ISSUE 7 JULY 2024

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 hope you and your family had a wonderful and relaxing summer! Many students were engaged throughout the summer in various camps that were held on campuses at GSCS. As we are quickly approaching the beginning of school, please make sure you have completed your child's registration. They will not receive their teacher assignment or schedule until it has been completed. If you have any questions about summer assignments or registration for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year, please contact your child's school. We look forward to seeing our students on August 8th. We are looking forward to an exciting school year with participation from our students, employees, parents and community members. Stay informed of the many activities and events coming in August on the district and school website calendars. MakeWaves!

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

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL

VIRTUAL ACADEMY



Health & Wellness



Athletics



Arts Education



Teaching & Learning



GSHS Athletic Trainers attended the National Athletic Trainers Association Convention in New Orleans, LA! NATA celebrated 75 years with hundreds of it's members! It was an amazing event, as always. Never stop learning, networking, and perfecting your craft, but more importantly, never forget where it all started



What a HUGE success we had at GSVB Kids Camp this year! So many new faces and so much growth in our short time together this summer! Not only did we develop in skill but in our love and appreciation for this awesome sport. Gulf Shores volleyball planted many new seeds out in our community and we can't wait to see you all again this fall as we open up our season in the Tank!



We are thankful for teachers who spend their time off attending trainings to bring back knowledge to our GSMS faculty and students! Coach B. Adams, Mrs. Kirby, Mrs. Redden, Mrs. Moore, and Mr. Schaff attended the A+ College Ready training in Trussville, Alabama.



2024 FCCLA National Leadership Conference! Seattle!!







In Summer WAVE Chemistry of Flood- students learned about the 4 molecules of life and how they are connected to the food that we eat—amino acids, carbohydrates, proteins and lipids.
In the kitchen, they experienced the chemistry of making pasta from scratch for a pasta carbonara and homemade lasagna with fresh ricotta and tomato sauce enhanced with fermented tomato water.







O-HI-O!
Big congrats to Marc Stephens (GS Dolphins Class of 2022) on his commitment to play baseball at Ohio State! We are so proud of you! Keep Making Waves!



GSHS teachers, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Lowell traveled to Kansas City, Missouri to attend the AP Reading Workshop. These two women spent 7 days of their summer reading AP exams and gaining valuable information to bring back to their students. Mrs. Jones read for AP PreCal and Mrs. Lowell read for AP



Camp Dolphin is for all rising freshmen and their parents. It is a time to meet as a whole group and become familiar with the high school and then allow students to follow their first semester schedule before their first day of high school! We are looking forward to meeting all of you!





Congratulations to Rayla Pierce on her first place finish at the Jimmy Green Tournament at Lakewood County Club! Go Dolphins

Gulf Shores High School environmental science teacher Krista Fleming is one of only nine educators in the country to be recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for her immersive environmental science curriculum.

Fleming has spearheaded initiatives aimed at fostering environmental stewardship among her students. One of her notable projects is the oyster gardening unit, developed in collaboration with Dennis Hatfield, President of Little Lagoon Preservation Society. Students learn to care for and raise oysters for restoration purposes in Mobile Bay, where 90% of the oyster population has been decimated by overharvesting, pollution and disease.

Fleming and her students also began conducting small-scale population samples. Instead of counting every oyster in all 16 cages, which would take too long, they took samples from clusters and extrapolated the data to estimate the total oyster population they were raising on the pier. This approach taught students how scientists make population estimates in the field.



“Kolin Wilson and Blaize Thomas represented Gulf Shores well today and are primed to lead the Dolphins this fall!”
- Coach Hud



MAKE WAVES!

TUESDAY AUGUST 6TH 5:30 P.M.

MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE TANK (MAIN GYM).

SENIOR CLASS PARENT MEETING

CLASS OF 2025

PARENT MEETING

A time for parents to speak with our senior sponsor, senior counselor, and media specialist to have questions answered.

QUESTIONS EMAIL: ESENKBEIL@GSBOE.ORG



Take a look at our Reach and Teach guitar from our first student planned and led concert from last school year at GSMS! Students submitted different designs and our teachers voted on this winning design. We can't wait for this year's concert!



GSMS summer campers had a chance to work with Mr. Prince to produce skateboards! Every step of this production is done by the students from start to finish!









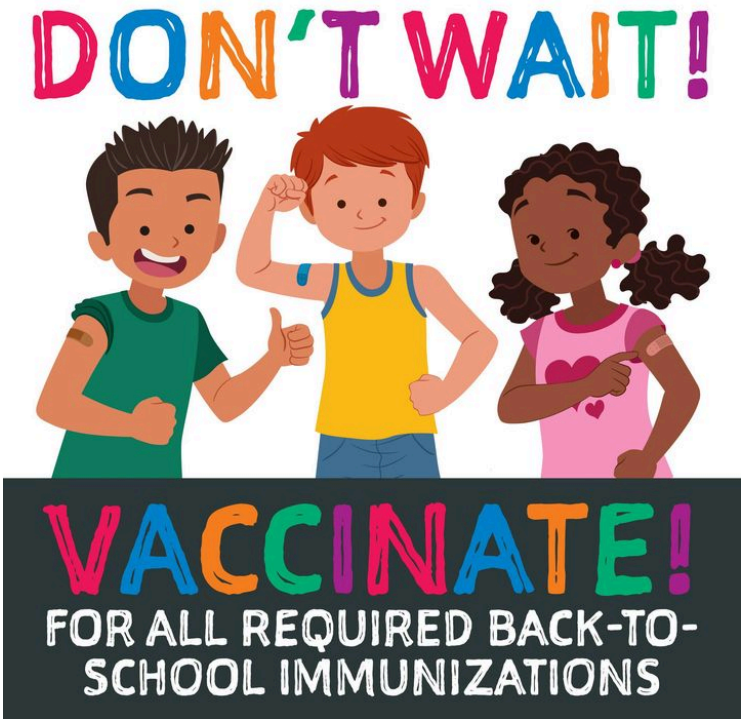
Congratulations to Rayla Pierce on Runner-up at Jimmy Green Golf Tour Championship! Rayla also finished 2nd in the girls Jimmy Green Summer Tour!



Last Wednesday campers took a field trip to the Gulf State Park where they met with archaeologists Rachel Hines from USA. After learning about artifacts and the archaeological process, they conducted a pedestrian survey to look for evidence. They explored the Gulf Shores Museum and participated in an escape room to learn about Spanish explorers turned ship builders in Bon Secour in the early 1500s.



Back-to-school immunization clinic will be July 29 , July 30, August 6, August 7, and August 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Baldwin County Health Department. Please bring all insurance cards and the most recent shot record. If legal guardian is able to bring child, please bring a notarized medical authorization from parent or legal guardianship documents. For more information, please call 251-947-1910.



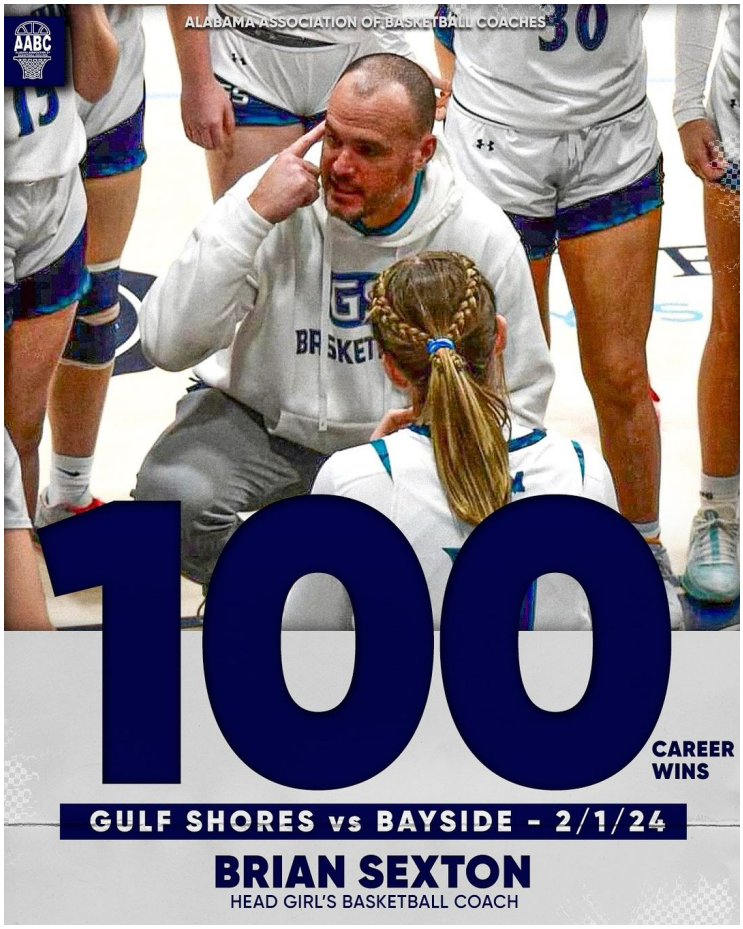
Dolphin sighting at the beach today! GSHS Football getting ready for the beginning of the 2024 season!



Congratulations to Rayla Pierce on winning the Jimmy Green Southern Fairways Tournament at Heron Lakes!



Before the 2024-2025 year officially begins, the Alabama Association of Basketball Coaches wanted to reflect and recognize coaches throughout the state who are apart of the Century Club.
Brian Sexton secured his 100th career win this year when Gulf Shores Girls Basketball faced off with Bayside #AABCCenturyClub





GSHS Coach Owen Corcoran at the Gilder Lehrman Summer Institute at Historic Gettysburg College. Coach Corcoran learned about the role of sports in America History and American Culture. He also spent time on the battlefield; retracing the steps of Pickett's Charge and visiting the site of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. He look forwards to sharing his experiences and knowledge with his students and colleagues this fall!



Congratulations to Rayla Pierce for competing in the 2024 North South Allstar Game!



Congratulations to GSVA student, Josh Blair for making southeastern cuts in the 50 & 100 breast and 200 IM. Josh swam the 100 breast today and swam a strong swim. Great job representing GSST.





CTE Lab in Health Science Summer WAVE students and HOSA members along with Chemistry of Foods students went for a day trip to Auburn University. These future health professionals enjoyed a two-hour personal tour of the College of Nursing. Nursing faculty and students provided insight into life as a nursing student, healthcare simulation labs, and an ER-simulated escape room! Mrs. Murphy was pleased with their 26-minute break-out time!









Our Summer WAVE Chemistry of Food students, along with Chef Jon and Coach Hill, were given a tour of the Rane Culinary Science Center at Auburn University today. The state of the art facility included multiple laboratories for culinary, pastry, and brewing science; as well as exhibition classrooms for wine appreciation, distilled beverages, and culinary. They finished on the roof top garden with fruit, vegetables, and flowers which is utilized by the students in the fine dining restaurant, 1856, and attached Laurel Hotel & Spa. Through this tour, students were shown a multitude of possible career paths in the culinary and hospitality industries.









Back To School At GSES



All Athletes Participating in Sports at GSCS

Any student participating in a sport for the 2024-2025 school year must complete the participation and concussion form electronically on DragonFly. This is a new and updated form. If it was signed for the 2023-2024 school year, it will have to be completed again before students can participate in their sport.



Free Breakfast and Lunch For All Students

Gulf Shores City Schools has been approved by the State of Alabama Child Nutrition Department to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for breakfast and lunch.

What does this mean?

- All students may eat breakfast and lunch at no charge.
- If money is past due on your child's account, please pay it.
- Only one free breakfast and lunch will be allowed daily. If your child selects a second breakfast, second lunch, or extra choices available in the lunchroom, your child will be charged.

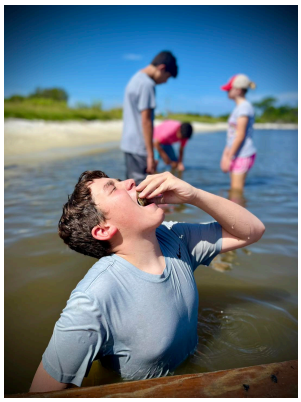
Parents or guardians who need further information may contact Tanya Hill, Child Nutrition Program Director, thill@gsboe.org.



Summer Camp at GSMS

Our Summer Camp wrapped up on Friday and they had a great last week! On Thursday, campers made pottery similar to that of the indigenous peoples. Their last day was spent on a fantastic field trip to Navy Cove Oyster Farm. Campers learned all about oysters and the farming industry. They even tasted fresh oysters straight from the cage!











GSES: Camp Invention

We're becoming inventors at Camp Invention! Students are learning how to use a Phillips head screwdriver, wire an LED circuit, design an arcade game, and prototype a different invention every day. We're also learning about the people who invented things like LED lights. Coach Shaw is leading some fun games to teach teamwork during our brain breaks!









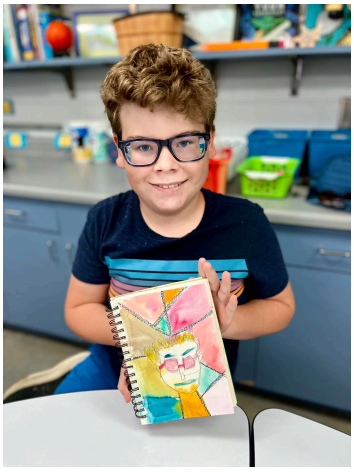




GSMS Art Camp

Campers are having a great time at Art Camp! They used watercolors to paint a sunset and created a cubist piece. They drew a neighbor's portrait BUT they couldn't pick up their pencil or look at the paper! It was quite entertaining to watch these artist handle the challenge!



Dolphin Golfer Evelyn Lamar

Good luck to Dolphin Golfer Evelyn Lamar as she is competing in the Optimist International World Championship at Trump National! There are 28 countries participating in the event.





Back To School Fun At The Beach!

S'mores on the Shore set for August 1!

Campfires, music and s'mores will be the scene as the City of Gulf Shores hosts S'mores on the Shore on Thursday, August 1. The fun is set to begin at 6 p.m. and will take place at Gulf Place, 101 Gulf Shores Parkway.

This family-friendly event will include free s'mores packets, a live DJ, a balloon artist, face painting, and more. Families are encouraged to bring their blankets, chairs, and friends and relax on the beautiful, white sand of the Gulf Shores Public Beach.

"We are thrilled to offer this special event to our community," said Recreation & Cultural Affairs Director Grant Brown. "S'mores on the Shore is the perfect opportunity to create lasting memories with friends and family. We encourage everyone to come out, enjoy delicious s'mores, and take part in the exciting activities we have planned!"

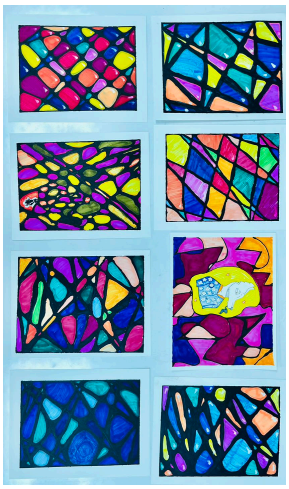
For more information about S'mores on the Shore, contact the Special Events Division at 251-968-1171 or visit www.gulfshoresal.gov/specialevents.



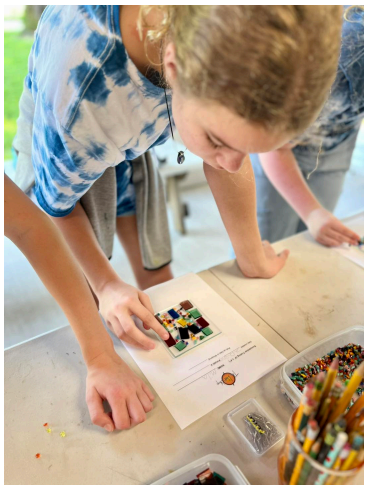
GSMS: Art Camp

Our artists are still dreaming about all of their creations from Art Camp! Take a look at some of their projects. They created watercolor snails, potted plants, and geometric bubbles. They tested out new techniques when they worked on their cloud transformations and polymer clay pottery! They even used magazines to work on the art of collages. They ended the exciting week by taking a field trip to the Coastal Art Center in Orange Beach. After a glass blowing demo, they got to make their own glass sun catchers!



















GSCS: Managing Crisis Safely

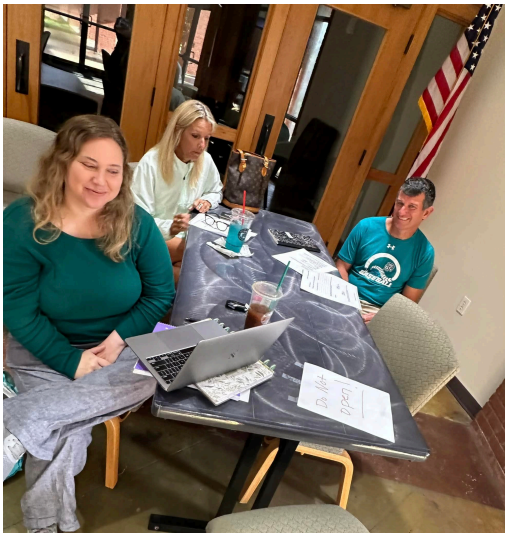
Teachers and staff participated in managing crisis safely training. Thanks to Mr. McCrory and Coach Goff for their leadership.











GCMSportsAL Media Day

@HailStateFB RB commit Kolin Wilson and SR Safety Carter Byrd represented the Dolph1ns yesterday at the @gcmsportsal Media Day!



GSHS: ALACTE Summer Conference

GSHS CTE teachers, Caroline Hamilton and Jennifer Murphy, and GSCS Academies and CTE Director, Jessica Sampley joined Alabama Career & Technical educators, counselors, career coaches, and administrators in Mobile this week for the annual ALACTE Summer Conference. Educators around the state are gearing up for the upcoming school year.
“We are bridging the gap between Career and Technical Education (CTE) with business and industry.” - Alabama ACTE Vision







GSHS: Camp Dolphin 9th Grade Orientation

Attention Freshmen! Camp Dolphin is next Monday, August 5. at 5:30 in the Tank (gym). Bring your parents and get ready to learn a little about GSHS and then walk the halls to find where your classes are.





8/1 BOE: Work Session 4:00pm
8/1 GSCS: Back To School Fun at the Beach: S'mores on the Shore! 6:00pm
8/2-7 GSCS: PD/Teacher Work Day
8/5 GSCS: Institute Day
8/5 GSES: PreK Orientation 5:30pm
8/5 GSHS: Camp Dolphin 9th Grade Orientation 5:30pm
8/6-7 GSHS: Senior Portraits
8/6 GSES: Meet The Teacher
(Last Name A-H 2:30-3:30pm)
(Last Name I-P 3:30-4:30pm)
(Last Name Q-Z 4:30-5:30pm)
8/6 GSHS: Senior Parent Meeting 5:30pm
8/7 GSCS: Bus Driver Recertification Class 8:00-2:00
8/8 GSCS: **First Day of School**
8/8 BOE: Regular Session Meeting 5:00pm
8/13 GSMS: Open House 5:00pm
8/16 GSMS: Back-To-School Dance
8/20 GSHS: Jostens Senior Supplies Meeting 11:00-12:00
8/22 GSES: Spirit Night (Tacky Jacks)
8/27 GSHS: Senior Supplies Orders Due 11:00-12:00
8/29 GSMS: Fall Pep Rally

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

The 2024-2025 school year begins on August 8th. Have you registered to become a Dolphin? Now is the time! MakeWaves!

2024-2025 Registration

Connect With Us:

Matt Akin - Superintendent
Stephanie Harrison - Assistant Superintendent
Sandi Harris - Office Manager
Chad Green - CSFO
Marcelina Speller - Human Resource Coordinator
Chezley Neth - Data Management & Reporting Analyst
Jason Watts - Athletic Director
Joey Drews - Director of Educational Technology & Student Support Services
Beau Roode - Director of Operations
Sonya Price - Director of Exceptional Education
Carrie Barragan - English Second Language
Tanya Hill - Child Nutrition Program Coordinator
Randall Carlisle- Student Engagement, Transportation and Safety Coordinator
Jessica Sampley - Career Tech Coordinator
Karen Pearson - District Testing Coordinator
Sara Parker - Mental Health Coordinator

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

Connect with GSCS

Joe McAleer-Social Media