ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2024

The MakeWaves Monthly

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



Superintendents' Message

The month of November was filled with meaningful words; such as, honor, veterans, thankful, and family. We were proud to honor our Veterans: our employees, parents and community this month. Thank you Veterans! This month was also a time of reflecting the meaning of "Thanksgiving and what we are "thankful" for. During this month, we hope you have taken time to reach out to those who are near and far. We express to all employees, students, parents and the community a very Happy Thanksgiving, and we hope your Thanksgiving was filled with blessings and joy! May the warm glow of autumn surround you as you have celebrated the holiday with family and friends. This month at GSCS has been filled with Thanksgiving activities, balloon parades, food drives, Make Waves of Kindness week, and scoring straight A's on the State Report Card! A job well done!

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

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

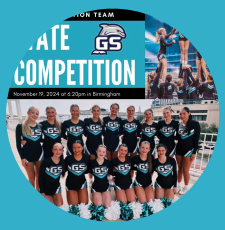
MIDDLE SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL

VIRTUAL ACADEMY



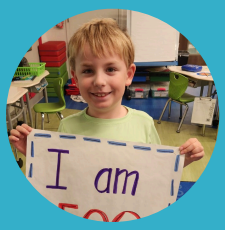
Health & Wellness



Athletics



Arts Education



Teaching & Learning

Meet Our Student WaveMakers of the Month

Elementary School
Charlotte Brown



Grade - 3rd Grade
Area of Recognition -
Community Service and Leadership

I'm a WaveMaker because...
Charlotte is always looking out for others. She has a selfless heart and aims to help people be their best! In September, Charlotte had the opportunity to share her knowledge of sign language with a second-grade class. She did such a great job sharing that two other second-grade teachers asked her to share with their classes. She shared this with our class, and we have since begun incorporating sign language into our daily routines. Charlotte is a leader in the classroom every day as well. She is always focused and gives her very best effort. She is quick to help other students and always models leadership with her actions and words. She is an excellent friend to her peers and a helper to her teachers. Charlotte embodies the core values and beliefs of GSCS!
~Nominated by Mrs. Courtney Creel~

Middle School
Ethan Wesson



Grade - 8th Grade
Area of Recognition -
Leadership

I'm a WaveMaker because...
Ethan Wesson is a WaveMaker because he has a brilliant mind, impeccable manners, and trustworthy character. Ethan has self-control and is never drawn into unacceptable actions; he never seeks the spotlight, yet in all he says and does, he elevates himself, his family, and his organizations. Recently, an email from his coach excused Ethan from first period. Before leaving class the day before he politely informed me, he would be out and responsibly asked what work he might miss. This is classic Ethan; he always gives his best in every endeavor. Ethan's strengths can be observed not only in the classroom, but also on the football field. Ethan is the kind of person one hopes will one day lead our city, state, or country because he is a WaveMaker!
~Nominated by Shery Butler~

High School
Nicholas Hampton



Grade - 11th Grade
Area of Recognition -
Academics/Athletics

I'm a WaveMaker because...
Nic is a staunch advocate of his own academic experience while at Gulf Shores High School. Amongst the 60 students I interface with daily in my classes he is the one that is always seeking out feedback and help when needed. Regularly meeting with me during his focus and lunch time to get ahead and stay prepared. School is something that Nic has to work towards, and he has shown to me his investment in that aspect of his time here at GSHS. Beyond the classroom Nic establishing himself as a starting football player for our Dolphin offense, playing both wide receiver and tight end during the 2024 season has been tenable. While many of his peers view their educational opportunities in our community as a right, he approaches them as a privilege.
~Nominated by Spencer McClendon~

Virtual Academy
Coming In January

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
Allie Key
Registrar

I'm a WaveMaker because…

Allie goes above and beyond to help others. She spent countless hours working through a new enrollment process and had a great attitude while doing it. She is always there to lend a hand to a coworker or help solve a problem. She is usually one of the first person a new family interacts with and always makes them feel welcome and answers any questions they have about enrollment or Gulf Shores. The elementary school is lucky to have her!
Allie consistently goes above and beyond in her role, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to our school community. Her work is essential to the smooth operation of our school, and she manages her responsibilities with remarkable dedication and efficiency. Allie works tirelessly with parents, teachers, students, and the community, both at school and from home when needed, ensuring that everything is organized and that the school runs flawlessly. Whether she's collaborating with the administration, processing reports, enrolling new students, or addressing teachers' concerns, she handles each task with a solution focused mindset, making everyone's job easier in the process. Beyond her professional responsibilities, Allie is also a devoted mother to two-year-old Sawyer and a wife of a coach. Despite her demanding role at school, she attends all the Gulf Shores Dolphin football games supporting her husband Adam in his role as a coach and remains deeply invested in the community. Her ability to balance these personal and professional commitments is truly commendable, and it speaks volumes about her dedication and work ethic. Allie's willingness to tackle issues head on, combined with her readiness to lend a helping hand, truly expresses the spirit of teamwork and support. For these reasons and more, I believe Allie is highly deserving of being recognized as a Wave Maker. Her exceptional **dedication,** both at work and in her personal life, makes her an invaluable asset to our school and community! Go Dolphins and Make Waves Allie Key! ~Nominated by Jessica Schreier and Ashley Weekley~



Middle School
Evan Summers-Jones
System Technician

I'm a WaveMaker because…

We are thrilled to recognize Evan Summers-Jones for his exceptional contributions as an Information Technology employee at Gulf Shores Middle School.
Evan has consistently demonstrated outstanding performance, going above and beyond to ensure that our technology systems run smoothly and effectively.
His expertise has not only improved our infrastructure but also enhanced learning experiences for both students and staff.
Some highlights of Evan's contributions include:
· Keeping our network connectivity viable across the campus.
· Providing invaluable support during technology training sessions and meetings.
· Troubleshooting tele-communication equipment issues promptly.
· Making sure that our student and employee devices are operational and functioning with minimal interruption or disruption to operations and/or instruction.
· Responding rapidly whenever needed to address technology issues or concerns.
We are grateful for Evan's dedication and passion for technology, which has made a significant difference in our school community. He proves daily at Gulf Shores Middle School that he is truly a WaveMaker!
The IT department would not run without Evan. He helps out at all the schools, not just the middle school where he is assigned. He mentors new members of the team and makes sure they know what is needed to be an IT Support Specialist at Gulf Shores. He is the definition of a WaveMaker! Joey Drews, IT Director
~Nominated by Dr. Tim Webb~



High School

Jennifer Burgess
Paraprofessional

I'm a WaveMaker because…

I would like to nominate Jennifer Burgess for WaveMaker of the month for her outstanding support and dedication as a teacher's aide in my classroom. Miss Burgess has consistently gone above and beyond to assist in creating a positive and effective learning environment. Her ability to manage small group instruction, provide one-on-one support, and assist with classroom management has been instrumental to my students' success. Miss Burgess is particularly skillful at working with students who need extra help, patiently guiding them through challenging material with a calm and encouraging demeanor. What truly sets her apart is her unwavering positivity, enthusiasm, and willingness to collaborate to improve the overall classroom experience. It is an honor to work alongside such a dedicated and talented individual, and I am grateful for the significant impact she has made in my classroom.
~Nominated by Coach Damon Howe~

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

Elementary School

“Balloons Over E 3rd Ave” Parade!

Students read the book "Balloons Over Broadway" and learned about the productive struggle Tony Sarg experienced in engineering the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade balloons.





Middle School

E-Sports!

Congratulations to our E-Sports teams! They compete against schools all across the Southeast region.



High School

Enlightenment Salon

Mrs. Pitts’ AP European students held their Enlightenment salon before the long break. They shared “their” ideas on rights, religion, government & more while enjoying treats. There was even talk of possibly dancing later but Montesquieu turned down Catherine the Great.



Virtual Academy

Creating Promo Videos

GSVA 6th grader, Jaxon Guzlas, was recently given the opportunity to assist in creating promo videos for GSCS with a Nashville company. Jaxon is honing his already excellent videography skills





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

District/Schools Websites. - Facebook - Twitter - Instagram - You Tube - GSCS Mobile App

Health & Wellness

GSCS Walking School Bus!

Great way to start a Friday. The girls woke up early to join Walking School bus today! Played a little ball at the park and walked some future Dolphins to school! GSCS is a special place!



Take Time For The Dolphin Walk!

Arts Education

New Choir Risers!

Thank you so much Gulf Shores City Schools and Dolphin Foundation for Education & Arts for our brand new choir risers!



Athletics

GSHS Competition Team!

Good Luck to our GSHS Competition Team as they compete at STATE! GO DOLPHINS! Now on to Nationals!

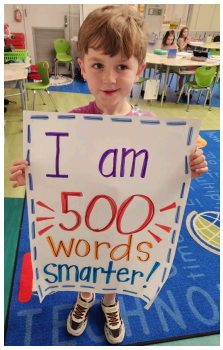


View our Athletics website!

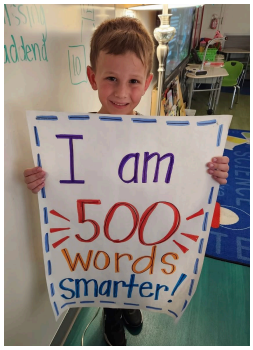
Teaching & Learning

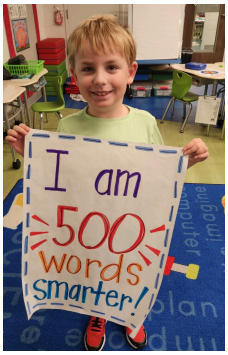
500 High Frequency Words!

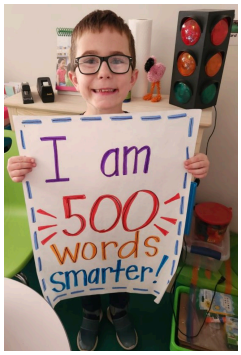
Ms. K's class has 5 friends that have passed 500 high Frequency Words. This puts them well on their way to becoming a perfect reader!











27 members of **Gulf Shores High School**'s Make Waves Theatre are off to compete in the Walter Trumbauer High School Theatre Festival at Murphy High School. They are competing in Stage Management, Scenic Design, Costume Design, Monologues, Solos, Duets, Group Musical, and One Act! Wish all of our actors a "Break a Leg" as they Make Waves!



Make Waves Theatre had an incredible day at Trumbauer!
Here are a few awards they brought home:
Best Ensemble in a One Act Play.
"13 Ways To Screw Up Your College Interview" Cast

Best Leading Performer in a One Act:
Reagan Back

All Star Actors in a Play
Portia Hollis
Jameson Leaman-Ferguson
Nate Jones
Sophia Bauer
Alayna Lambrecht

Received Excellent Ratings:
Scarlett Brenner- Comedic Musical Solo
Ava Higgins- Comedic Monologue
Maddie Mattson- Comedic Musical Solo
Faith Polk- Costume Design
Andie Mayo- Comedic Monologue
Maeli Clark- Dramatic Musical Solo
Laura Godoy- Comedic Monologue
Aidyn Becker- Comedic Musical Solo
Kirsten Kelley- Dramatic Musical Solo
Ethan Pinon- Dramatic Monologue
Sophia Bauer- Comedic Musical Solo

Advancing to State Trumbauer in Florence:
Portia Hollis- Dramatic Monologue
Mason Slater- Comedic Musical Solo
Adelyn Rogers- Stage Management
Daniel Dumas- Classical Monologue
Sophia Bauer- Comedic Monologue
Alayna Lambrecht- Playwrighting
Reagan Back- Dramatic Musical Solo
Jameson Leaman Ferguson- Dramatic Musical Solo
Nate Jones- Original Monologue
Ana Guerra- Original Monologue
Zuko Garner- Original Monologue
Tobi Traudt- Dramatic Musical Solo
Maddie Mattson- Scenic Design
M Lawley- Comedic Monologue
Fiona Douglas- Comedic Musical Solo
Fiona Douglas & Portia Hollis- Duet Comedic Musical
Jameson Leaman-Furgeson & Nate Jones- Duet







Received Superior Ratings:
Portia Hollis- Dramatic Monologue
Mason Slater- Comedic Musical Solo
William Ferguson- Playwrighting
Adelyn Rogers- Stage Management
Daniel Dumas- Classical Monologue
Sophia Bauer- Comedic Monologue
Alayna Lambrecht- Playwrighting
Reagan Back- Dramatic Musical Solo
Jameson Leaman Ferguson- Dramatic Musical Solo
Nate Jones- Original Monologue
Ana Guerra- Original Monologue
Zuko Garner- Original Monologue
Tobi Traudt- Dramatic Musical Solo
Maddie Mattson- Scenic Design
M Lawley- Comedic Monologue
Fiona Douglas- Comedic Musical Solo
Fiona Douglas & Portia Hollis- Duet Comedic Musical
Jameson Leaman-Furgeson & Nate Jones- Duet Dramatic Musical



At Kiwanis Club, the Tuesday program was presented by Sonya Price, Director of Exceptional Education and Special Services for Gulf Shores City Schools. The program was informative and educational; as the Kiwanis Club enjoys keeping up with the instruction of the students in our service area.



GSVA 1st grade student, Matthew Biggs, makes for a great magazine cover!





GSVA 3rd grade student, Kingsley, created a voting experience for the virtual students for this election week. The students are voting to see what will be in the treat box next! The “I Voted Today” stickers are so fun.



Congrats to Senior Keyona Royal for being recognized as a Coastal Alabama Returning Star in **AL.com**’s girls basketball preview.



American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) is proud to announce the fourth annual AVCA Best and Brightest Awards for Girls High School Senior student-athletes. The AVCA Best & Brightest Award is an award meant to honor individual high school Senior student-athletes who excel on and off the court. To be eligible for the Best and Brightest Award, Senior student-athletes must have earned at least a 3.5 Unweighted/4.0 Weighted GPA.

Some additional tiers of recognition apply:

AVCA Best and Brightest First Team: 3.8 Unweighted GPA/ 4.3 Weighted GPA or above
AVCA Best and Brightest Second Team: 3.65 Unweighted GPA/4.15 Weighted GPA or above
AVCA Best and Brightest Third Team: 3.5 Unweighted GPA/4.0 Weighted GPA or above







HUGE Congratulations to Xander Beal on making the 1st individual State qualifying time, for GSHS swim team, in the 100 fly, for the 6-7A division.

Last week The Learning Campus had a bone-a-fide blast with students from **Gulf Shores City Schools** 3rd graders! They joined us for some of our "Echoes of the Past" programing - a history hike and paleontology excavation. The Learning Campus offers a wide variety of programing to people of all ages. And you can even bring your group to stay with us overnight in our bunkhouses! email info@learningcampusgsp.com for more information.







GSMS is pleased to announce our NJHS Officers for 2024-25:
President- Emma Kakish
Vice President- Abigail Rowland
Secretary- Madalyn Jenkins
Treasurer- Mirabella Matson
Reporters- Emily Erdossy and Savannah Adams





Fifth Grade Bike Club pedaled into GS State Park to check on the eagle nest. We spotted an eagle above the nest…do you see it?



Our School Board and Superintendents were able to take a tour and see the great progress at The New Gulf Shores High School!









The results are in for the Candy Vote!! Gummy Bears it is!
GSVA 3rd grader, Kingsley, brought her vision to life to help our students experience what the voting process is like and "hooking" her voters with an engaging topic!





These GSES teachers recently attended the National Conference on Science Education. GSCS is committed to sending teachers to energizing and beneficial national conferences in their field. From l to r: Donna Holderfield, Gwen Merchant, Kayleigh Terrell, and Andrea Cocke

Great job Eliza Bodenhamer for her efforts in representing Gulf Shores Elementary School through her Red Ribbon Leader service projects!





K-9 Flex enjoyed the Gulf Shores City School students who participate in the Walking School Bus Program. We also took the opportunity to promote our K-9 For Kids Program. Congrats to our lucky winner who got to meet Flex and take home her very own stuffy of Flex.



It's almost time! If you're 7th grade student is interested in the East Coast trip, please contact Mrs. Andre Holmes at (251) 554-2097. There will be a parent meeting after January at which time you will receive detailed information. You will be notified of the date, time and place. Please see the attached Itinerary with additional info on costs.



Eddie Holmes EAST COAST TRIP 2025

A Trip of a Lifetime!

May 25	**Atlanta, GA**	Braves Game
May 26	**Durham, NC**	Lunch K&W Cafeteria Tour of Duke University Colonial Williamsburg, Busch Gardens
May 27	**Williamsburg, VA**	Visit Several Museums, Memorials, Ford's
May 28/29	**Washington DC**	Theater, Arlington Cemetery, Capital Tour, Train Station for lunch and more.
May 30	**Philadelphia, PA**	Independence Hall, Liberty Bell, US Mint, Possible Baltimore Orioles Game Statue of Liberty, Freedom Towers Shopping,
May 31/June 1	**New York, NY**	***Mass at St. Patrick's**, Nike Store, Time Square, ***Broadway Show** Laundry, Basketball Hall of Fame
June 2	**Springfield, MA**	Battleship Constitution, North Church, Quincy Market
June 3	**Boston, MA**	Maids of Mist Niagara Cruise, Shopping in
June 4	**Niagara Falls NY**	Niagara Falls Canada Kings Island Amusement Park, Possible Baseball Game
June 5	**Cincinnati, OH**	***Slugger Museum** Dinner
June 6	**Louisville, KY** **Birmingham, AL** **Home**	Home Depot – Daphne

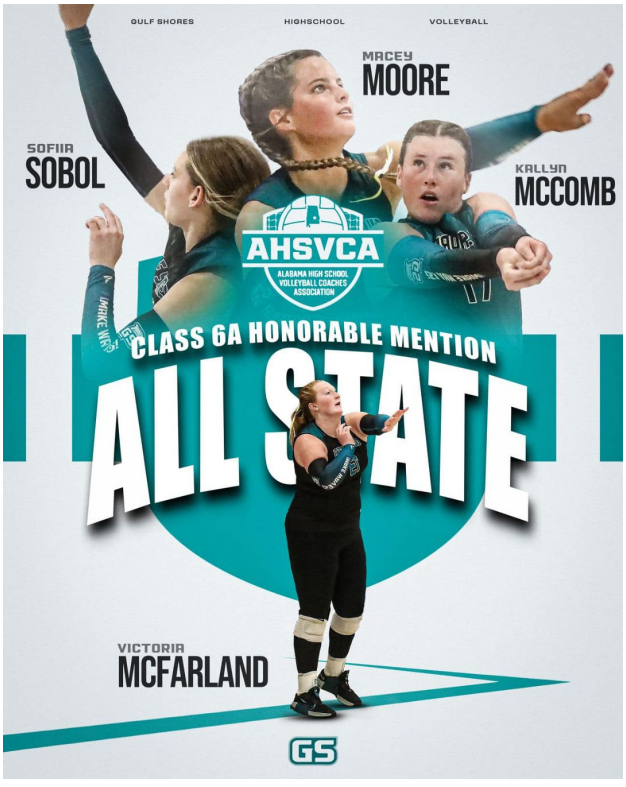
Total cost for this trip is $2400.00. Includes transportation, all tickets, 2 meals a day and rooms.

Reservations are made on a first come/first serve basis with an $800 deposit (not refundable after Feb 1, 2025. Only refundable if your seat is sold). $1000 is due by Feb 1, 2025. Balance of $600 is due at boarding on May 25. Please mail permission form with your deposit to: **Andrea Holmes**
108 Chestnut Ridge
Fairhope, AL 36532
(251) 554-2097

There will be a parent meeting after January at which time you will receive detailed information. You will be notified of the date, time and place.

***Bolded** events with an asterisk * are exclusive to the Eddie Holmes East Coast Trip.

Congratulations to Kallyn McComb, Sofiia Sobol, Victoria McFarland and Macey Moore for being named 6A HONORABLE MENTION voted on by the AHSVCA! We're so proud of you!



Dr. Hamilton and Mrs. Fleming are attending AP Science training in Tuscaloosa offered by A+ College Ready. They are learning new and innovative ways to make science come alive in the classroom





GSHS Competition Cheer Team placed and received a bid to UCA Nationals!

Congrats to our 7th-9th grade team for winning the Hurricane Kickoff.
14 of 19 wrestlers placed on the top 4 with 5 individual champions.
1st Place
John Nolan Redden
Juan Salas
Jaoquin Salas
DJ Stewart
Karter Williams
2nd Place
Thales Belo
Drayden Duke
Travis Hall
3rd Place
Michael Zaporojan
Nicholas Buzilan
Kadin Smith
Kaleb Williams
4th Place
Ethan Pierre
Drake Leblanc



Coach Shaw wrote a grant and got FREE equipment for a flag football unit! Thank you FLAG IN-SCHOOL for supporting Gulf Shores Elementary School's PE Department!!

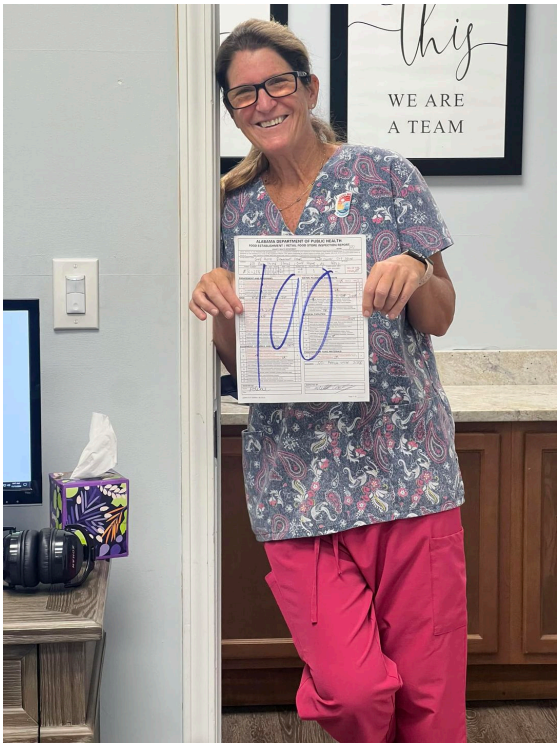


Thank you to all that were involved to help make this zoo trip successful. We are so grateful and we had a BLAST!!!! These smiles are so special. Thanks again so much!

Gulf Shores Middle School
Gulf Shores City Schools
Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo



Congratulations to our Elementary CNP staff for another 💯 on inspection!



GSVA students gathered today to Make Waves of Kindness by donating canned goods for Turkey Take-Out, writing thankful letters to veterans, and learning a valuable kindness lesson on how to be honest with kindness by listening to the read-aloud Being Frank!



Our Peer Helpers at GSMS attended their annual Jubilee! Peer Helpers from all over Baldwin County gathered together at The Wharf. The event had extra waters left over and gifted some to our group to take back to school. Our Peer Helpers decided to pass on that kindness to our bus drivers! When the drivers got on the bus that afternoon, they found two ice cold waters waiting on them. What a great way to kick off our Make Waves of Kindness Week!





Gulf Shores High School Peer Helpers treated our staff with a delicious "apple bar" today for National Kindness Day.



A heartfelt Thank You to our community businesses for donating gifts to GSCS for the Health & Wellness Fair! Congrats to our amazing teachers and staff—your dedication shines!





Our Junior City Council had the privilege of hearing from our Chief Building Official and Emergency Management Manager, Brandan Franklin. Brandan shared valuable insights into his dual roles. He explained how he ensures our city's buildings are safe and compliant with regulations and his critical work in emergency management, preparing for and responding to crises that may impact our community. A big thank you to Foam Coffee for fueling our meeting with free coffee for the students! We are grateful to provide a chance for these students to learn from experienced city officials like Brandan and for the community support that makes our meetings special!



Thank you **Gulf Shores Police Association** for sponsoring our middle school basketball pregame meal!



Navy JROTC at GSHS freshmen trip. The USS Alabama never disappoints. The cadets love it.





Big turn out for AMI marching practice with the NJROTC at GSHS. 28 cadets putting in the extra effort. Great job to all.



Mrs. Fralick's, Mr. Mccrory's, and Mrs Todd's classes at GSES along with some of the Lighthouse Team members had a great trip to the Hot Shop in Orange Beach. The glass blowing demonstrations were so interesting!



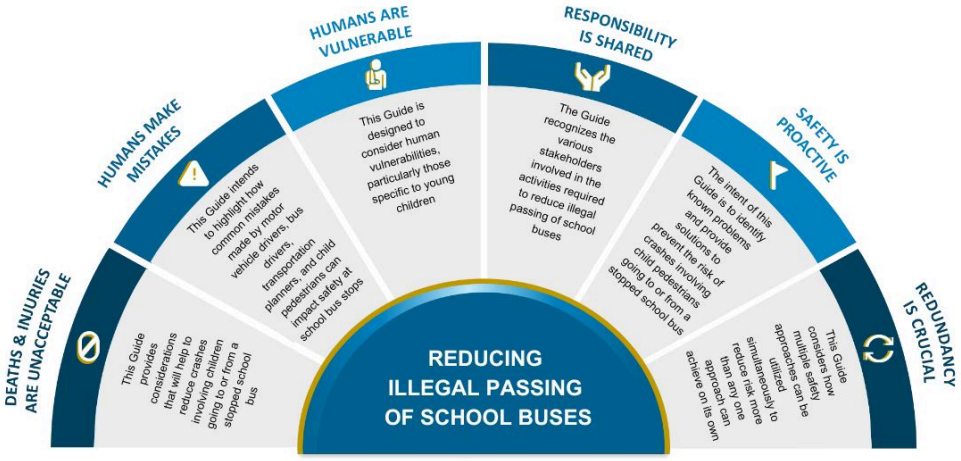




Great POD Wrestling.
We hosted our annual Gulf Shores Kickoff for 7th-9th grade, JV, and Girls. A total of 17 teams competed between the 3 divisions:
Gulf Shores JV Tournament Champions
Gulf Shores 7-9th Tournament Champions
Gulf Shores Girls Tournament Runner-Up



Here is some great information on Bus Safety and Reducing Illegal Passing of School Buses from our Safety and Transportation Coordinator, Randall Carlisle. Please help keep our children safe! More information can be found at **https://www.nhtsa.gov/.../reducing-illegal-passing-school....**



Mr. Reetz's son, who is an experienced rock climber in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, came by our school last month to rate our rock wall and make sure it was doable for our students. We currently have 10 routes set up with a Yosemite Decimal rating of 5.5-5.10+. This ensures that there are routes that are doable for beginners along with routes for our students who want to push themselves and gain confidence in their skills to complete. Our Cross Trainers club tries to incorporate the rock wall into their program at least once a month. Students who are interested in joining Cross Trainers can pick up a packet from either Mr. Reetz or Mrs. Holmes.



A big thank you to the GSMS Peer Helpers and GSMS Boys Soccer Team for working together on the food drive for the Turkey Take Out campaign! This year's Homeroom winner for the Turkey Take Out Food Drive was Mrs. Arnold's homeroom with 77 cans. They will receive a donut party for their efforts. And a big thank you to those who participated in making Thanksgiving special for our community!





Ms. Newsom and Mrs. Parker at GSES traveled to Boston to attend the 104th NCSS Annual Conference. They are excited to take what they have learned to help our dolphins grow in social studies!



Coach Shaw at GSES, Coach Brewer, and Coach Harris at GSMS attended the ASAHPERD Fall Conference this week in Hoover, AL. The coaches attended a remarkable lineup of sessions taught by passionate educators, researchers, and advocates. Sessions were designed to provide fresh ideas, practical strategies, and tools to enhance physical education classes. GSCS coaches had a remarkable time connecting, learning, and inspiring.



The junior class at GSHS met with our counseling department to analyze their October ACT results as a grade level. They discussed a plan to continue to improve scores leading up to the March ACT.



Congratulations to Mrs. Arnold's homeroom at GSMS for winning our Turkey Take Out competition! They brought in the most non-perishable items. They received a donut party to show our appreciation for their active participation in caring for our community!



The GSMS Cross Trainers club took a "history ride" out to the Gulf Oakridge Overlook in October. This is reportedly the highest natural point on the island. While they were there, they learned about the Gulf State Park fire of 2011, which destroyed a large portion of the park. They were also introduced to the game of geocaching. They will have many more history rides in the future, which will also lead to some geocaching while they are out there!

Kim Pennington at GSES and Melissa Ryall at GSMS presented at the NCTE in Boston. They shared the mentor sentence instructional approach to teachers from all over the US.





Three of our GSHS social studies teachers, Mrs. Watley, Mrs. Reffitt, and Coach Corcoran, attended the NCSS Conference in Boston where they had the opportunity to collaborate with educators from across the country; sharing strategies and best practices to help make history more engaging and relevant. They are committed to empowering students by integrating innovative teaching methods to inspire critical thinking and a deeper understanding of historical events and perspectives. Looks like they are having some fun while they are there too!

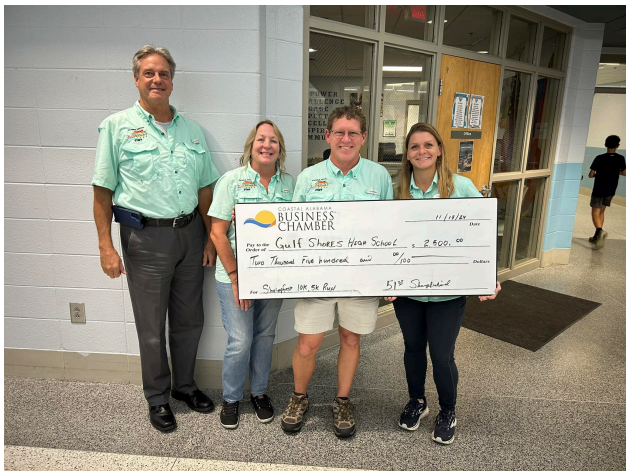




GSVA students were treated to a presentation on Monarch butterflies from Ms. Zoee Saltzman, a local retired teacher and principal. She also is a Monarch butterfly enthusiast, filled with new information for our students about these intriguing creatures! After the presentation, she helped our students plant native plants in our garden that butterflies are attracted to and that help them thrive.



A huge thank you from the Gulf Shores High School Track Family to the Chamber of Commerce for their generous donation for working the Shrimp Fest Run!



Congratulations Alexis and Victoria - Alabama HOSA State Leadership Conference Qualifiers - Health Career Display Teamwork Event



Congratulations to Gulf Shores Middle School 8th Graders Adrianna Dalier and Emma Kakish, and 7th Grader Lewis Kakish for making it into the Alabama All-State Middle School Treble Choir! After a rigorous audition process, they were selected for this honor choir, which is comprised of middle school students from across the state of Alabama. The Alabama All-State Choral Festival will take place in Birmingham in April.





Gulf Shores Elementary Virtual Academy kindergarten student, Holland, is having fun while learning in the GSES STEAM class. Holland participates in the blended enrichment opportunity for elementary virtual students who live in Gulf Shores

GSCS: Tuesday Tour at GSES in December

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, December 10th 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! We hope to see you there!
To sign up, please following link:

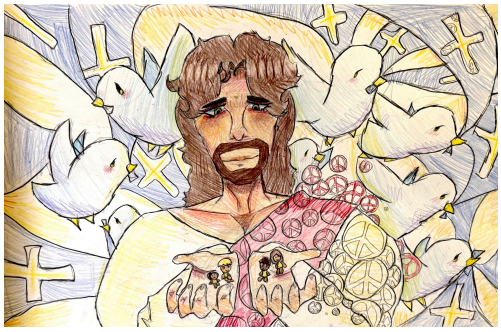
Tuesday Tour at GSES



MAKE WAVES!

Lions Club Peace Poster Contest

Congratulations to the three talented GSMS Art students who placed in the Lions Club Peace Poster Contest! This year's theme, "Peace Without Limits," inspired remarkable creativity. Athena earned 1st place, Nico secured 2nd place, and Charlotte claimed 3rd place. Fantastic work to all three!

















The Exceptional Thanksgiving Feast

The Exceptional Thanksgiving Feast was a great time! Thankful for the Kiwanis Club and the community we live in for putting this event on!

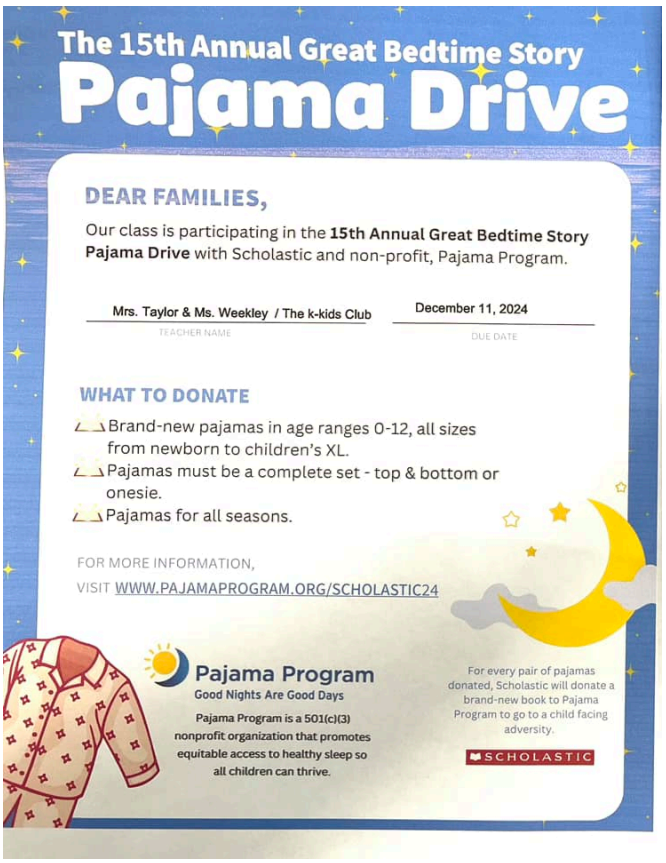


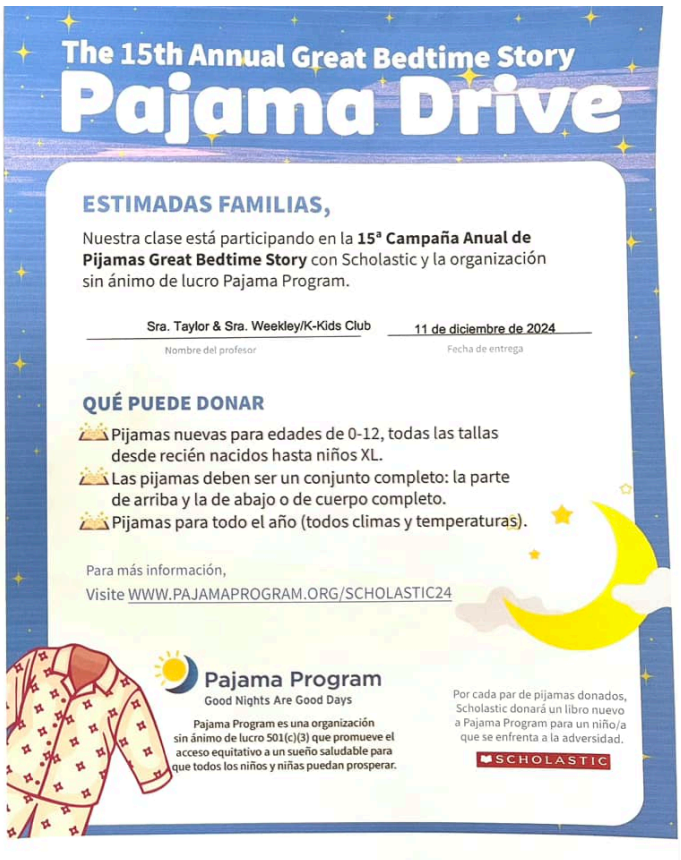




K-Kids at GSES: Pajama Drive

GSES K-Kids are organizing a Pajama Drive this holiday season to benefit local children. Please bring pajamas to Mrs. Taylor's classroom.





Go to this link to create an account and check grades:

https://gulfshorescs.powerschool.com/public/home.html

What will PowerSchool's Parent Portal allow me to see from home?
PowerSchool's Parent Portal provides real-time access to parents for their child's grades, attendance, assignments, and more. Parents with multiple students in the Gulf Shores District can link all student accounts to their one account.

I don't understand the grades that have been entered and I have questions. Who do I contact?
Contact your child's teacher for specific grade and assignment information. PowerSchool is the grade of record and final grades are posted to PowerSchool and your child's historical grade file.

How do I get connected on Canvas as a parent?
Student pairing codes – used with the sets of instructions shown above – can be obtained from your child's teacher or from your child's Canvas account. The instructions and video below show how your child can obtain this code from their account.

1. The student must be logged in to Canvas
2. Click the "Account" button in the top left corner of the screen
3. Click "Settings"
4. Click "Pair with Observer" on the right side of the screen
5. Copy the code that appears. The code is valid for seven days; if it has not been used by then, a new code will need to be generated.

Go to this link to create an account and check on your child's courses.
https://gsboe.instructure.com/login/canvas

Gulf Shores City Schools

Gulf Shores City Schools
Education

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

GSES Poetry Week in McCarty's Class

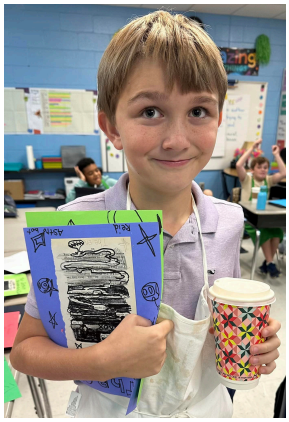






"Acrostic, Blackout, Haiku to name a few! Iced lattes and poetry….woo hoo!"







GSHS Swim Team

What an incredible night for our swim team! The Girls 200 Free Relay entered the finals in 15th, but with determination and teamwork, they surged to finish in 13th, dropping time in the process! The Boys 200 Free Relay followed suit, also securing a solid 13th place, knocking time off their previous best! And to cap off the night, the Girls 400 Free Relay rounded things out with a strong 11th place finish, making waves all the way to the end! The hard work and dedication paid off!





GSES Be A Champ!

Benny Bliss donated another round of Beanie Babies to finish up our Be A Champ reading challenge. Thank you Mr. Bliss!



A Letter To Our Employees From Dr. Akin and Dr. Harrison

Congratulations! Your dedication to providing our students a personalized educational experience has resulted in Gulf Shores City Schools earning another straight A state report card. Our district score increased from 91 last year to 95 this year! Our district has the fourth highest report card score in the state. We appreciate your compassion for children and innovative instructional methods! As we celebrate Thanksgiving, please know that we are grateful for your role in our school system and understand how valuable you are to the success of our students.
Alabama State Report Card Scores for Gulf Shores
2018-2019 (County System) to 2023-2024 (City System)
*Alabama did not release report cards in 2019 or 2020.
(Attached)

2023-2024 Alabama State Report Card Scores (95+)
1. Mountain Brook City 98
2. Piedmont City 97
2. Vestavia City 97
3. Homewood City 96
3. Saraland City 96
4. Arab City 95
4. Cullman City 95
4. Gulf Shores City 95
4. Hartselle City 95
4. Hoover City 95
4. Orange Beach City 95
4. Muscle Shoals City 95
4. Trussville City 95

Again, thank you and congratulations!



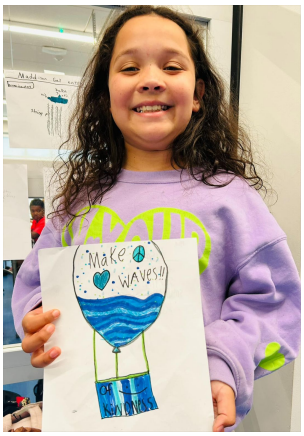
	18-19	19-20*	20-21*	21-22	22-23	23-24
GSES	90	N/A	N/A	91	92	94
GSMS	92	N/A	N/A	86	91	92
GSHS	86	N/A	N/A	90	91	91
GS District	N/A	N/A	N/A	92	91	95

MakeWaves of Kindness Week

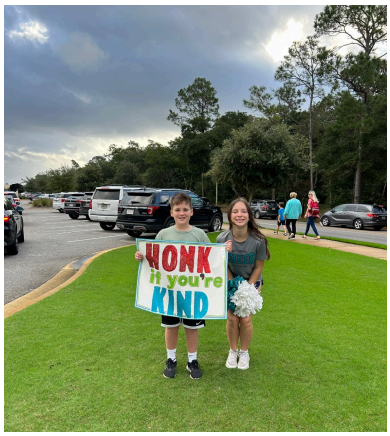
















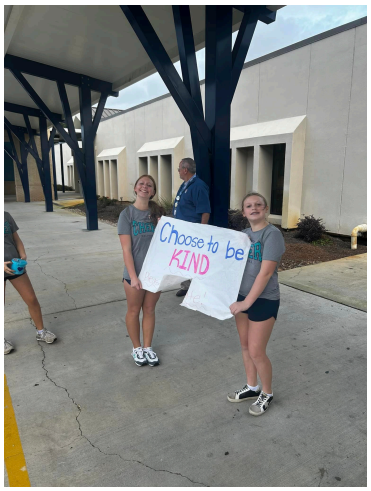












Make Waves of Kindness Sponsors

Kindness Champion

Kindness Catalyst

Kindness Catalyst

MAKE WAVES!



12-2/3 GSHS: SpongeBob Musical Auditions
12/4 GSES: Holiday/Fall Make-Up Pictures
12/10 GSCS: Tuesday Tour - GSES 9:00am
12/10 GSMS: Winter Art Show 3:30pm-6:30pm
12/12 GSES: Spirit Night (Mikato Japanese Restaurant)
12/12 BOE: Combined Work Session & Regular Board Meeting 4:00pm
12/12 GSHS: Band Concert 7:00pm
12/13 GSMS: Student Led Conference
12/17 GSCS: Gulf Shores Middle/High Schools Holiday Choir Concert 7:00pm
12/20 GSCS: 2nd Quarter Ends/Semester 1 Ends
12/20 GSCS: Early Dismissal for Students 11:30am
12/23 - 1/6 GSCS: Winter Break - No School
1/6 GSCS: PD/Teacher Work Day
1/7 GSCS: Students Return to School From Winter Break

Enjoy these new GSCS commercials!

We Believe…

What If…

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

Gulf Shores City Schools have a new GSCS Mobile App! Available in IOS 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