ISSUE 8 AUGUST 2024

The MakeWaves Monthly

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



Superintendents' Message

Welcome back to school! As we conclude the first month of the new school year, we wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work as parents and teachers. It has been incredibly energizing to witness our schools come alive once again with the smiling and excited faces of our exceptional faculty, staff, eager students and parents. Our commitment to creating a positive, engaging and personalized learning environment is truly inspiring, and it sets the tone for what promises to be an exciting and fulfilling year ahead. As we embark on this journey together, we are genuinely looking forward to the rest of the school year and the countless opportunities for growth, learning, and shared accomplishments that lie ahead. Let's continue to work hand in hand to provide our students with the best possible education and support, fostering an environment where they can thrive and reach their full potential. Here's to a fantastic school year filled with achievements, laughter, and memorable moments! If you have not already, MakeWaves and download our new Gulf Shores City Schools Mobile App (located in Apple and Android Stores).

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

We are so grateful for people like Scott and Tyrone and who work the City of Gulf Shores for keeping our school grounds so beautiful!



Our GSMS Congratulations to Mrs. Krista Fleming! She received the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators today in Washington, DC! We are so grateful to her for all the opportunities she provides for our students and the impact she has on our community, region, and state!teachers ended their summer two days early so they could attend a Marzano training this a week! Our amazing community showed up to make sure they had the fuel to take it all in.



Congratulations to Mrs. Krista Fleming! She received the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators today in Washington, DC! We are so grateful to her for all the opportunities she provides for our students and the impact she has on our community, region, and state!



Coach Shaw was finally able to present the 2024 AHSAA 5A Wrestling State Champions Tia Titi and Landon Everett with their championship rings today!



There's no "I" in TEAM! Your 2024 Gulf Shores Dolph1ns!



GSCS Academies and CTE Director, Jessica Sampley, attended a meet and greet with Michelle Kruger, President of Austal USA, this morning. Alabama State Representatives, Frances Holk-Jones and Donna Givens, were also in attendance with the Gateway Initiative and other Baldwin County business and industry leaders. Coach Sampley had the opportunity to discuss several potential partnerships thanks to this great event hosted by the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance.



Starting off STRONG in Sports Medicine!! Intermediate and Advanced Sports Medicine students are preparing for Skills Checkoff Roulette where they draw a hands-on skill out of a hat from their previous class and complete it with a patient! Fundamentals completed their ATR Scavenger Hunt today to familiarize themselves with the athletic training room and sports medicine supplies!! The fun has just begun!



GSHS: GS Gateway to Great Careers Industry Tours

We are happy to announce the dates for our monthly GS Gateway to Great Careers Industry Tours! Students in grades 10-12 who are interested in attending a tour MUST complete the below linked Google Form to be considered. We have a cap of 30 students per tour, so the available spots are limited and competitive. Once selected for a tour, students are required to complete and submit a field trip permission form.
These tours will provide students with great insight into what opportunities are available locally and regionally in each industry sector. There is no cost attached to the tours—lunch will be provided. Please scan the QR code and complete the form to be considered. The deadline to complete the form is Wednesday, 8/21. You will receive notification after this date to confirm your spot on any tours.

https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLScx9n4V.../viewform...









WHO: GSHS Sophomores and Juniors

PSAT/NMSQT

WHEN: Thursday, October 24th

HOW: Register with Mrs. Everett by September 9th.

COST: $14

WHY: Jrs./Sophs interested in preparing for the SAT or in the National Merit Scholars Program should consider taking the PSAT/NMSQT

Listen out for tutoring opportunities. More Information can be found at NATIONALMERIT.ORG

Let me introduce you to your GSHS 2024-2025 Sports Medicine student training team!



Stamina: doing something for a long time without giving up!
Mrs. Grant's Kindergarten class is practicing building their reading stamina, an important skill to grow strong brains and become successful little readers!



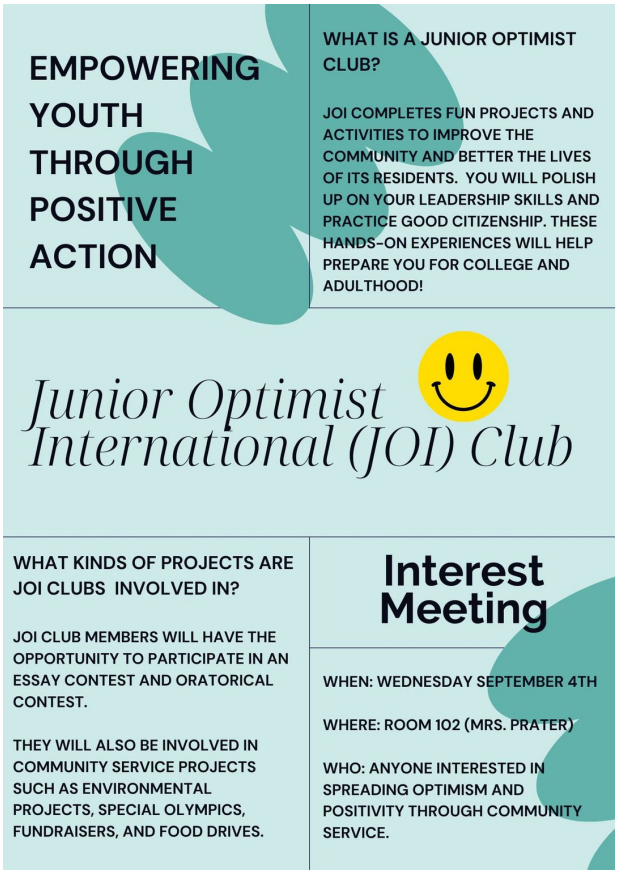
Planting for Protection 2024 (Dunes Restoration) mentors recognition ceremony at GSMS!

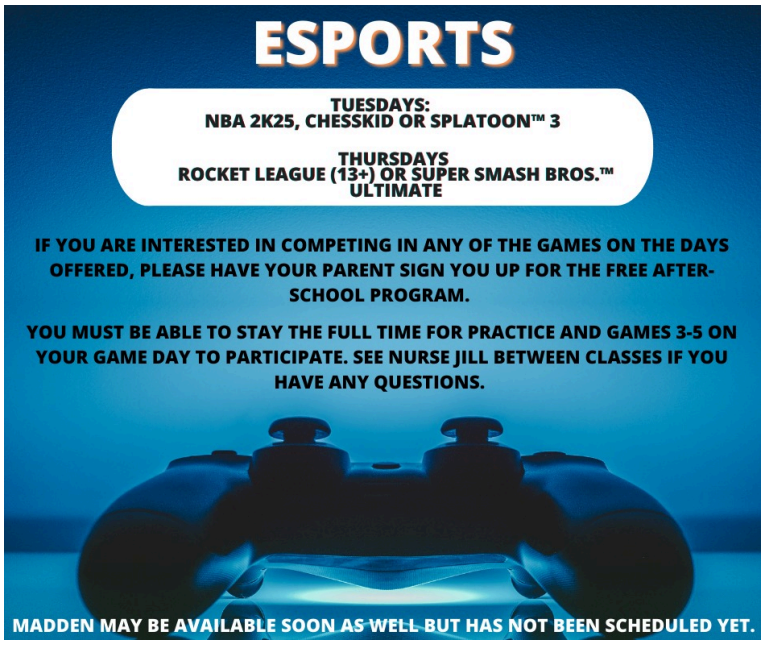


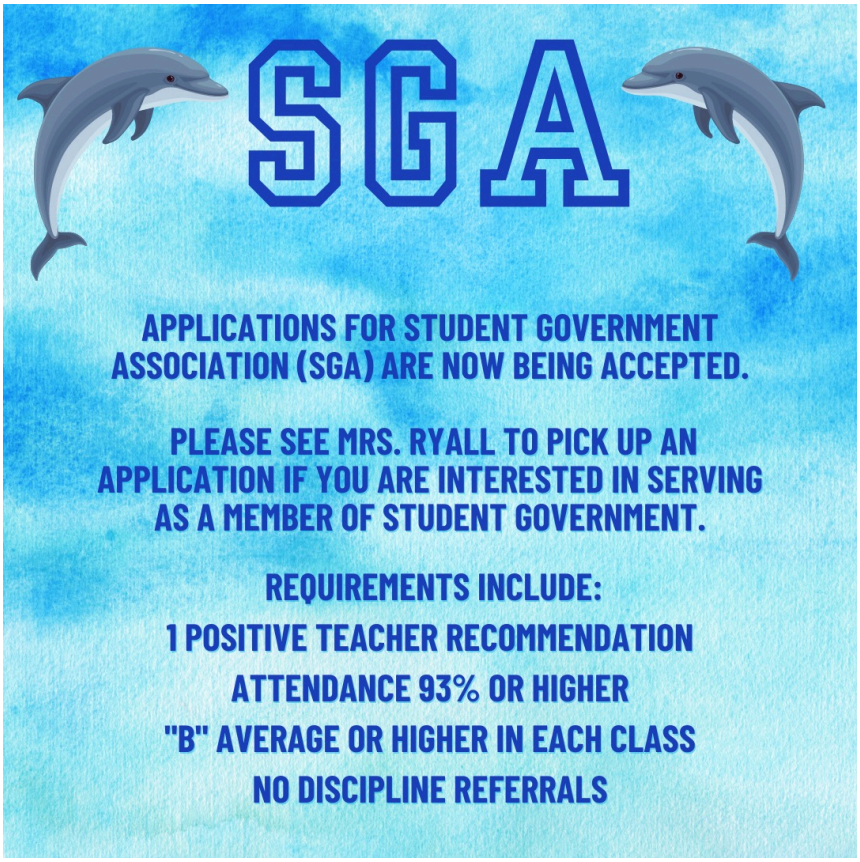
Students at GSMS had their first Aviation Simulator class with Cody! Lots of excitement already and we are so thankful for Cody for coming and teaching the next generation.



Clubs Available at GSMS







Some of our Science classes at GSMS left the classroom for a little educational spin! This was their first bike ride of the school year.



Our Blessing Box is in front of the GSES school and families visit it often. If you are grocery shopping and would like to pick up one or two nonperishable items, you can have your student add them to the box



Time to Fear the Fin with the GSHS band!



Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Dempsey, and Mrs. Lowell at GSHS always show the most school spirit!



Mr. Prince's 6th graders at GSMS have completed the gluing process and are now shaping their skateboards!



Mr. Reetz's sixth-grade math classes at GSMS used some recently donated whiteboards to help students better understand how to use tape diagrams to find equivalent ratios. The students rotated through the six stations, solving each of the problems. Then, each group wrote their answers on their corresponding large whiteboard and presented them to the whole class. The students enjoyed getting to take their learning out of the desks and classroom!





Do you enjoy running, riding bikes, and climbing rock walls? If you answered yes, then Cross Trainers Club may be for you! The club meets on Mondays and Thursdays from 3-4 pm, and members participate in activities like those listed above. It's a great way to keep your fitness levels up when your favorite sports are in their off-season. Interested students can pick up paperwork from Mrs. Holmes in the counselor's office or Mr. Reetz in Room 108. Cross Trainers is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. We will be starting soon, so get signed up now!





Exciting times are ahead at GSMS in Ms. Weaver's Media class! Our Media staff members have been diving into the technology and programs they'll be using throughout the year, and they're already off to a fantastic start. From learning the ins and outs of photography to designing graphics for social media, they've got it all covered. Stay tuned because we have a lot of incredible student-led projects headed your way!

Students in Ms. Pitts's Honors Economic class debated the pros/cons of different economic markets & then went on to create their own post-apocalyptic society based on one of those markets.



GSCS: MakeWaves Benefit

Please show your support for The Dolphin Foundation for Education and Arts at The Make Waves Benefit on September 27th! Please email director@thegsdf.org with any questions!



Our first full week of Zooms in the Virtual Academy were wonderful and we are ready to Make Waves at GSVA! Pictured are our newest students - five kindergarteners!

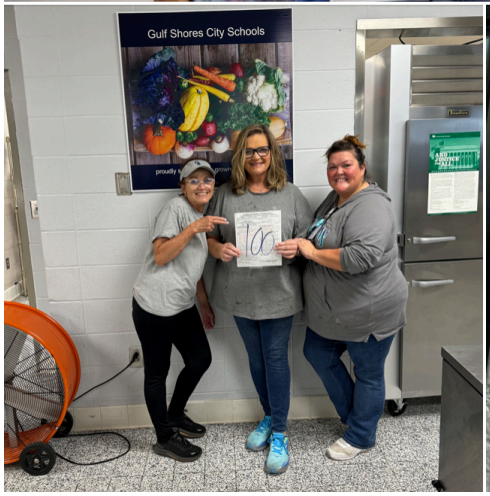


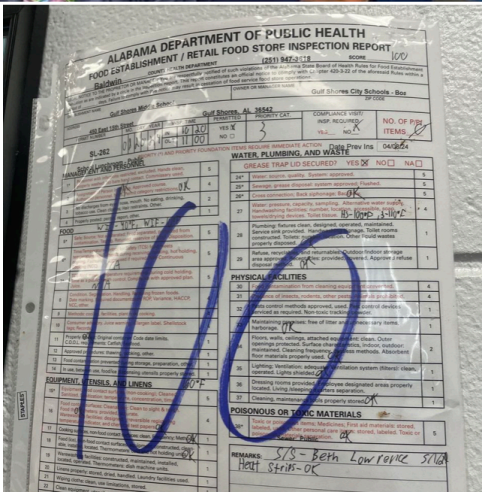
AHSAA Top Prospect of the Week presented by
Alabama National Guard Recruiting - joinALGuard.com
Kolin Wilson - Gulf Shores High School
Wilson returns for his Senior year as one of the top RB prospects in the state. He holds many D1 offers, currently committed to Mississippi State University. To go along with his play on the field, he's an outstanding student in the classroom holding a 4.3 GPA and a 27 ACT score. Wilson put up eye popping stats as a Junior with 2010 yards rushing and 31 TD's helping lead Gulf Shores to the 5A State Championship.



Congratulation to Tanya Hill and The CNP Team at all three campuses for scoring a Perfect 100 from The Health Department today! So proud of their hard work and dedication to feeding our children!







GSES: Meet The Teachers



Pre-Kindergarten



Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade

BOE President: Kevin Corcoran

BOE President, Kevin Corcoran, has been selected to represent Gulf Shores City Schools as a 2024 Nominee AASB All-State School Board Member.



GSHS Soccer Team State Champions

The Gulf Shores High School Soccer team received their State Championship rings yesterday. Coach Norton, Principal Veazey, and a host of fans cheered on the 2024 AHSAA 5A STATE CHAMPIONS one more time.





GSMS: Life Science with A. Schaff

The year is off to a great start with these scholarly gardeners. Students learned how legume plants have the ability to form a symbiotic relationship with rhizobia bacteria, which fix nitrogen for the plant to use. After harvesting the peas, we brought them inside to clean them from their hulls. Finally, we discussed how the peas might give us energy and how the discarded hulls can be added to the compost to decompose and become nutritious soil for future crops.







Mrs. Morales has her Sustainability classes at GSMS working on several projects around the school! Their first order of business was to work on getting our monarch garden, bird sanctuary, and courtyard ready for a new year!



GSES: “LeaderSHIP”

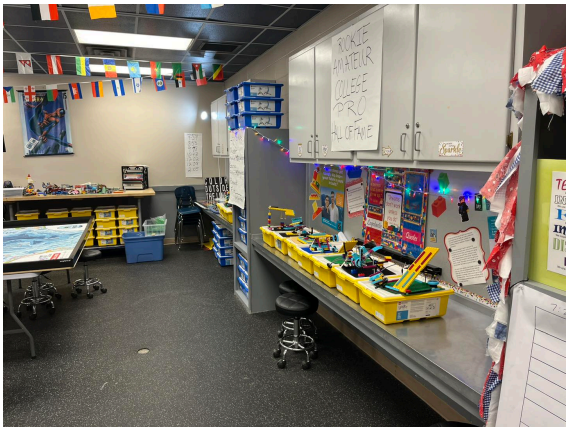
Mrs. Shoemaker’s students think learning is fun in their boat they named the “LeaderSHIP”.



New Robotics Lab at GSMS

Our new Robotics Lab is almost complete! Mrs. McClung has been hard at working setting it up and preparing our students for some exciting experiences headed their way this year!







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.



Harvest Festival at GSES!



GSHS: Burkett Is Back In The Building

The rising senior offensive lineman, Tyler Burkett, started February with a Hodgkin's Lymphoma diagnosis and started August returning to the locker room.
"He loves to play football, he's a teammate and he wants to be around his team," said offensive line coach Mitch Rodrigue.
While he's not in pads yet, his presence in the facility and on the practice field has boosted the Dolphins.
Click the link for the full scoop! https://tinyurl.com/ys7awskr









Mrs. Duelm’s 5th grade class at GSES is collaborating on a social studies assignment.

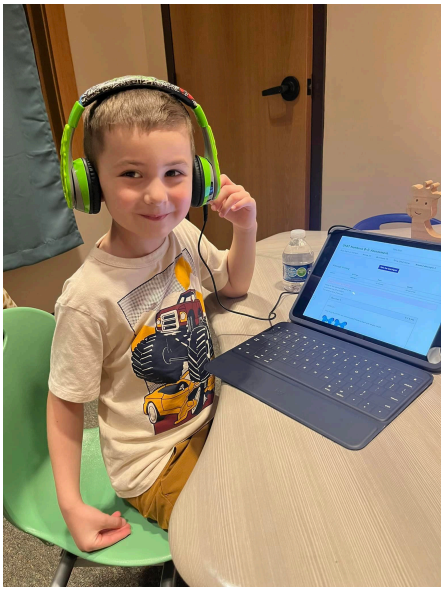
Mrs. Clanton's 1st grade class at GSES enjoyed their STEAM class!

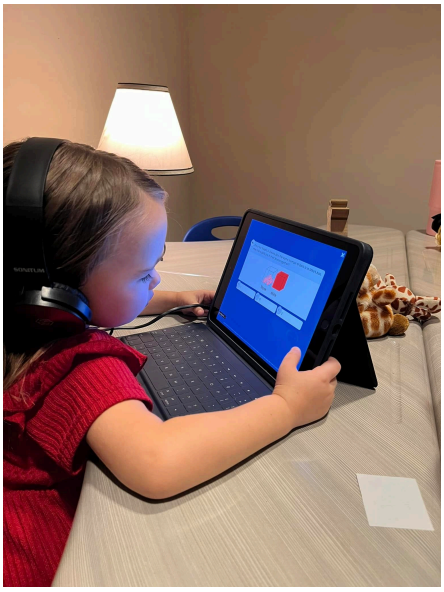


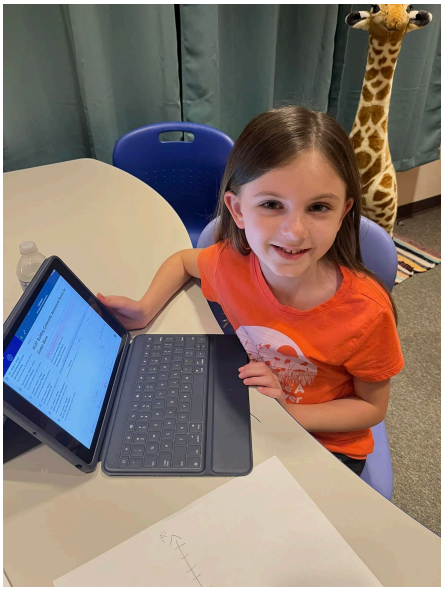




We love to see our virtual students at GSVA in person for End of Module testing each week.









9/2 GSCS: Labor Day (No School)
9/4 GSHS: 9th,10th,11th Grade Portraits
9/4 GSHS: Senior Class Photo (11:00am)
9/5 BOE: Work Session (4:00pm)
9/11 GSES: Fall Pictures
9/11 GSHS: Gateway to Great Careers Industry Tours for Healthcare/Health Sciences
9/12 BOE: Regular Session (5:00pm)
9/17 GSES: Bike Train
9/19 GSES: Spirit Night (Chicken Salad Chick)
9/19 GSHS: Portrait Make-Ups & NJROTC
9/20 GSES: Harvest Festival
9/24 GSES: Coffee with the Counselors (8:45am)
9/27: GSCS: Dolphin Foundation: Make Waves Benefit (6:00pm)
10/1 GSMS: Fall Picture Day

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.

GSES Bike Train will take place on Tuesday, September 17th at Kids Park at Bodenhamer Recreation Center. Click on the following link to sign up: **Bike Train**

Happening at GSCS:

District
Elementary School
Middle School
High School
Virtual Academy

Gulf Shores City Schools has a new GSCS Mobile App! Available in Apple and Android Stores, the GSCS mobile app will give you immediate information! Download yours today!

Connect With Us:

MAKE WAVES!

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