ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2025

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 continues to raise the bar in order to put our district on the map!. More than 200 students from Gulf Shores High, Middle and Elementary schools participated in a day at the beach with Dune Doctors. Students installed dune-building plants and learned about the importance of preserving and protecting our coastal dune ecosystem. Wow! Thank you so much for making our second annual Gulf Shores Gives Back event a success! We are so appreciative of our students, employees, parents and community with their willingness to serve, show team spirit, and promote positive energy. Our students would not have had the opportunity to develop a habit of community service without the leadership from our employees! Thank you! While many, many people contributed to the planning and coordination of Gulf Shores Gives Back, we would like to recognize the Mental Health Advisory/Gulf Shores Gives Back Committee. This committee has been meeting for more than a year to plan this event. If you did not have the opportunity to participate this year, we hope you will join us next year for this annual event. Take a few moments to view the Gulf Shores Gives Back page on our website and the photo/video gallery of our special day.

We encourage our students, parents, and community members to get involved with events in our district. Full involvement will make our district stronger. 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

Meet Our Student WaveMakers of the Month

Elementary School



McKenzie Seeley

Grade - 3rd Grade

Area of Recognition -
Kindness

I'm a WaveMaker because...
McKenzie is always kind to other students and makes everyone feel welcome. She has the best heart. She shows true leadership in every situation, making sure that she always does the right thing and helps others around her. She works so hard in all of her learning no matter how hard it gets and always gets it done. I absolutely love getting to be her teacher!
~Nominated by Olivia Clark~

Middle School



Mary Claire Lewellen

Grade - 6th Grade

Area of Recognition -
Leadership & Attitude

I'm a WaveMaker because...
I nominate Mary Claire Lewellen for WaveMaker of the Month for her dedication to helping others and making a positive impact at GSMS. She is always a helpful hand in the classroom, whether assisting classmates, passing out papers, or doing her favorite task—organizing! She has joined multiple clubs to find ways to support her school and peers, including creating posters to spread encouragement and kindness throughout the building. GSMS is lucky to have a student like Mary Claire, who is always ready to share a smile and a kind word.
~Nominated by Kristen Weaver~

High School



Bella Sallin

Grade - 12th Grade

Area of Recognition -
Integrity, Commitment, Service

I'm a WaveMaker because...
Bella is a true wave maker, leaving a meaningful impact on both our school and community. As a student ambassador, Bella represents our school with enthusiasm and a genuine commitment to helping others. Her volunteer work throughout the community highlights her selflessness and dedication to making a positive difference. She approaches every opportunity with determination, always striving to do her best and inspiring those around her to reach their full potential. Bella's compassion shines through in her involvement with the Friends of Exceptional Students club. She actively engages in inclusive activities and regularly visits the students in Ms. Balster's room, building meaningful relationships and creating a welcoming environment. She's also been an instrumental part in supporting the Might Fins Cheerleading squad. As cheer captain, Bella leads with integrity and positivity, setting a tone of teamwork and school spirit for her team and peers. Her ability to balance her responsibilities while excelling in so many areas is a testament to her character and drive. Bella's example serves as an inspiration to her classmates and a reminder of the power of determination and service.
~Nominated by Krista Fleming~

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

Meet Our Staff WaveMaker of the Month



Elementary School
Calvin Lentz
Custodian

I'm a WaveMaker because…

Mr. Calvin is an extraordinary individual whose kindness, dedication, and positivity leave a lasting impact on our school community. His role extends far beyond custodial duties—he takes immense pride in creating a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for students and staff alike. Every day, he goes the extra mile, ensuring every space is spotless and every detail is taken care of with thoughtfulness and care.
Beyond his work, Mr. Calvin fosters joy and connection among students. Whether greeting them with a warm smile, hiding a Minion for them to find, or bringing cheer with his decorated cart, he creates an atmosphere of happiness and inclusion. His work ethic, problem-solving skills, and leadership set an inspiring example, showing students the value of responsibility, respect, and kindness.
He is always ready to lend a helping hand, offering encouragement to teachers, troubleshooting STEM technology, and ensuring lost items find their way back to their owners. His unwavering commitment to excellence, compassion, and enthusiasm creates a true sense of community. More than a custodian, he is a mentor, a role model, and an irreplaceable part of our school. It is with great pride and appreciation that we nominate Mr. Calvin for this well-deserved honor.
~Nominated by Heather Bender, Front Office Ladies, Tiffanie Deese, Mary Margaret Phillip and Beth Pearse~



Middle School
Tori Erdossy
Science Teacher

I'm a WaveMaker because…
I nominate Tori Erdossy for WaveMaker of the Month for her leadership in our House System and the success of our first Amazing Shake competition. She took the lead in preparing students, securing community involvement, and organizing each round. The Amazing Shake was created by Ron Clark from the Ron Clark Academy. This competition aims to teach students essential skills, such as proper etiquette, communication techniques, interview skills, and presenting themselves well under pressure. Her efforts are giving students a valuable opportunity to showcase skills beyond our usual accolades in academics and sports, helping them grow in confidence and prepare them for a future outside of our school walls.
~Nominated by Kristen Weaver~



High School
Maria Hawkins Athletic Bookkeeper

I'm a WaveMaker because…
I am thrilled to nominate Maria Hawkins as our Wave Maker of the month! As the Athletic Bookkeeper at Gulf Shores High School, Maria plays an essential role in keeping the Gulf Shores Athletic Department running smoothly. Her dedication to improving and refining the accounting procedures for the department reflects her commitment to excellence and to the success of our student-athletes. Although she has only been in her position for a little over the year, she is a seasoned professional ensuring we stay in compliance every step of the way. Maria manages the books for 17 different sports and a total of 49 teams - no small feat! But her management goes further than just the sports; she has to handle all of the coaches who go along with those sports! Spirit packs, fundraising, gates, concession stands, uniforms, and so much more. Her meticulous attention to detail and her ability to streamline complex processes ensure that everything runs like clockwork behind the scenes. Although she is "by-the books," she is flexible to meet the needs of the coaches. Games change and playoff schedules are often last minute and she helps coaches complete the paperwork to make sure they are able to focus on the details of the game and not the details of travel and the event. While her efforts may often go unnoticed, they are vital to the day-to-day operations of our athletic programs. Her work is a cornerstone of the Gulf Shores City Schools system.
Maria's passion for her work and her unwavering commitment to Gulf Shores City Schools make her an undeniable "WaveMaker." She spends most of her time handling finances, but she is always willing to lend a hand when we need a translator or an extra set of hands in the office. Her contributions have a lasting impact on the entire school community, and we are so grateful for everything she does to help our student athletes, coaches, and sports programs thrive. Maria is such a hard worker, and her dedication is unmatched! She is a true WaveMaker.
~Nominated by Coach Jason Watts, Athletic Director~

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

Elementary School

Differentiation is key!

Mrs. Parks' Kindergarten students in the Informational Text Comprehension group are exploring weather books to find the table of contents, labels, index, captions and glossary and enjoying making new social connections to other peers across the grade!

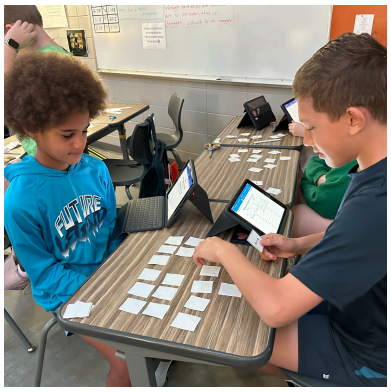
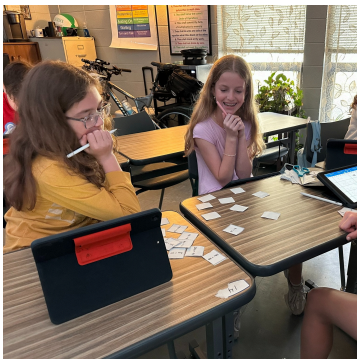




Middle School

Memory Skills in Math!

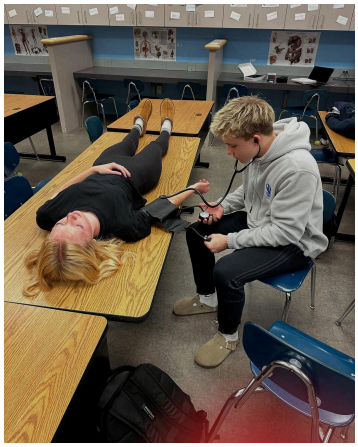
Mr. Reetz's sixth-grade students exercised their memory skills while also practicing finding equivalent expressions using the distributive property. This was a great, hands-on way for the students to practice their skills in a way that you can tell they clearly enjoyed!

High School

Amazing things happening in Sports Med

Med 1 ACED their first checkoff and are now learning how to take vital signs on a patient. Sports Med 2 completed elbow palpation checkoffs, elbow taping, and elbow goniometry checkoffs! They'll present their injury projects Monday! Sports Med 3 Interns wrapped up their first rotation of the semester and will start their 2nd rotations this coming week!

Virtual Academy

Valentine's Day at GSVA!

Valentine fun with K-5th grade Virtual Academy students!



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

Walking School Bus embraces Presidents' Day

A huge thank you to Kris Romano from Smart Home Handyman for showing off his patriotic spirit in honor of Presidents' Day! He joined us on the Walking School Bus, and the students also dressed in red, white, and blue to celebrate. It was a fantastic way to embrace the holiday and show our love for our country!



Take Time For The Dolphin Walk!

Athletics

State Champion Alert!

Congratulations to Khloe Henshaw for earning her way to State Champion at the first sanctioned AHSAA Girls Wrestling State Championship! We are proud of you!



View our Athletics website!

Arts Education

Happy Valentine's Day fro the GSMS Art classes!

7th and 8th graders designed colorful conversation heart drawings, incorporating depth and dimension. My 6th graders created lively and expressive Valentine hearts, inspired by the artwork of Chris Uphues



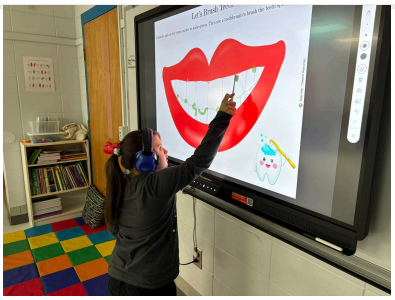


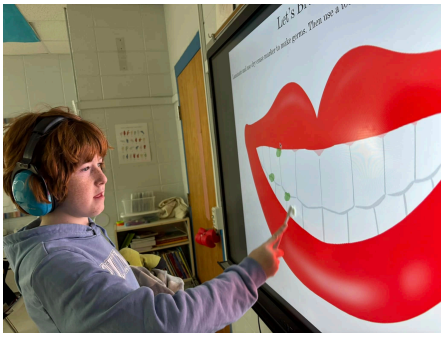


Teaching & Learning

Canans' Class learns about teeth!

Students learned all about dental health and the importance of keeping our teeth clean! Brushing, flossing, and healthy habits make all the difference!







Thank You to Our Special Guests!
A big thank you to Cub Scout Leader Matt Palamara for joining us at the Walking School Bus this week! We truly appreciated you sharing about Cub Scouts with us and leading us in some fun songs—what a great way to start the day!
We also want to give a shout-out to Cindy Langston from Gulf State Park for visiting us a couple of weeks ago to talk about the exciting new Sensory Trail. Your insights were inspiring, and we loved learning more about this wonderful addition to the park.
Thank you both for making a positive impact on our community and helping us learn in fun, engaging ways!



A big thank you to the American Red Cross and all our donors for helping us host a successful blood drive this past Monday! We surpassed our goal of 34 pints and collected a total of 35 pints of blood to go towards saving a life! Great job all!

Took the GSHS cadets to an orienteering competition today at UWF. Great teamwork and a little detachment from their phones.







Congratulations to our Top 24 GSMS students from the first round of the Amazing Shake. These students will move on to the next round, The Gauntlet, on Friday! We are so proud of everyone who participated and represented our school so well.



Mrs. Everett, Dr. Hamilton, Mrs. Jones, and Mrs. Mitchell at GSHS spent the day in Vestavia Hills training with the A+ College Ready ITIP program. A lot of valuable information and materials are heading back to GSHS students!



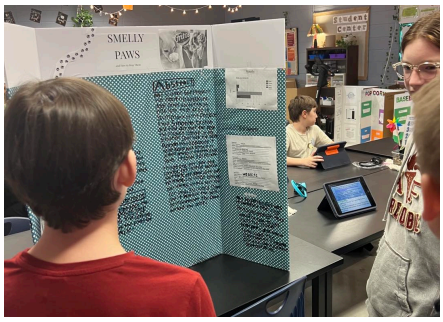
Our 15 Virtual Academy students in 2nd - 5th grade took the ACAP practice test at GSES this week in preparation for the ACAP in the Spring. Pictured are the 2nd graders with the three amazing GSES Assistant Principals!



Thank you to our families for stocking the Blessing Box! Community Support!



11 students were recognized as Gulf Shores Middle School Science Fair Finalists! Katelyn Hamilton won first place, Reese Swann won second place, and Daniel Williams and Matthew Jenkins won third place. Our runners up include: Nathan Harvey, London Grandy and Lexy Malone, Georgia Richey and Zoe Smalley, Kysan Deloach, and Olivia Yates.
Students began the process in August by brainstorming ideas for their projects. They continued to develop their projects for the better part of 5 months. Topics ranged from fingernail polish quality to ocean acidification. The common thread in these vastly different topics is scientific inquiry. Special thank you to our Gulf Shores High School teachers for taking time to judge our projects this year!







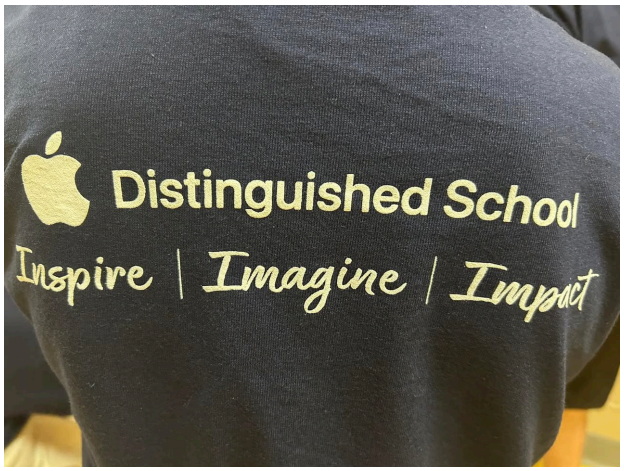
Congratulations to Rayla Pierce on her commitment to Southern Union! We are excited for the bright future ahead. Go Dolphins!



From Drug Awareness Council Representative, GSHS student Claire Colvin:
I want to extend my gratitude towards all of you for supporting me and my drive this past week. I want to share with you the results that you would not have been possible without you. This past week, we collected 5469 school supply items with a value of over $1000. It was a great success!

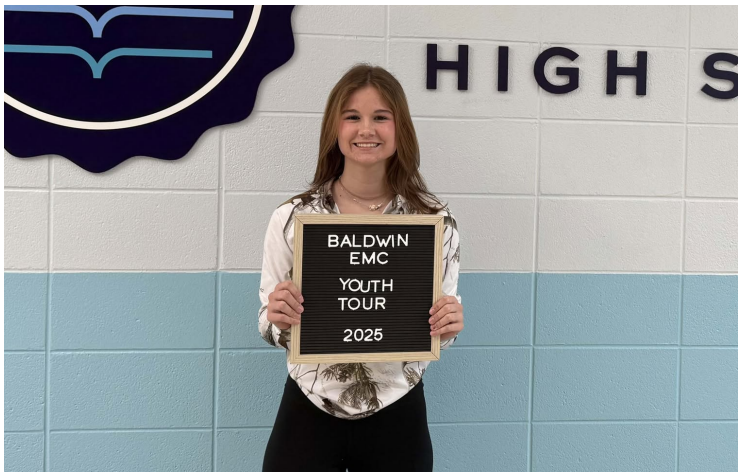


Mrs. Weems' students at GSES were proud to get our Apple Distinguished School shirts. Way to go, GSCS!



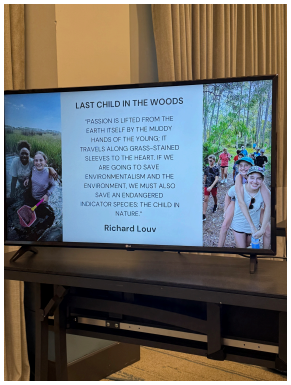


Baldwin EMC is proud to introduce our delegates for the 2025 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour!
Please join us in congratulating **Ella Sanders from Gulf Shores High School**, Morgan Hewes from Daphne High School, Avery Hassen from Fairhope High School and Addison Vermeulen from Elberta High School. They will participate in this year's Youth Tour in Montgomery, Ala., in March and Washington, D.C., in June!









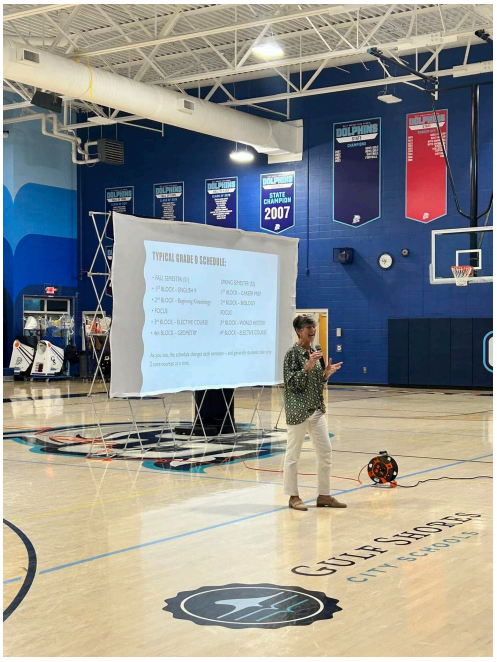


Six Gulf Shores Middle School students presented at the Alabama Coastal Foundation's 2025 Sustainability Summit hosted at The Lodge in Gulf State Park. Nolan Redden, Reese Swann, Lilly Grace Longshore, Lexy Malone, Adam Kozyuk, and Luna Collum shared how their experiences at school are aligned to the conference theme, "Future Signposts: Learning how to improve, protect, and celebrate our environment."
We are proud of you!

Health Science Interns toured @baldwinhealth and are ready to begin rotations!



GSHS had a packed gym at the 8th grade parent meeting. All the valuable information Mrs. Bowling shared will be posted on Canvas pages very soon to review. Scheduling for next school year begins very soon. Remember to keep the end in mind!





A story so nice, we're sharing it twice!
A big thank you goes to @fox10news and @wkrg5 for highlighting the amazing dune restoration efforts of these local students and volunteers!
The hard work and dedication of all involved in this project helps protect and preserve our beautiful coastline here at Gulf State Park for generations to come.
Learn more from WALA here: **https://bit.ly/3CVN2zJ**
Learn more from WKRG here: **https://bit.ly/42SyGLo**
Photo Credit: Alabama State Parks
#GulfStatePark #ALstateParks #AlabamaStateParks







We are thrilled to announce the outstanding achievements of our students at this year's Region 7 Technology Fair! Under the guidance of Mr. McClung, our talented participants have excelled in various categories. Please join us in congratulating the following winners:
1st Place Video Production: Charles “Gray” Bias
1st Place Website Design (11-12): Timothy Pittman
1st Place Website Design (9-10): Cody Caldwell
1st Place Audio: Hakim Elliott
3rd Place Digital Art: Kylee McElveen
We are incredibly proud of their hard work, creativity, and dedication. Let's celebrate their success and continue to support their future endeavors in the State Competition on March 28th. Congratulations to all the winners!



Mrs. Barnett's Middle School Choir classes took a field trip to the Civic Center to see "Einstein," the longest-running one-man show in L.A.! Our students participated in hands-on demonstrations and engaged with Mr. Jack Fry (a.k.a. 'Einstein'), where they learned how he prepared for the role he has performed since 2017! Thank you to Gulf Shores City Schools, the City of Gulf Shores, and the Gulf Shores Civic Center for giving our students this wonderful, immersive experience in Arts Education outside our classroom doors!





Mrs. Sandra Akin, College and Career Advisor at GSHS, met with NYU recruiter Edinam Eshietedoh. He will be at Gulf Shores High School on March 26th from 11:00am until noon to talk with students who want to know more about attending college at NYU. Eshietedoh entourages students **to take the most rigorous curriculum that Gulf Shores offers** and to strive for a high ACT score.





Our first student-led Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meeting before school and had quite a large turnout!
*FCA is open to Kindergarten - 5th and must have a signed permission form to attend. Students may pick the slips up in the office.

Big News! GSHS Junior, Ella Sanders has received not one but TWO all-expense paid trips to Montgomery and Washington, DC., a $750 scholarship to the college of her choice, and a $500 grant to the teacher who has most impacted her during her high school experience. She chose Mrs. Jones as her teacher-of-impact recipient. In Montgomery, Ella will have the opportunity to meet with local officials, learn more about leadership, and explore the state capital with over 150 other students from across the state. While in Washington, DC she will explore monuments, and museums, and meet with elected officials and cooperative leaders to enhance her leadership abilities and political mindfulness. We are extremely proud of Ella!







Tyler Burkett officially extends football career with commitment to Miles College

A year after he started his chemotherapy journey in a battle against Hodgkin's Lymphoma, the Gulf Shores senior lineman announced his college commitment to the Miles Golden Bears.

A 2023 Class 5A state champion, Burkett was diagnosed shortly after the title game then started his chemotherapy treatment at the beginning of February 2024. Midway through this February, he received his first college football offer and wasted no time jumping on it.

Burkett is set to join the SIAC champion Golden Bears who rode a nine-game win streak into the Division II playoffs where they registered the program's first playoff victory.

Visit **gulfcoastmedia.com/sports** for more on Burkett's journey!



Congratulations to Evelyn Lamar on winning the Baker Invitational as the all tournament low medalist with a 71. She helped lead the Dolphins to a 4th place finish over a strong field of teams!



The third-grade team at GSES is in a "League of Their Own" as they embark upon a "championship" ACAP season!



Thank you to the afterschool care clean up crew. The playgrounds at GSES look FABULOUS!



POD Wrestling had a big weekend in Huntsville at the 2025 AHSAA State Championships
Girls team had 3 state placers and the Team Finished 5th in 6A/7A
Boys Team had 8 state placers and the Team finished 4th in 6A
*8 state placers was the most of any team in 6A





We are elated to announce that GSHS student, Alex Vodi has received word that she is a National Merit Finalist! To be a National Merit Finalist, top students across the nation must exhibit excellence in academics and leadership. We are so proud of her accomplishments and wish her Good Luck as she is considered for the National Merit Scholarship Recipients later this year.



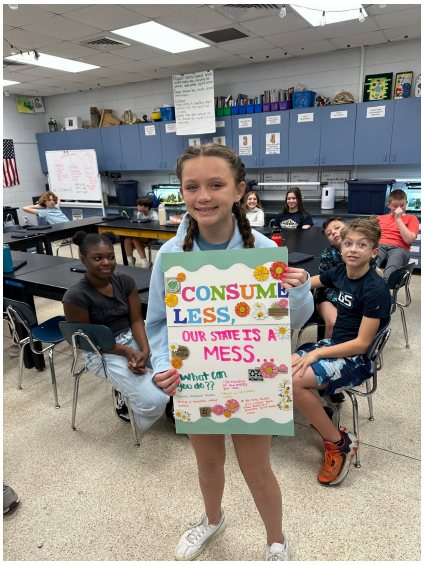
Mr. Dey's 5th grade class at GSES recently ventured outside of the classroom to check out our local ecosystems.



Students have been hard at work creating posters to reduce waste around our school community. Students focused on consuming less, composting, and recycling. They used reliable resources like EPA.gov and various university publications to research facts about the United States' consumption and waste problem. Did you know the average person generates 4.9 lbs of waste per day?

These facts fired them up to change our school culture around recycling and food waste. They sorted and scrubbed our recycling bins, turned our compost, created campaign posters and social media videos, and started 4 new vermicompost stations on our campus. Additionally, they wrote letters to key stakeholders about ideas for reducing waste systematically.

Earth Day is coming soon! What small change could you make to help keep our precious environmental resources intact?







Mr. Pearcy's music enrichment class at GSES is a favorite of all! Pictured here is the fifth grade "Mallet Madness" crew, and a first grade music class - can you imagine the fun of those drums?!





Congratulations to GSHS senior Marija Turkic for being selected as an NHS Scholarship Semifinalist! Recipients are selected based on demonstration of service, leadership, scholarship, and character. She will receive a scholarship award for $3,200. Marija plans to attend Auburn University in the fall and pursue a double major in Health Science and Studio Arts.



Gulf Shores High School took home 2nd place at the University of Alabama Cybersecurity Competition yesterday. More importantly these students are just as good people as they are bright.





Mrs. Bowling, Gulf Shores High School Counselor, is at Gulf Shores Middle School talking to eighth grade students about the course selection for ninth grade.



Thank you to Patty Officer Theo and his students from Gulf Shores High school JROTC for coming over to speak to our 8th grade students regarding the program. They are starting the process of making decision for scheduling at the high school so this was a perfect way to introduce them to something new!



The Concert Band traveled to Davidson HS to perform at the Alabama Bandmasters Association District VII Music Performance Assessment and performed for a panel of state sanctioned judges and received all 1s (the highest rating possible)!
Congratulations to these students on their hard work!





Kaitlyn Venable and Sophia Bauer competed in the Alabama Vocal Association Solo and Ensemble Festival in Fairhope and earned a Superior Rating. We are so proud of them and their hard work this semester.



Six of Mrs. Barnett's Middle School Choir students competed in the Alabama Vocal Association's Solo and Ensemble Festival in Fairhope. Each contestant was required to sing two songs from memory with an accompanist in front of a college-level adjudicator. Congratulations to Adrianna Dalier, Stella Jones, Emma Kakish, Lewis Kakish, and Maxim Vasilchev for earning Superior (Highest) Scores and to Tinsley Haley for her Excellent Plus (Second Highest) Score. Additionally, Adrianna Dalier and Emma Kakish scored a Superior for their ensemble/duets and Lewis Kakish scored a Superior for his duet performances with 9th Grader Kaitlyn Venable. We are so proud of their hard work and dedication!







Sending a big Thank You to Tacky Jacks and Sea Paws Dog Resort, who recently hosted their annual Smooch the Pooch event and donated the proceeds to our system Make Waves of Kindness initiative. MWOK, under the guidance of the Department of Exceptional Education, provides classroom grants to support neurodiverse learning opportunities for all students at Gulf Shores City Schools. We are grateful for their continued support!





Thank you Blalock Seafood of Gulf Shores for your generous sponsorship! Beautiful Halibut and Scallops were donated by Alex Kiser to our GSHS Culinary ProStart Team for practices and competition. The team created a mouthwatering Halibut Ceviche appetizer & and an amazing Seared Scallops entree. It's so exciting to have local businesses take an interest in our students and our program!





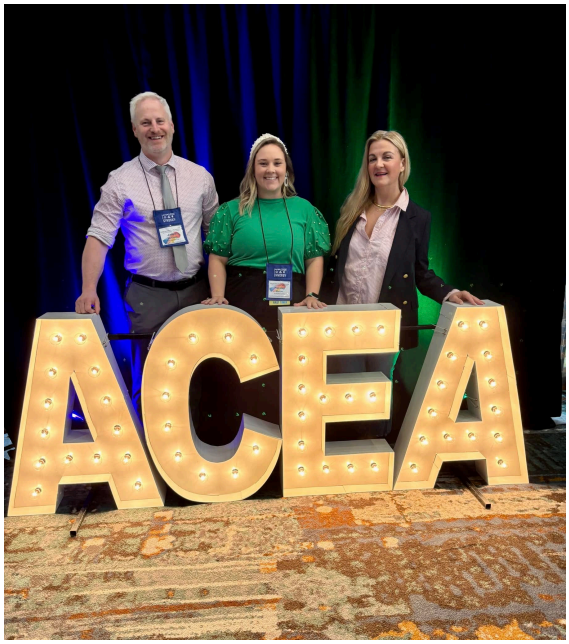
Gulf Shores receives donation from Cotton Creek Ladies Golf Association
The Dolphin girls' golf squad was recently gifted funds and equipment from the Cotton Creek Ladies Golf Association in memory of Anne McCormick thanks to the "Pennies for Putts" program.
CCLGA Treasurer Dawn Miceli was on hand for the donation presentation along with Association President Rene' Hitson, Past President Cynthia McDermond and Past Vice President Nita Fitzgerald.
Gulf Shores most recently took third from the Talons Up Challenge in Dothan and at the match before that, Evelyn Lamar was the individual champion of the Baker Invitational with an even score that featured three birdies and an eagle.







The Afterschool Care administrative team is excited to bring back new ideas, activities, and inspiration for our summer programs and afterschool programs from the annual Alabama Community Education Association Conference



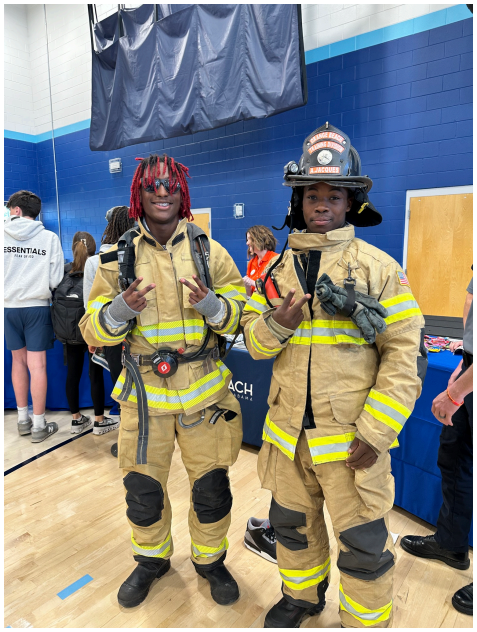
GS Elementary Virtual Academy students had so much fun celebrating their iReady achievements in the first semester! The parents and teachers seemed to have as much fun as the kids! Thank you to **The Gulf Bowl** for providing such a fun atmosphere!





Orange Beach Fire Rescue had an incredible time at the Gulf Shores High School Career Fair today. From trying on gear to learning the ins and outs of what it takes to be a firefighter, these outstanding students got hands-on experience and discovered what it really means to serve our community. Who knows? We might be seeing these faces in uniform one day!
Big thanks to Gulf Shores High School for letting us connect with the next generation of community helpers.





House animal winners at GSMS!









Congratulations to our winner, Katelyn Hamilton, and runner-up, Grayson Godbee!
We wrapped up our first-ever Amazing Shake today! The final four contestants delivered speeches in front of the judges and the entire student body to wrap up the competition. Both students will represent GSMS at the Global Amazing Shake competition at the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta.
We had 42 students participate and we are so proud of how they represented our school!
A big thank you to Mrs. Erdossy and our admin team for making this opportunity possible for our students. We also appreciate our community members who generously volunteered as judges for each round!





Congratulations GSHS ProStart teams! Management came in 3rd overall and Culinary won the Best Teamwork and Spirit award. So proud of all your hard work!





A lot of great information was given out at the Honors and AP night. Parents and students were able to talk with current AP teachers and students to get a better understanding of what these courses are like. Registration for next school year is quickly approaching, and we want to be able to guide students in the right direction to help prepare them for their future.







Read Across America

Gulf Shores Elementary

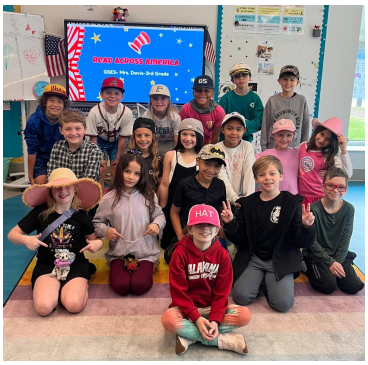
Read Across America

SPIRIT WEEK

Februry 24th -28th, 2025

MON	**Hat Day** "Cat in the Hat" Day! Wear your favorite hat to school.
TUES	**Wacky Socks Day** Step into the world of Seuss with your wackiest socks!
WED	**Wacky Wednesday** Wear clothes backwards, inside out, mismatched
THURS	**1 Fish, 2 Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish** Wear red or blue
FRI	**Oh the Places You Will Go** Wear your favorite college team shirt













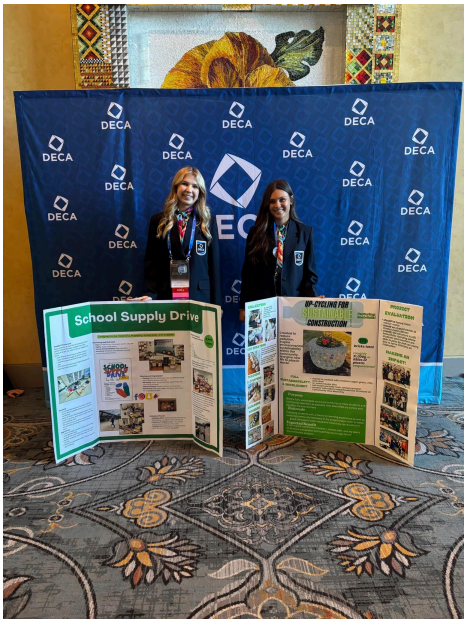




GSHS Students Shine at DECA State Conference!

Bella Sallin, Carleigh Jurkiewicz, and Claire Colvin are making waves at the 2025 DECA State Career Development Conference in Montgomery! Competing against top students from across the state, they're showcasing their business skills with the support of advisors Dr. Caroline Hamilton and Ashley Watley.
Congratulations to Bella Sallin for winning DECA Glass!!! 1st place in Hotel and Lodging Management. She will be competing at International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida in late April
A huge shoutout to @dolphinfoundationforeducationandarts for making this journey possible with their support for competition blazers and travel!





Gulf Shores Gives Back Day A Success!

Three thousand students and community leaders joined forces for more than a hundred projects throughout Gulf Shores as part of the second annual Gulf Shores Gives Back. Students learned some valuable lessons outside of the classroom and the city is better for it. Take time to view the video below and browse through the photos/videos from the day! MakeWaves!



PHOTOS/VIDEOS OF GULF SHORES GIVES BACK DAY

GSHS College and Career Fair

We had two packed gyms today at our annual College and Career Fair. We hosted over 30 Colleges and Universities as well as over 30 local businesses with job openings.
Thank you to all of our guests for coming out to provide this opportunity for our students.

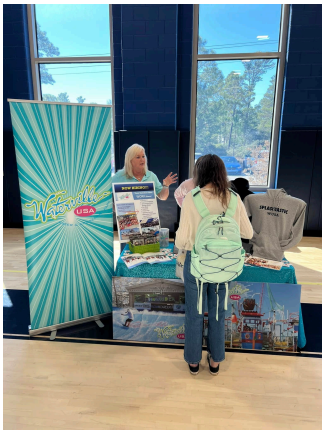














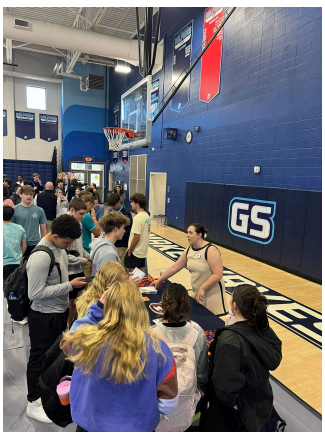












Busy day servicing the community for the little leaders of GSES




















Taking Flight: A New Milestone for Gulf Shores City Schools Aviation Academy!



GSHS Aviation celebrated an incredible gift that will elevate our Aviation Academy to new heights! Thanks to the generosity of Vince and Lynn Boothe, our students now have access to a 2016 TL Sting S4 aircraft! We will be able to offer flight experiences and lessons that few high school programs in the country can.

This milestone reflects the power of community, education, and industry coming together to create unparalleled opportunities for our students. With the support of our school board, city leaders, industry partners, and incredible educators, we continue to make aviation dreams a reality!

A special thank you to all our guests who joined us for this momentous occasion. The sky is not the limit—it's just the beginning!







Big Things are Cooking in Gulf Shores!

GSMS and GSES celebrated the ribbon cutting for our brand-new outdoor kitchen at Gulf Shores Elementary and Middle Schools! This innovative space will serve as a hands-on learning lab where students explore culinary arts, nutrition, science, math, sustainability, and farm-to-table education—all while cooking up delicious meals.
From harvesting fresh ingredients in our school gardens to learning essential life skills in a real-world setting, this outdoor kitchen is more than just a space—it's an experience. It's where sustainability-focused STEAM and creativity come together over a shared meal, and where students build confidence, collaboration, and a love for healthy eating.
A huge thank you to everyone who made this possible—our incredible teachers, PTOs past and present, Beau and his amazing crew, GSBOE, Chef Jon and students, CNP, partners, and supporters who continue to help us create engaging, real-world, place-based learning opportunities for our students.
Here's to the next generation of young chefs, environmental stewards, and lifelong learners!









Best of Baldwin 2025...And The Winner Is...



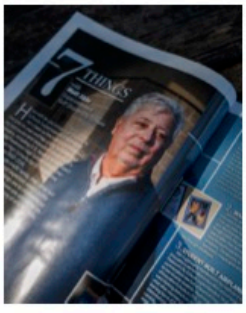
And The Winner is... School Administrator - Dr. Matt Akin - GSCS Superintendent















7 Things
Gulf Shores City Schools Superintendent Matt Akin reflects on what inspires him to disrupt education on a national level.

**Article located in the Beachin' Winter 2025 - Gulf Coast Media (Read online or pick up a copy of the magazine)

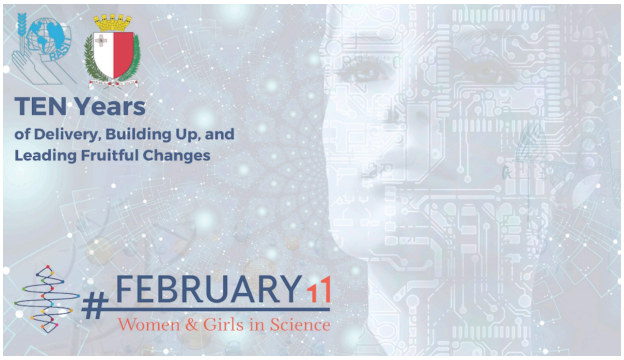
The G.E.M.S. Team

In celebration of International Day of Women and Girls in Science Day we recognize an exemplary program right here at Gulf Shores Middle School -- The G.E.M.S. Team (Girls Engaged in Math and Science), led by Anthony Capps Schaff, Grade 7, Science Teacher and Mrs. Regan McClung.

Harnessing the power of Teamwork, Innovation, Fun, Inclusion, Discovery, and Impact, the team has expanded to almost 50 girls to tackle two exciting new projects. The first project delves into the science and mathematics of making, marketing, and selling ice cream. The second investigates the question, "How many oysters would it take to filter all the water in Little Lagoon in one day?"

During team meetings, they've researched the ecological roles of oysters to prepare for their upcoming showcase event in Huntsville, where they'll surely "Make Waves" presenting their findings to other G.E.M.S. teams from across the state.

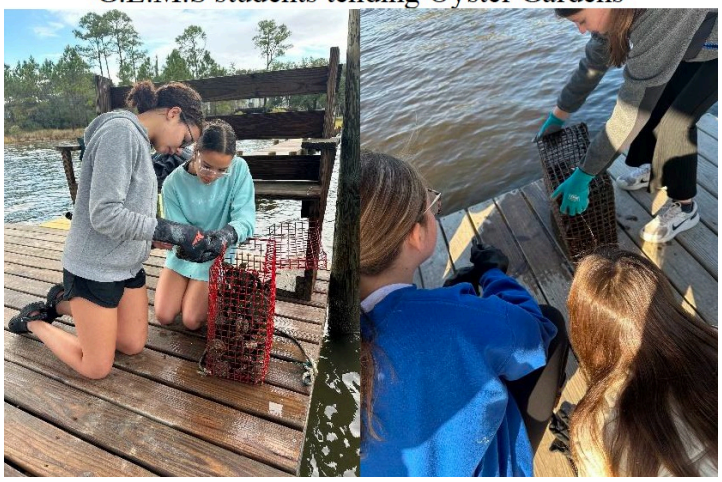
Feb. 11 was declared the International Day of Women and Girls in Science in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly.







G.E.M.S students tending Oyster Gardens



Thomas Hospital Auxiliary's Junior Volunteer

Current 8th-grade students interested in participating in the Thomas Hospital Auxiliary's Junior Volunteer program this summer are asked to complete the online application on the home page of **www.thomashospital.org.** The online application and all additional required documentation must be completed and submitted no later than WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be accepted.

Requirements

• Currently between the ages of 14 and 17 years old, but not yet eligible for graduation from high school.

To qualify for the program, applicants must meet the following qualifications:

• Currently be in 8th, 9th, 10th or 11th grade.

• Be able to commit to volunteering one four-hour shift per week for a minimum of four weeks. .

• Currently have a B (3.0) average (cumulative for the year) or higher. School transcript must be submitted with the online application.

• Be able to commit to volunteering one four-hour shift per week, for a minimum of four weeks.

• Have good communication skills, a great attitude, and work well with others. Junior Volunteers must also show maturity, a willingness to accept responsibility, and a positive demeanor.

• Complete a mandatory health screening/assessment, which includes a TB skin test and drug and alcohol screening, by an Infirmary Health Employee Health Department. Students who are fully vaccinated for Covid-19 are asked to submit a copy of their vaccination record. Students are who not fully vaccinated for Covid-19 must complete an exemption request form.

• Attend a mandatory orientation class outlining the expectations of the program, and Thomas Hospital's policies and procedures.

Junior Volunteer with the Thomas Hospital Auxiliary

See Mrs. Holmes for required forms

Important Dates

Wednesday, April 9 - Application Deadline
Online application is available on the home page of www.thomashospital.com.

Tuesday, May 6 - Junior Volunteer Program Orientation
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
Seminar Room of the Thomas Fitness Center
(a separate building located on the Thomas Hospital campus)
Parents may attend, but their attendance is not required. One orientation class is mandatory.

Thursday, May 8 - Junior Volunteer Program Orientation
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.
Thomas Medical Center in Daphne
(In the Publix shopping center on Hwy 98)
Parents may attend, but their attendance is not required. One orientation class is mandatory.

June 2 - July 25 - Junior Volunteer Program Assignments
Volunteering one four-hour shift per week, for a minimum of four weeks in the eight-weeks program, or a TOTAL OF 16 HOURS, is required.

For more information, please contact Melita Willkie, Manager of Volunteer Services, at 251-279-5525 or melita.willkie@infirmaryhealth.org.

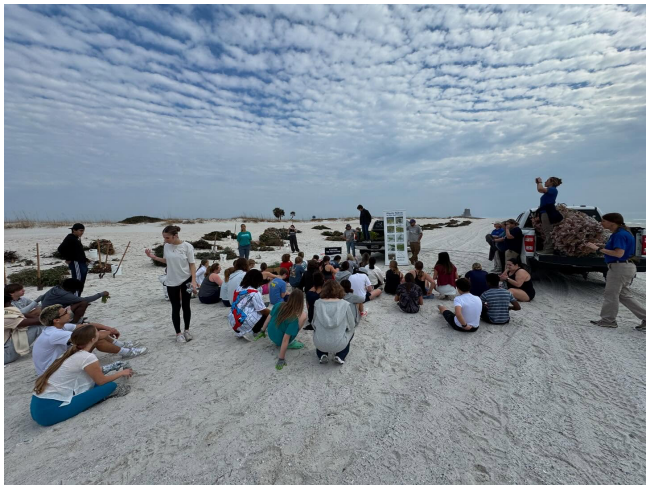
Planting for Protection Dune Restoration

Planting for Protection Dune Restoration 2024: Day 1 complete! GSHS and GSMS students and teachers placed the Christmas trees, learned about native plants, and did a practice planting. What a beautiful day to be a Dolphin! The 5th grade students and teachers will be on the beach with HS and MS tomorrow! Special thanks for **@dunedoctor**s , @gulfstatepark , **@lodgeatgs**p , **@cricospizz**a , and **@thehangoutg**s ! Crico's delivered pizzas today for lunch and The Hangout is donating (and serving) lunch to all 250+ students and teachers tomorrow! Thanks to The Lodge for being such gracious hosts and allowing us to use the outdoor seating for lunch both days. Lastly, thank you to GSP and Dune Doctors for our ongoing partnership—this is year 4! We are so grateful for our community support!











ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2025

Planting for Protection Dune Restoration

What a beautiful day to be a dolphin! Day 2
Fifth graders at GSES, along with high school and middle school mentors, worked hard to conserve and protect local dunes by planting native vegetation. The event was part of a community effort to help stabilize the dunes, prevent erosion, and protect local wildlife. Students and mentors teamed up, learning about the importance of environmental conservation while making a positive impact on their local ecosystem. The group's dedication to preserving nature shows how teamwork can help safeguard our planet for future generations.



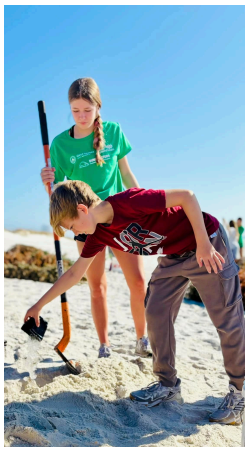







Along with all the 5th graders at GSES, Mrs. Bender and Mrs. Todd's class were part of Dune Doctor's dune restoration project at the beach today. With the help of some middle and high school mentors, Gulf State Park Staff, and the leadership of the GSHS Science Department, students were hands on in planning, constructing and maintaining native ecosystems and protective landscapes along our Gulf Shores coastline.







AHSAA 6A SOUTH SUPER-SECTIONALS

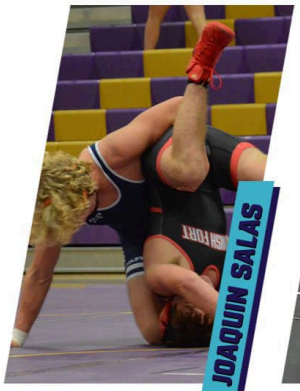
TEAM RUNNER-UP

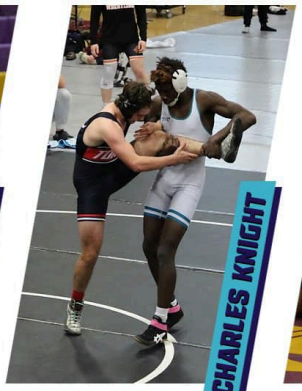
*10 STATE QUALIFIERS #ITWEME #TRUSTTHEPROCESS

Pretty good weekend for the POD
Boys
6A South Runner Up
10 State Qualifiers
Girls
5th Place Team
4 State Qualifiers



GULF SHORES WRESTLING









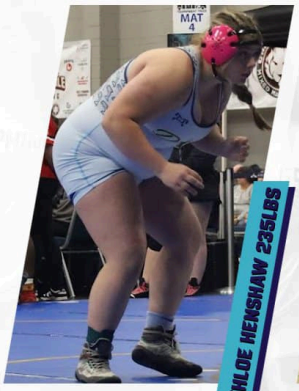


AHSAA 6A STATE QUALIFIERS

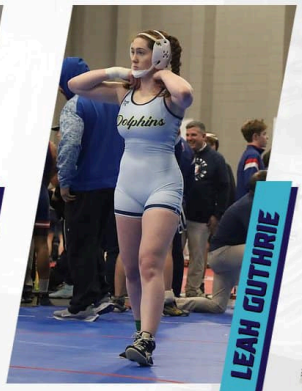
2025

POD

GULF SHORES WRESTLING









AHSAA 6A/7A STATE QUALIFIERS

2025

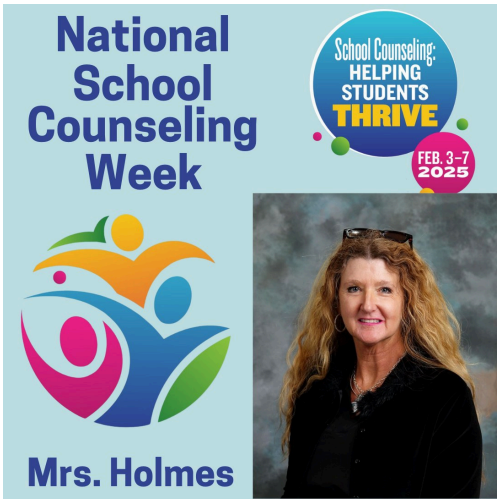
POD

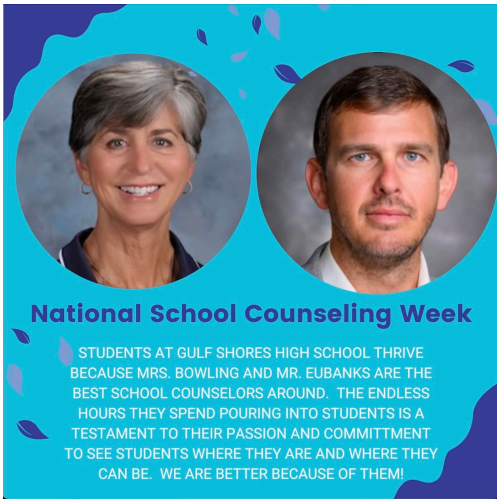
MAKE WAVES!

National School Counseling Week

Feb. 3-7







Mayor Craft Perseverance Award

CONGRATULATIONS Gulf Shores Dolphin TYLER BURKETT!!!



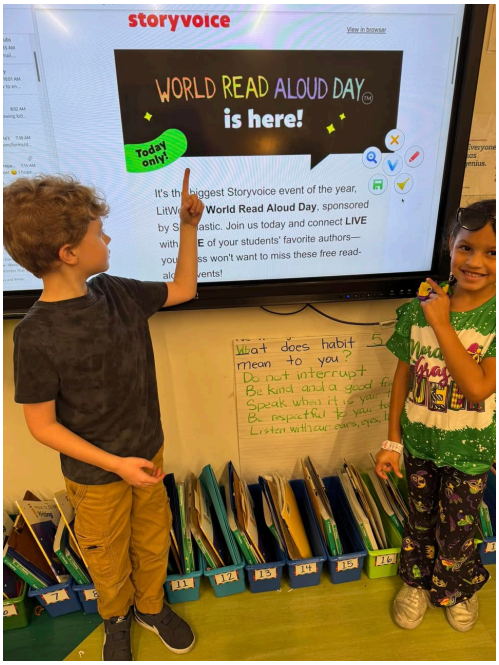




World Read Aloud Day

Mrs. Maddux's class at GSES participated in a live event with author David Shannon for World Read Aloud Day! He showed us pictures he drew in 1st grade!!









MakeWaves Theatre, GSMS Choir, GSHS Band

MakeWaves Theatre, GSMS Choir, and GSHS Band had the incredible opportunity to go see the longest running one man show in LA, “Einstein”. Thank you to Jack Fry, **Gulf Shores City School**s, and Gulf Shores Civic Center for giving us this awesome opportunity to enjoy live theatre and learn about one of the greatest scientific minds the world has ever known.













GSCS: Tuesday Tour at GSES in March

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, March11th 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.

To sign up, click on the following link: **Take The Tuesday Tour**



Get Your Season Tickets Today For Spring Sports!



Season Tickets for Baseball, Softball Soccer & Track & Field are now on sale on GoFan
https://gofan.co/app/school/AL19814





3/3-4	GSCS: Mardi Gras Holiday (No School)
3/3-31	GSMS: ACAP Alternate
3/3-14	GSMS: ACCESS testing for ELL
3/5	GSCS: E-Learning Day
3/11	GSHS: ACT with Writing
3/11	GSMS: PSAT
3/11	GSCS: Tuesday Tour at GSES 9:00am
3/12	GSHS: Gateway to Great Careers Industry Tours for Marine/Marine Sciences
3/12	GSHS: Graduation Announcement Delivery by Jostens
3/13	BOE: Work Session &Regular Board meeting 4:00pm
3/14	GSCS: Quarter 3 Ends
3/14	GSCS: Early Dismissal for Students 11:30am
3/18	GSCS: 2025 Island Schools Special Olympics
3/18-21	GSES: ACAP Testing(2nd Grade ELA Sessions)
3/18	GSES: Spirit Night (Texas Roadhouse)
3/18-21	GSES: ACAP Testing (3rd Grade ELA Sessions)
3/21	GSCS: Report Cards
3/21	GSES: Retention Letters
3/25-28	GSES: ACAP Testing (4th Grade ELA Sessions)
3/25-28	GSES: ACAP Testing (5th Grade ELA Sessions)
3/25	GSES: Coffee with the Counselors
3/26	GSES: Spring Pictures
3/27-30	GSHS: High School Musical Performance 7:00pm
3/31	GSES: ACAP Testing (4th Grade Science)

Enjoy these new GSCS commercials!

We Believe…

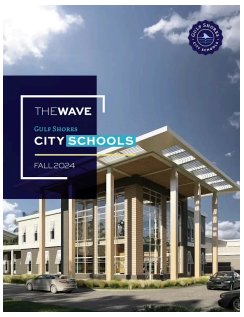
What If…

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 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