTION!**

**GSMS**

**FINAL EXAM EXEMPTION**

Students may be exempt from core class final exams if:

- Class average is 80/B or higher
- Less than 5 Unexcused absences for the year
- At/Above grade level on End-of-Year Diagnostic

If exempt from all exams, the student does not have to report to school that day!

**Tuesday, April 24th is Kindergarten Registration!** We are so excited to welcome our new students and parents. Please remember, if your child is currently a PreK student at Gulf Shores Elementary, there is no need to come to registration day. Information will be sent out soon regarding enrolling current students for the upcoming school year. April 24th is strictly for new students coming to kindergarten at GSES. Please remember to bring your child with you as we will complete a brief screener with them while your paperwork is being completed. There are two timeframes in which you can attend. They are 8:30-11 and 12:00-2:30. You do not need an appointment. You just need to show up at some point during one of those timeframes. Please be sure that you have completed the 24-25 online registration beforehand (before 4/22/24). It can be accessed at <https://www.gsboe.org/login/enrollment-registration>. In addition, please be sure to bring the following as they will be turned into our registrar: birth certificate, immunization record, and 3 proofs of residency, which can also be uploaded during registration (1 of these must be lease/deed/mortgage), drivers license or official photo ID. If the student does not live with both parents, legal documents stating physical custody must be provided (Guardianship Documentation, Divorce Decree, Legal Guardianship, etc.)



**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



4/4 BOE: Work Session  
4/4 GSHS: Farm To Table Event  
4/11 BOE: Regular Meeting  
4/13 GSHS: Prom  
4/16 GSCS: Tuesday Tour (GSHS)  
4/18 GSMS: Read & Teach Concert  
4/18 GSHS: All Shook Up The Musical  
4/19 GSHS: All Shook Up The Musical  
4/19 GSCS: Earth Day Activities (GSMS Field)  
4/20 GSHS: All Shook Up The Musical  
4/21 GSHS: All Shook Up The Musical  
4/23 GSHS: Senior Awards Ceremony  
4/24 GSES: Kindergarten Registration (new students only)  
4/26 GSHS: Ground Breaking For New GSHS  
4/26 GSMS: 6th/7th Grade End of Year Masquerade  
4/27 GSMS: 8th Grade Banquet  
4/30 GSMS: NJHS Inductions  
4/30 GSHS: Coffee With The Counselors  
4/30 GSMS: Coffee With the Counselor  
5/1 GSES: Coffee with the Counselor

## 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  
TBA - 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

