

# The MakeWaves Monthly

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

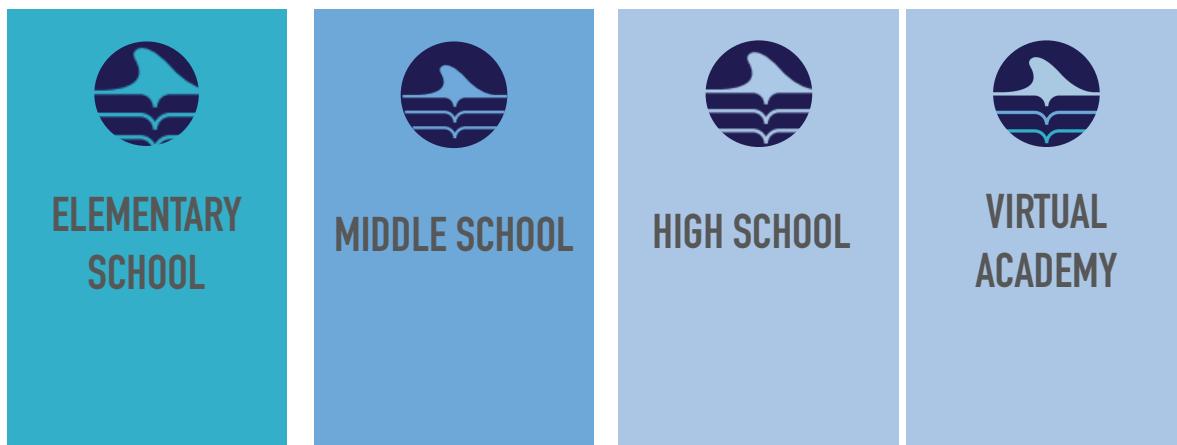


## Superintendents' Message

'Tis the season to be a dolphin! We are very proud of our school system earning straight A's on the 2024 State Report Card for the second year in a row! GSCS is also proud of BOE President, Kevin Corcoran. He was recognized by The Alabama Association of School Boards (AASB) as one of its 2024 All-State School Board Award recipients. Corcoran was honored alongside four other outstanding school board members from the state during AASB's Annual Convention. Congratulations to our Teachers and Staff Members of the Year that were showcased this month. As our first semester comes to an end and during the season of giving, we would like to give a big thanks to our students, employees, parents, and our community that make our school system the best. GSCS is proud of the accomplishments and awards that have been presented throughout Semester 1 to our students and employees. We wish you and your family a "Happy Holiday" and we are looking forward to what 2025 will bring to our district. Let's MakeWaves in the New Year!

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

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



**Congratulations to our 2nd Grade Quarter 1 Terrific Kids:**

Bexley Kelley  
Hudson Langley  
Ellie Griggs  
Mitchell Meador  
Julia Holmes  
Harper Garcia  
Ocean Oquenda  
Meri Michael Bennett  
Kadence Todd  
Kate Bunn  
Koehler Lembcke  
Rocky Hudspeth  
Graysen Killough  
Adler Hoffmann  
Kinley Phelps  
Asa Hagan  
Nora Wilson

**Congratulations to our 1st Grade Quarter 1 Terrific Kids:**

Bernard Blair  
Willow Tidmore  
Sylvia Widener  
Nash Barnhill  
Espen Redden  
Lacy Webb  
Roland McCaleb  
Charlotte Lathan  
Luca Cubit  
Tommy Cotey  
Marigold Narvaza  
Anna Foster  
Krew Schulz  
Mason Hobgood  
Harper Watson  
Layton Langston  
Agarac Bradshaw

**Congratulations to our 4th Grade Quarter 1 Terrific Kids:**

Gabriel Simion  
Abby Dent  
Channing Godwin  
Koben Blain  
Max Wilson  
Ruth Kakish  
Roman de Armas  
Kennedi Steiner  
Chloe Randall  
Hilton Mullenix  
Ava Poole  
Jerome Prim  
Captain Hudspeth  
Levi Rogers  
Zane Champion  
Sloane McKee



**Congratulations to our 5th Grade Quarter 1 Terrific Kids:**

Kingstyn Sheppard  
Abi Mackovic  
Ellie Scott  
Benji Bell  
Sofia Soroka  
Polina Monchonova  
Melissa Hernandez  
Anderson Merron  
Avalee Mahan  
Lydia Cline  
Charleigh Dixon  
Jack Griffin  
Alvin Wheat  
Stella Podcaura  
Cayden Autrey  
Kallie Bryant

**Congratulations to our PreK Quarter 1 Terrific Kids:**

Ward deVillers  
Zaneta Fernandez  
Maia Boyd  
Sophia Early  
Jazmyn Harris  
Stormi Sampaio  
Raelyn Davis  
Easton Summers  
Freya Romano  
Benji Rios

**Congratulations to our Quarter 1 Terrific Kids from****Mrs. Fralick and Mrs. Todd's classes:**

Logan Hedlam  
Landon Couture  
James Tolle

**Congratulations to our 3rd Grade Quarter 1 Terrific Kids:**

Sadie Young  
Evan Wesson  
Ellis Ferrell  
Duckie Qualls  
Bentley Martin  
Mia Lipscomb  
Ava Claire Hogue  
Karter Reed  
Sophia Nguyen  
Alexandra Stici  
Lilly New  
Xavier Palamara  
San Lun  
Izaiah Walton  
Charlotte Brown  
Baylor Beck  
Stokes Jones  
Madelyn Crews



**Congratulations to our Kindergarten Quarter 1 Terrific Kids:**

Lyla Hagan  
 Isabella Kachnic  
 Trayden Straight  
 Harper Neal  
 Christian Thompson  
 Lily Shoemaker  
 Mary-Allen Rogers  
 Slater Stephenson  
 Maria Candido  
 Gavin Rivers  
 Wyatt Stiles  
 Min Nelson  
 Riley Rasinen  
 Ellis Kelly  
 Alivia Walker  
 Myles Page



Gulf Shores Virtual 2nd graders Asher and Evie enjoyed their recent Alabama Child-Find lessons with Mrs. Phillips, GSES gifted education specialist.



8th grade cheerleaders at GSMS Rivers  
 Watley and Sara Riley Bennett traveled to Disney World over Thanksgiving break to perform in their Thanksgiving Day Parade!



[The Dolphin Dispatch Vol. 1](#) - GSHS Navy JROTC

## FALL LEADERSHIP RETREAT



Mrs. Morales' Sustainability classes are hard at work in our new outdoor kitchen!



## Exciting News!

Mr. McClung and his engineering students were informed this week that because of their project, Gulf Shores High School has been named one of the 300 state finalists in the prestigious Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition!

This incredible achievement highlights our students' innovation and dedication to solving real-world problems through STEM. Let's cheer them on as they continue their journey to make a positive impact!

We would also like to shout out to our research mentors at [Thirty Degrees North Yacht Service](#) We immensely enjoyed learning about the [Seakeeper](#)!



Mr. Ellis and the [Gulf Shores Middle School Band](#) put on a fantastic Winter Concert last week! Beginning Band played several pieces that showcased the woodwinds, brass, and percussion individually before taking us on a joint journey through A Rather Bumpy Sleighride. The Concert Band wrapped up the evening by playing a few favorites such as The Polar Express and It's the Most Wonderful Time of Year. The Percussion Ensemble of Trinidad Tidings was a mash-up of some of our favorite classic holiday songs! This is always one of our favorite ways to get in a festive mood for the holidays!



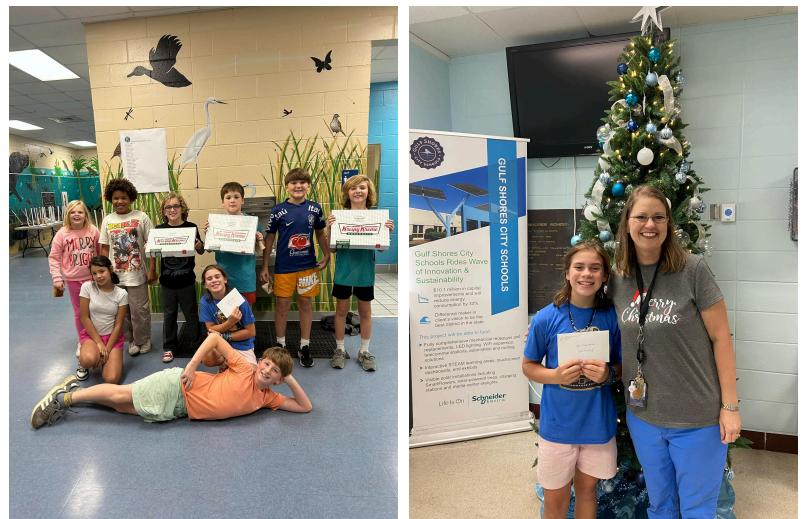
GSHS Senior Beatriz Franca was one among thousands of students who submitted a photo to the Varsity Yearbook website; her picture was selected!! Anytime a yearbook student from around the country logs in to Varsity, her photo is among the 8 that scroll on the home page. We are so thankful that Bea is part of our GSHS family & enjoy watching her photography skills grow! [#directionmatters](#)



GSVA 1st grader Dylan checked “finish mid-year iReady assessments” off her list!



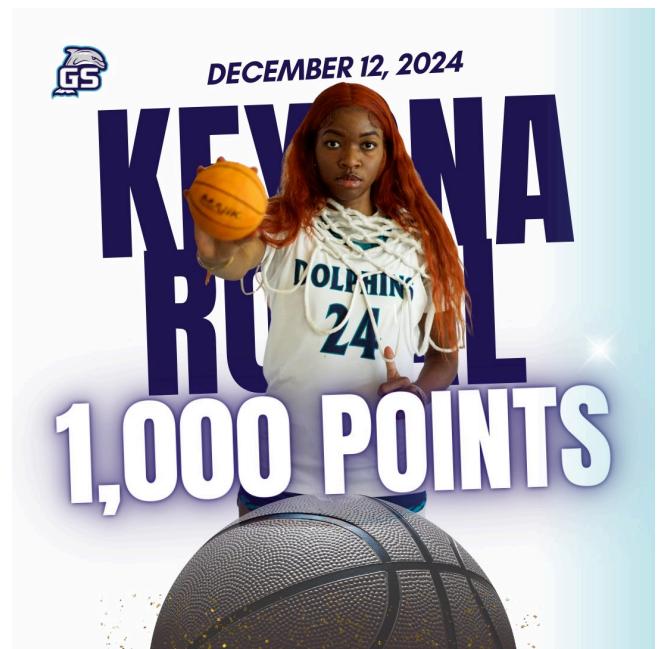
The Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation provided donuts to the GSES Peer Helpers because they were the top poinsettia sellers in their recent fundraiser. Piper Steffek was also presented with a prize for being the top seller in the fundraiser. We were happy to support the organization that supports the Peer Helper program. Thank you to everyone who purchased one of these beautiful poinsettias!



December has been such an exciting month for the GSHS HOSA chapter! A huge congratulations to all 15 State Qualifying Event participants for their hard work and achievements—you make us proud! We were also honored to have an inspiring guest speaker, Dr. Kayla Metz, NP- AUM, at this month's meeting, sharing valuable insights about career pathways at Auburn University Montgomery. More exciting news coming this week! Let's keep the momentum going as we head into the new year!



The Gulf Shores Garden Club ladies taught the GSES 2nd grade Garden Club about Smokey the Bear, and gave them materials to participate in a poster contest. The students also got to make reindeer ornaments/hangers to take home!



Mrs. Taylor & Ms. Weekley want to say thank you on behalf of the K-kids club at GSES. We were able to collect 175 pair of pajamas and Scholastic will donate a book to go with each pair of pajamas. In addition, people donated slippers and adult pajamas. We are so blessed to have a community that is so giving!



GSHS JROTC had the distinct honor of helping lay wreaths at the graves of service members at Barrancas National Cemetery aboard NAS Pensacola. The cadets now have a better understanding of the word sacrifice and freedom.



Several GSES classes joined with the **Sea Glass Initiative** of Baldwin County to collect 113 stockings for Christmas gifts for families in Baldwin County.



GSCS Mental Health Coordinator, Sara Parker, is training employees in Youth Mental Health First Aid. Bus drivers attended the training last week and middle school teachers this week. This excellent program is provided by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.



GS Elementary Virtual Academy so enjoyed Christmas caroling with the Haven residents and staff! It was a treat for them and us!



16 theatre students were State Bound!! They spent a few days at the University of North Alabama competing in Musical Theatre, Dramatic Acting, One-Act, PlayWrighting, Original Works, and Stage Management. Wish them all a “Break a Leg!” as they MakeWaves!



Want to know what it's like to perform at a Marching Band competition? Check out our new POV videos from our final competition of the season!

Trumpet Cam: <https://youtu.be/twKDDN5-k1E>

Tenor Drum Cam: <https://youtu.be/eGBgrkFIG2E>

We had a great turnout at our Winter Art Night! Attendees roamed the school, looking at the beautiful art from **Gulf Shores Middle School Art** students and learning about our students' opportunities to get involved through clubs. The Women's Care Medical Center joined us, and we even had a visitor from the North Pole! Thank you to everyone who came out and joined us for a fabulous evening!



### Marketing Principles Class Wrap-Up: Building Real Businesses in a Virtual World!

Our Marketing Principles class didn't just study marketing theories and concepts – we brought them to life in the digital world!

Each group developed a business plan and marketing strategy for a virtual business in Minecraft, where creativity and strategy merged to build a thriving digital enterprise.

The challenge...groups acted as owners of a business in Minecraft. Working shifts in the business earns you \$\$\$. Players were able to use earned \$\$ to spend in other businesses.

The results were some truly innovative businesses in the pixelated world of Minecraft, and the collaboration, creativity, and hard work were beyond impressive!

Shoutout to all the students for their amazing efforts and ingenuity! You've not only learned about marketing principles – you've experienced them firsthand, built your own digital empires, and had a blast doing it!





GSMS will be holding a Blood Drive in January, and would like to invite our community to join us and help give back. To sign up for a time, please click the link below.

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results...>

## GSMS Blood Drive

**1.27.2025 9:00 - 1:00**

**Give Blood**  
○ **Save Lives**  
○ **Make a Difference**



GULF SHORES MIDDLE SCHOOL  
450 East 15th Avenue  
Gulf Shores, Alabama



Mrs. Michaelson, our art teacher at GSMS, partnered with the Braille Club to create tactile Christmas cards to send to the Alabama School for the Blind. She pulled out all the stops with sequins, feathers, tinsel, and more! Brandi, our club founder, used her brailler to type out a holiday message to go with the cards. Thank you Mrs. Michaelson for helping our club spread holiday cheer all the way to Mobile!



Thank you for the tactile Christmas Cards Braille Club **Gulf Shores Middle School!** Our staff and students at AIDB Alabama School for the Blind loved them!

Jessica Sampley, academies and career and technical education director for Gulf Shores City Schools (GSCS), served on a committee for a national K-12 report creating "one of the most inspiring and rewarding experiences" in her career.

Sampley served on the committee for the K-12 STEM Education and Workforce Development in Rural Areas report after receiving a recommendation from Gulf Shores High School (GSHS) Principal Cindy Veazey and later receiving nomination from Mark McGhee at the Alabama State Department of Education.

Sampley said the report contains "insights and recommendations" that "align perfectly" with her work at GSCS, specifically in the efforts to bind Career and Technical Education (CTE) with core academics using STEM-based content.

Read more...[Gulf Coast Media](#)



Congratulations to Landon Everett and Kolin!  
Both 1st Team 6A ALL-STATE!



GSMS is so proud of Mrs. Barnett and her Choir students! They put on a fabulous and festive performance at their Holiday Choir Concert!



Fall leaf art project at GSMS!



Make Waves Theatre had a great time at State Trumbauer in Florence this weekend. They competed with nearly 2000 students from across Alabama and earned 9 Superior Ratings and 9 Excellent Ratings as well as 3 All Star Actors in a One-Act!

Congratulations to all of you on your hard work and dedication this semester!

All Star Actors in a One Act:

Sophia Bauer  
Alayna Lambrecht  
Daniel Dumas

Superiors

Daniel Dumas- Classical Acting  
Portia Hollis- Dramatic Acting  
Fiona Douglas- Musical Theatre  
Portia Hollis and Fiona Douglas- Duet Musical Theatre  
Jameson Leaman-Ferguson and Nate Jones- Duet Musical Theatre  
Nate Jones- Original Works  
Maddie Mattson- Scenic Design  
M. Lawley- Comedic Acting  
Reagan Back- Musical Theatre

Excellent

Adelyn Rogers- Stage Management  
Sophia Bauer- Comedic Acting  
Jameson Leaman-Ferguson- Musical Theatre  
Alayna Lambrecht- PlayWrighting  
Tobi Traudt- Musical Theatre  
Mason Slater- Musical Theatre  
Cy Dobbs- Musical Theatre  
Hannah Garner- Original Works  
Ana Guerra- Original Works



Thank you to **The Factory Gulf Shores** for celebrating GSVA student Evie's Reflex math fact fluency achievements with a free one hour pass!



GS Virtual Academy BFFs, Vanessa and Mackenzie, always bringing smiles to testing!



## FAFSA Form at GSHS

The 2025-26 FAFSA Form is open today, December 1st! GSHS will host a completion workshop for families on January 28th!



**Gulf Shores High School  
FAFSA Completion  
Workshop  
January 28th, 2025  
3:30-5:30  
GSHS Library**

Graduation Requirement

—

The 2025-26 FAFSA form will open on December 1, 2024.

Services Provided

—

FSA ID  
FAFSA Completion  
Financial Aid Resources



studentaid.gov

# National Board Certified Teacher Candidates

This year's National Board Teacher candidates are diligently working toward their certification, and we are immensely grateful for the community's unwavering support.

A heartfelt thank you to the Dolphin Foundation for Education & Arts for their generous contribution toward component funding, which makes this journey possible. We also extend our deep appreciation to Brett/Robinson Vacations and Phoenix Gulf Shores for providing a beautiful and inspiring workspace.

A special thanks to Beach Girl Coffee for energizing our teachers each day with their fantastic coffee. We also greatly enjoyed the wonderful lunches provided by Lulu's on Tuesday and The Original Oyster House on Wednesday.

Your collective support not only uplifts our educators but also strengthens our students' success by fostering accomplished teaching. Thank you for being champions of education in our community!

[\*\*Dolphin Foundation for Education & Arts\*\*](#)

[\*\*Brett Robinson Vacations\*\*](#)

[\*\*Phoenix Gulf Shores\*\*](#)

[\*\*Beach Girl Coffee\*\*](#)

[\*\*LuLu's Gulf Shores\*\*](#)

[\*\*Original Oyster House\*\*](#)



## GSCS Science By The Shore Team

The Gulf Shores City Schools Science By the Shore team recently had the opportunity to tour the Gulf Coast Center for Ecotourism and Sustainability. During the visit, they explored plans for future facilities and engaged in discussions about the science curriculum needs that will align with this innovative initiative.

[Gulf Coast Center for Ecotourism & Sustainability](#)



# The SpongeBob Musical

Congratulations to everyone that came to audition for the SpongeBob Musical! We are looking forward to a great show!

# nickelodeon THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL™

## CAST

### Starring

Portia Hollis	SpongeBob SquarePants
Fiona Douglas	Patrick Star
Reagan Back	Sandy Cheeks
Nate Jones	Squidward Tentacles
Jameson Leaman-Ferguson	Eugene Krabs
Luiza Espinheira	Pearl Krabs
Daniel Dumas	Sheldon J. Plankton
Aidyn Becker	Karen Plankton
Mason Slater	Perch Perkins
Sophia Bauer	Mayor

### Ensemble

Cy Dobbs	Patchy the Pirate
Stella Jones	Electric Skate 1
Luna Collum	Electric Skate 2
Daisy Carroll	Electric Skate 3
Alayna Lambrecht	Mrs. Puff
Liam Mixon	Larry the Lobster/Gary
Will Ferguson	Old Man Jenkins
Kaden Davis	Johnny the Bartender
Liam Jones	Krabby Patty
Charlie Wheat	Security Guard 2/ Buster Bluetang
SJ Stephenson	Security Guard 1

### Maeli Clark\*

Kate Garner*
Maddie Mattson
Scarlett Brenner
Haley Harris
Ava Higgins*
Kirsten Kelley
SJ Stephenson
Piper Koeppen
Penny Rogers*
Tinsley Haleu
Allison Becker*
Skye Welch
Zaule Bookout
Shelby Byrd
Mila Darr*
Sean Price

### Sardines Devotees

Maeli Clark
Kate Garner
Maddie Mattson
Scarlett Brenner
Haley Harris
Ava Higgins
Kirsten Kelley
Liam Mixon

### Towns People

Penny Rogers
Tinsley Haleu
Allison Becker
Skye Welch
Zaule Bookout

### Pirates

M. Lawley
Will Ferguson
Liam Jones
SJ Stephenson
Kaden Davis

### Maeli Clark\*

Kate Garner*
Maddie Mattson
Scarlett Brenner
Haley Harris
Ava Higgins*
Kirsten Kelley
SJ Stephenson
Piper Koeppen
Penny Rogers*
Tinsley Haleu
Allison Becker*
Skye Welch
Zaule Bookout
Shelby Byrd
Mila Darr*
Sean Price

### Hip Hop Dancers

Piper Koeppen
Liam Jones
Stella Jones
Luna Collum
Daisy Carroll



\*denotes featured

## Equipment Training at GSHS



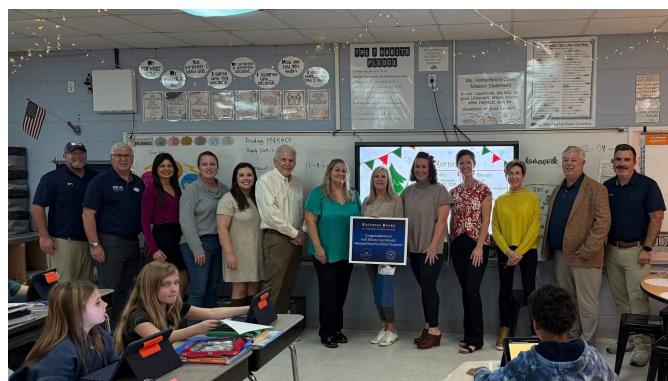
## National Board Certification

We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of Jason Hill, Angela Kirby, Deborah Whetstone, and Hilary McKinney for earning their National Board Certification! Additionally, we applaud Donna Holderfield for maintaining her National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) status. This prestigious certification is achieved by only 3% of educators nationwide, representing the gold standard in teaching. It recognizes mastery in subject areas, effective teaching practices, and a deep commitment to advancing student learning.

Achieving and maintaining NBCT status requires tremendous effort, time, and dedication to students and the teaching profession. It reflects a commitment to continually improving and delivering the highest quality of education. Please join us in celebrating these inspiring educators for their hard work and perseverance as they continue making waves in their fields! Your achievements make a difference every day in the lives of your students, and we are so proud of you. Special Thank You to The Dolphin Foundation For Education and Arts!

**#NBCT #MakeWaves #ALNBCT #NBCTstrong #phenomenALnbct**

**[Dolphin Foundation for Education & Arts](#)**



## AMI Inspection at GSHS

The AMI inspection at Gulf Shores High School is officially complete, and we are thrilled to announce that our cadets passed with flying colors! The inspector had nothing but praise for what he observed, and we couldn't be prouder of their hard work and dedication.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Gulf Shores Mayor, administration, school board, superintendent, school counselors, and all the parents who came out to support our cadets during this important day. Your encouragement means the world to us.

We are also deeply grateful to our teachers and staff, who offered unwavering support and accommodated the cadets by allowing them to miss classes for the inspection.

A special thank you goes to Joe McAleer from the district office for ensuring that the pass-in-review portion was live-streamed on our Facebook page, allowing even more people to witness this milestone event.

Finally, we want to recognize Mrs. Cooper, our incredible media center specialist. She selflessly provided a welcoming space for our cadets to gather during the inspection and goes above and beyond every day without seeking recognition.

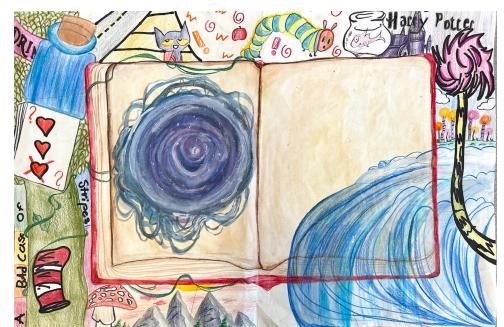
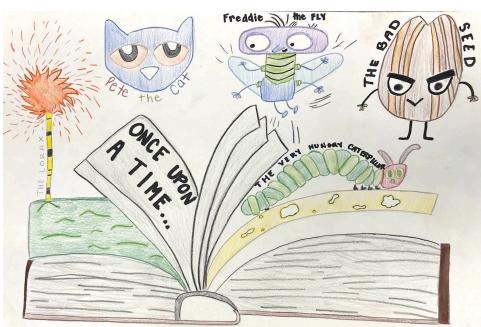
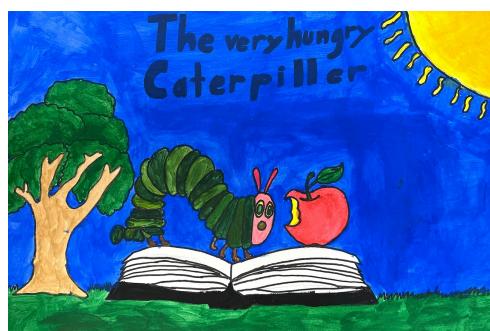
This achievement would not have been possible without the collective effort and support of our entire Gulf Shores High School community. Thank you all for helping make this day such a memorable success!



Respectfully,  
Edward "Theo" Theodoro  
Petty Officer 1st Class, United States Navy (Retired)  
Naval Science Instructor  
Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC)

## What Inspires You To Read

Students at GSMS took part in a "What Inspires You to Read" art contest, and their creativity absolutely is amazing!



## GSES K-Kids Make A Special Visit

K-Kids had the honor of visiting Live Oak Retirement village. We were able to take candy bags and sing Christmas carols to the residence. We enjoyed ourselves so much and we think the residents enjoyed us also!



## Kid Steer and Mini Ex at GSHS

Van Allman, Hayden Brazil, Logan Rail, Nelson Robertson, Hayden Plybon, Bliaze Thomas, Kyle Pfanninstiel and Alex Montez have recently gone through the Skid Steer and Mini Ex classes offered at Gulf Shore High School. Coach Mitchell said, "These young men learned some valuable skills while taking the class." Each student earned a credential for both classes. The classes are offered through Coastal Alabama Community College.



## G.E.M.S.

Have you ever heard of TIFIDI? The Gulf Shores Middle School G.E.M.S. team has been hard at work learning and embracing the core values for our Girls Engaged in Math and Science. TIFIDI is an acronym that represents the values driving our research on two major challenge questions this year: "How many oysters would it take to filter all the water in Little Lagoon in one day?" and "What's the science behind making delicious ice cream?" TIFIDI stands for Teamwork, Innovation, Fun, Inclusion, Discovery, and Impact.

We've applied these values in various hands-on projects, such as building models of Little Lagoon, maintaining oyster gardens, creating digital interviews, and even biking to enjoy rolled ice cream from Cowbell Rolled Ice-cream. None of this would be possible without the support of our incredible community partners. A heartfelt thank you to Mr. Dennis Hatfield, Krista Fleming, the Little Lagoon Preservation Society, and the Bratton family-owned Cowbell Rolled Ice Cream!



# GSHS Teachers and Staff Secret Spirit Week

Teachers and Staff had a little fun this week and participated in a Secret Spirit Week! We didn't tell the students what we were doing. We just showed up in the daily theme and had them guessing.

Monday - Monochromic Monday



Tuesday - Deck the Halls



Wednesday - Anything but a Cup



Thursday - Sandals and Socks



Friday - Little White Lie



# GSCS Teachers and Staff Members of the Year

Elementary School Teacher of the Year  
Kim Pennington



Elementary School Staff Member of the Year  
Allie Key



Middle School Teacher of the Year  
Angela Kirby



Middle School Staff Member of the Year  
Isodore Ervin

High School Teacher of the Year  
Kristen Madsen



High School Staff Member of the Year  
Ellyson Lawrence



## Safety Implementing Kayaks Into Our Classes

Gulf Shores City Schools' Science By the Shore program would like to give a huge thank you to Jenna Romano for meeting with our teachers. Your expertise and guidance on safely implementing kayaks into our classes were invaluable. We also want to thank the Bodenhamer Center for generously allowing us to use their pool facilities for this training. We are eager to provide our students with meaningful, hands-on learning experiences on the water while maintaining the highest safety standards.

### Gulf Shores Recreation



## Transportation at GSCS

From  
Randy Carlisle  
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT  
TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY COORDINATOR

We are thrilled to share the incredible news about our transportation team's outstanding performance! During this year's Alabama school bus inspection, our Gulf Shores City Schools bus driving team and fleet achieved a perfect rating, showcasing our team's exceptional safety, dedication, and hard work. This milestone testifies to the attention to detail our drivers demonstrate daily during their pre-trip and post-trip inspections. Their commitment to safety ensures that our students travel in secure and well-maintained buses. Our exceptional mechanics deserve special recognition for their expertise and diligence in keeping our fleet operating like a finely tuned machine. Their efforts are crucial to our daily success and safety, starting and ending each school day.

We also thank the Gulf Shores Board of Education and the Gulf Shores City Schools Superintendent's Office for your unwavering support of our transportation program. Your investment in our fleet and your encouragement to our team continue to make achievements like this possible.

Please join me in celebrating this accomplishment and thanking everyone who contributed to its success. Together, we set the standard for excellence and safety in school transportation.



# GSHS: Dolphin Dispatch

Latest Dolphin Dispatch. Once again, we are very thankful for Cadets Harris and Myers for their hard work! A big thank you to Mr Kieff for the time and effort he spent with us! You won't find a more dedicated Area Manager.

## The Dolphin Dispatch

GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL NAVY JROTC

13 DECEMBER 2024

### AREA MANAGER INSPECTION IS COMPLETE



Mr Kieff stands with GSHS NJROTC Cadets after Unite Pass in Review

The Gulf Shores High School Navy JROTC unit has once again proven its excellence by passing the annual Area Manager's Inspection with flying colors. Cadets showcased their professionalism, looking sharp in their uniforms and demonstrating their dedication to the program. A highlight of the inspection was the evaluation of the unit's supply system. According to Mr. Kieff, the supply organization was "streamlined" and serves as "a model for the Area (Area 16)," reflecting the unit's commitment to efficiency and organization.

The command briefing, delivered by the unit's Staff members, earned high praise. They effectively conveyed the NJROTC philosophy, mission, and dedication to creating an inclusive environment where all Cadets feel welcome and supported. Congratulations to the Cadets and leadership of Gulf Shores High School NJROTC for their outstanding performance and continued dedication to excellence. Keep up the great work, Dolphins!

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH THE 2024 MARINE CORPS' TOYS FOR TOTS CAMPAIGN

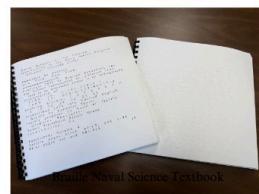
We are thrilled to share the incredible success of this year's Toys for Tots campaign and extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who made it possible! This was truly a team effort, with contributions from teachers, parents, NJROTC cadets, students outside of NJROTC, the yearbook staff, Key Club, and members of the National Honor Society—who impressively filled three entire boxes of toys on their own.

A special shoutout goes to Petty Officer First Class Theodoro, who outdid himself this year. While last year's campaign was also highly successful, this year was a smash success, breaking all previous records for this area. Thanks to his leadership and the generosity of our school community, Gulf Shores High School collected over \$6,000 worth of toys—an all-time school record! These gifts will be picked up today and distributed to children in need on Christmas Day, spreading joy and hope during this holiday season. Thank you for making the holidays brighter for so many children!



PO1 Theodoro and Cadet Landen Killough

### GSCS Supports Cadet with Vision Impairment



In August, Gulf Shores High School NJROTC welcomed a Cadet with a rare vision impairment and took immediate steps to ensure their success. The school reprinted all NJROTC textbooks and manuals in Braille, demonstrating a commitment to inclusivity and providing necessary resources for all Cadets. The school takes pride in prioritizing accessibility and supporting every student.

## Veterans Day Support



On October 8th, Gulf Shores High School NJROTC took part in Veterans Day events, including one at Gulf Shores Elementary School where Petty Officer Theodoro gave a heartfelt speech about his favorite Veteran. His impactful speech led to an invitation to the Gulf Shores Board of Education meeting. More importantly, the Gulf Shores community expressed gratitude by presenting him with a signed card and a gift certificate, showcasing their strong sense of community.

### Cadet Monchanov Promoted

Due to a personnel change, Cadet Denys Monchanov was promoted to Supply Officer on December 5th, just five days before our Area Manager's Inspection. Despite the challenging timing, Cadet Monchanov rose to the occasion.

His performance during the inspection was outstanding. His briefing impressed Mr. Kieff with his attention to detail and clear dedication to the NJROTC program. Bravo Zulu, Denys! Your leadership and hard work are an inspiration to the entire unit.

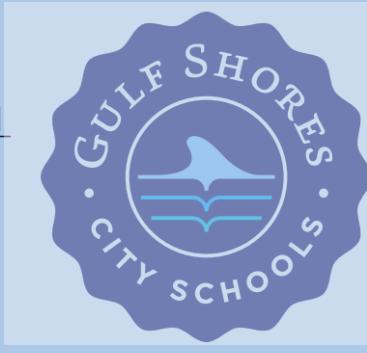


# SAVE the DATE

1/6	GSCS: PD/Teacher Work Day
1/7	GSCS: Students Return to School From Winter Break
1/10	GSCS: Report Cards
1/10	GSES: Notice of Academic Status
1/13-14	GSMS: ACCESS Testing
1/15	GSHS: Gateway to Great Careers Industry Tours for Hospitality & Tourism
1/16	GSES: Spirit Night (Hammered Crab)
1/20	GSMS: MLK Holiday (No School)
1/21	GSCS: Tuesday Tour at GSHS 9:00am
1/24	GSHS: Yearbook Purchase Deadline
1/27	GSMS: Blood Drive 9:00am-1:00pm
1/28	GSES: Coffee with the Counselors 8:45am
1/28	GSHS: FAFSA Completion Workshop 3:30pm
1/29	GSHS: Cap & Gown Portraits (Library)
1/31	GSHS: Sustainability Summit by the Alabama Coastal Foundation

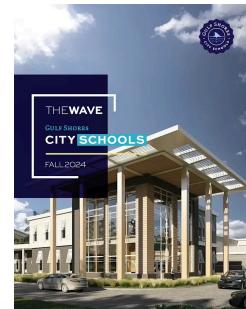
**GSCS Board Meeting Round Up:** Too busy to attend school board meetings, but still wanna know more? Check out the episodes of "[Board Shorts](#)" to stay up-to-date.

## Happening at GSCS:



- [District](#)
- [Elementary School](#)
- [Middle School](#)
- [High School](#)
- [Virtual Academy](#)

Gulf Shores City Schools has a new magazine - The Wave! Extra copies are available in school offices, most city offices, the visitors center, and the Chamber of Commerce! Please pick up a copy!



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:

- [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](#)

## MAKE WAVES!

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

[Connect with GSCS](#)

Joe McAleer-Social Media

