ISSUE 4 APRIL 2025

The MakeWaves Monthly

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



Superintendents' Message

April has been a busy and exciting month for our students and teachers. We are completing state testing, and students in our arts programs and spring sports have participated in several events and competitions. Our teachers are busy providing engaging activities and field trips for our students, and we hosted our Small Town, Big Garden: Farm To Table Dinner. It is an exciting time for GSCS as the new Gulf Coast Eco Center officially opened in the Gulf State Park. We are excited with all the educational activities that our students will benefit from with this new facility. We have enjoyed seeing our many parents and community members who have attended the special events that have been available this month. Please check our GSCS websites to sign-up for camps that are available during the summer for your child. As we move toward the end of the school year and the beginning of summer, please be reminded that attending school regularly is important. We want students to be with us every day to continue learning and developing their skills while enjoying all of the fun experience available to them.

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
Sawyer McBride



Grade - 1st Grade

Area of Recognition - Leadership

I'm a WaveMaker because...

Sawyer is an outstanding leader in the classroom, always demonstrating kindness, respect, and a willingness to help others. Whether assisting a classmate who is struggling, following directions with enthusiasm, or setting a positive example through his actions, he consistently goes above and beyond to make our classroom a welcoming and supportive space. His natural leadership shines through as he takes initiative, encourages his peers, and contributes to a strong sense of teamwork. With a heart full of kindness and a dedication to doing what is right, Sawyer has the qualities of a true role model and is truly deserving of this recognition.

~Nominated by Tiffanie Deese~

Middle School
JP Meador



Grade - 8th Grade

Area of Recognition - Leadership

I'm a WaveMaker because...

I have mentioned on several occasions that I would like to nominate JP Meador, an eighth grader, for this prestigious award. JP has been a member of my basketball team for the past two years, and I have also had the pleasure of having him in class. He is truly an outstanding young man—always positive, enthusiastic, and with a bright smile. While JP may not have had significant playing time on the court, he never once displayed a negative attitude or gave up. He accepted his role with grace and consistently worked hard, whether in practice, during games, or in the classroom.
Having been a teacher and coach for nearly 37 years, it is students like JP that make my job truly rewarding. Every school, classroom, and team would greatly benefit from individuals like him. He is a true winner, and I hold him in the highest regard. I know that his classmates and teammates share the same admiration and affection for him. He has my utmost respect and appreciation.

~Nominated by Coach James Vinson~

High School
Nicolette Meade



Grade - 11th Grade

Area of Recognition - Inside and outside of the classroom - Culinary Arts

I'm a WaveMaker because...

Nicolette is a bright, hard-working AP Lang student who shines inside and outside of the classroom. She and her culinary team (of which she is the manager) recently won several accolades at the Alabama ProStart Invitational in Orange Beach. Even though this took her out of the classroom for two days, she was proactive about keeping up with missed assignments. But what was particularly impressive to me was that she was willing to give up her personal time to help me just a few hours after the competition's completion at our AP Open House. Nic had been busily working to help GSHS shine in competition for two and half days, but then also found time (and energy!) to be a personable and informed spokesperson for my class during the open house. That kind of shine and support for our school deserves the recognition of WaveMaker.
~Nominated by Tara Smith~
Nicolette is an exceptional student. With every task that is put before her she gives her all. She seems to understand that her work is a reflection of herself. Nicolette's dedication to her work in the culinary lab is outstanding, but she also pushes herself beyond her comfort zone. She recently won the GSHS Sweet Potato Cook-off and went on to compete in the Baldwin County Cook-off. This year she joined FCCLA and was elected as the VP of Public Relations & Historian. I am proud to have her as one of my culinary students and can't wait to see what wonderful things she accomplishes this year.
~Nominated by Kristen Madsen~

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

Meet Our Staff WaveMakers of the Month

Elementary School
Terri Peacock



I'm a WaveMaker because...

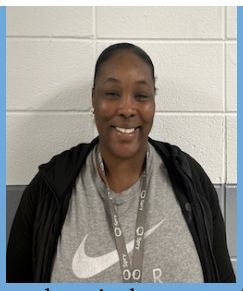
Terri Peacock is a truly passionate educator who works to grow the whole child- not just academically but mentally and socially- by building relationships to communicate with and motivate her students. She takes the time to connect with her students on a personal level, looking for ways to help them find the passion for learning within themselves. Terri spends time after hours digging into data for her students to figure out their strengths and weaknesses. Being a creative-minded person, she excels at developing and implementing plans for the next steps that appeal to students and get them excited about setting and achieving goals.

Not only is Terri an exceptional educator, but she also is an example of being a true life-long learner. Although she has 30-plus years of teaching experience, Terri continues to look for ways to grow in her profession and personal knowledge. As she digs into student data, she also reflects on her teaching practices and looks for ways to be a better teacher in everything she does. Terri has engaged me in conversations as both a peer and a coach about areas she sees as areas for growth and seeks research to grow her knowledge base.

Terri serves as a teacher leader on the GSES Math PLT and enjoys helping her peers interpret the standards, use research to identify and implement best practices, and look for new ways to challenge students within the curriculum. Because of her dedication to promoting growth in both her students and peers, I believe Terri is a WaveMaker at Gulf Shores Elementary.

~Nominated by Dana Walker~

Middle School
Alexis Palmer



I'm a WaveMaker because...

Alexis exemplifies professionalism, kindness, and meticulous attention to detail in everything she does. She takes great pride in her work, ensuring that every classroom is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, creating a safe, comfortable, and welcoming environment for students and staff alike. Her commitment to maintaining a healthy learning space is truly remarkable.

Beyond her outstanding work ethic, Alexis is a caring and positive presence in our school community. She consistently goes above and beyond, whether by taking extra care in her cleaning duties or offering a friendly smile to brighten someone's day. Her efforts, though often behind the scenes, make a significant impact on the daily lives of our students and staff.

For her unwavering dedication and the invaluable role she plays in making Gulf Shores Middle School a better place, I wholeheartedly nominate Alexis Palmer for Wave Maker of the Month. She is truly deserving of this recognition!

~Nominated by Cynthia Moore~

High School
Anna Kate Burleson



I'm a WaveMaker because...

Ms. Burleson brings energy, excitement, and engagement to her work at GSHS. Her students love her so much in the classroom that they often seek her company outside of the classroom either through the club that she sponsors, The Equality Club, or just chatting with her while she is on lunch duty. Her enthusiasm for her students and the work that she teaches in ninth grade English is infectious. Evidence of this is colorfully displayed in the hallways and in her students' stories of reenactments done in class. In just two short years her youthful energy has made a positive impact on her students and colleagues alike. (Tara Smith)

Anna Kate has an amazing connection with her students. She truly meets them where they are and moves them forward! She works to remediate students that are not on grade level, sponsors the Equality Club, and a member of the ACT BootCamp Team. She is a Wave-Maker in every sense of the word! (Heather Mitchell)

~Nominated by Tara Smith and Heather Mitchell~

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

Elementary School

Trip To GSHS Greenhouse!

Mrs. Shoemaker's first graders had a wonderful trip to the GSHS greenhouse today. Mrs. Talantis had her high school students lead informative and engaging science lessons. We're lucky to live and learn in Gulf Shores!





Middle School

National Poppy Poster Contest!

GSMS Art students took part in the National Poppy Poster Contest by the American Legion Auxiliary for the very first time. This was an exciting new opportunity to showcase their creativity while honoring veterans through art.







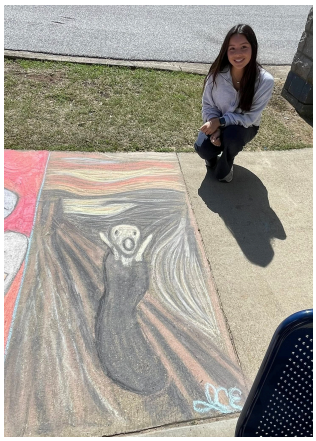


High School

Masterpieces Created!

Students in Ms. Pitts's AP Euro class took a break from class to recreate masterpieces using sidewalk chalk. Impressive work!





Virtual Academy

Poetry Cafe´ at GSVA!

GS Elementary Virtual Academy students held their first Poetry Café recently. Each student wrote a poem of their own and presented it to the class, while we all enjoyed delicious "coffee" and treats.









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

A huge thank you to Smart Home Handyman for bringing in their vermipost for our Walking School Bus students to see and learn from! It was an incredible opportunity for them to discover how worms help create rich, healthy soil for gardening. Hands-on experiences like this inspire curiosity and a deeper appreciation for sustainability. We truly appreciate your time and effort in sharing this knowledge!



Take Time For The Dolphin Walk!

Athletics

Spring Football Practice in Action!

Still nothing like freshly cut and painted "real grass" in the springtime!







View our Athletics website!

Arts Education

Congratulations Gavin Bertram!

We are proud to celebrate Gavin's outstanding performance at the Alabama Bandmasters All-State Band Festival! Gavin, a senior at Gulf Shores High School, earned his spot in the prestigious White Band after a stellar audition on alto saxophone this January. His hard work, talent, and dedication to music are an inspiration to our program and a shining example of excellence at Gulf Shores High School. Way to go, Gavin!



Teaching & Learning

AP Mock-A-Palooza

Ms. Pitts, Mrs. Reffitt & their AP Euro, AP Govt, AP World & APUSH students stayed after school to take their mock exams. These students are ready to crush their exams in May.





Now is the time to make plans for your future Dolphin to attend this year's Dolphins-In-Training baseball skills camp!
All details for this three day training session are listed on the flyer below! Payment will be accepted in the form of cash or check on the first day! If you have questions or concerns, please contact Coach Jacks. Please make sure you click the link to the Google form to register your player!!
https://docs.google.com/.../19v8BwF2vmmj.../edit



Mrs. Wallace's class at GSES is engaged in addition practice using 99Math.



Just another day at the best job in the world! How many schools do you know that will host a rock concert for their students? Thank you **Gulf Shores City Schools** and **The Velcro Pygmies** for giving our students this awesome opportunity!



Tyler Burkett overcomes cancer, never loses sight of his dream, and signed to play football at the University of North Alabama!





Gulf Shores Girls Golf team caught the Texas showdown in The Iron City tonight. Looking to see who advances to the Women's Final 4!!



Grayson and Katelyn attended the Global Amazing Shake this past weekend at the Ron Clark Academy. Over 400 students from around the globe competed! Schools host their own Amazing Shake, and the winners can go on to compete in the Global Amazing Shake in Atlanta, Georgia.
During the Amazing Shake, students learn and develop professional qualities — from the mechanics of a proper handshake, how to "work the room", and how to handle high-stakes questioning — so that they can present themselves exceptionally well for opportunities today and in the future. Thank you again to Mrs. Erodossy for organizing our first Amazing Shake and to our community members for helping make it a success!
We are so proud of these two and how they represented GSMS!



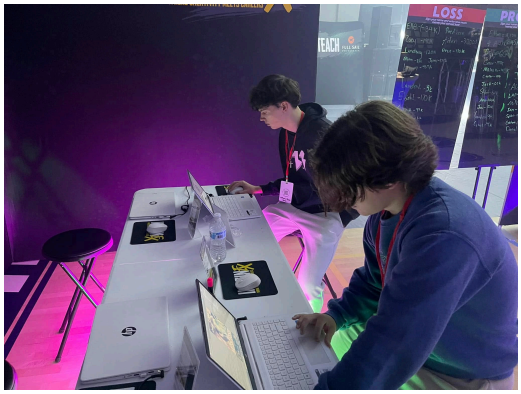




EL Department teachers Mrs. Barragan and Mrs. Corcoran attended TESOL 2025 in Long Beach, CA. This conference brings together multilingual learner educators from around the world to collaborate and share best practices for teaching English to speakers of other languages!

Sound Waves Choir at GSHS had the awesome opportunity to learn about music tech career opportunities!







Our JOI Club currently has 2024-2025 Calendars for sale. Each month features a drawing from one of our **Gulf Shores Middle School Art** students! Calendars can be purchased for $2 at GSMS from Mrs. Prater.



Owen Corcoran at GSHS has been selected to sit on the Social Studies State Textbook Committee. We will work to find the very best resources that fit the new social studies standards that will be implemented in 2026!





Norah brought caterpillars to Mr. Schaff's science class so she and her classmates could observe the life cycle of a butterfly. She shared the exciting release of the beautiful Pink Lady butterflies with the art class.



Blessing Box by Gulf Shores City Schools Elementary School restocked courtesy of the Gulf Shores ROTC program!

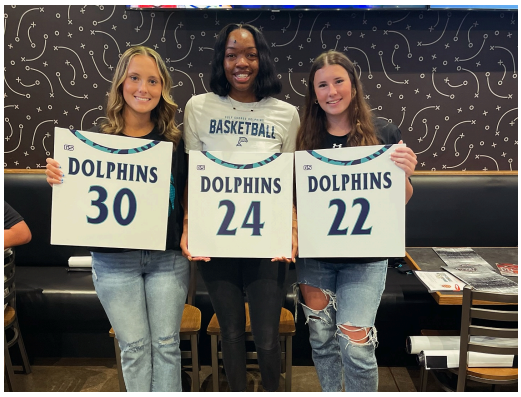


Congratulations to everyone who qualified for the Seal of Biliteracy this year!
The Seal of Biliteracy is an academic diploma seal that is awarded to students who demonstrate proficiency in English and another language.
For more information about the Seal of Biliteracy, visit:
https://gshs.gsboe.org/classrooms/world-language



Another year is officially in the books for the Gulf Shores Girls Basketball Teams . Great night celebrating our 3 seniors who have left a lasting imprint on our program. We will miss them greatly, and as always we are excited about the next group! It is always a Great Day to be a Dolphin!









We are so proud of Adrianna Dalier, Emma Kakish and Lewis Kakish for representing GSMS Dolphins at the All-State Choir Festival this past week in Birmingham!
To participate in the All-State Choir Festival, middle school choral singers must audition for these coveted spots. If chosen, they get to work with an internationally renowned clinician and perform in a concert with amazing choir students from all over the state of Alabama!
Bravo to Mrs. Barnett and her choral students for a wonderful musical journey. It was an incredible experience for the students, their choir directors, and families!
Thank you to Gulf Shores City Schools for supporting Arts Education!
'When words fail, music speaks.'





Coach Hill's AP Chemistry students spent the day after prom taking their mock exam!



Be sure to visit the link below for 2025-26 Marching Band Registration!
https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLScDVTgvci3.../viewform...



Prom 2025 was a huge success! Congratulations to our King Baylen Byrd & Queen Gina Robinett! A huge thank you to our local businesses and partners for your role in making tonight so special for our juniors and seniors. Shout out to teachers Leta Stephens, Leah Cooper, and Amanda Reffitt for pulling off a great night for our students!

Angela Mott Photography
Della Grisgby with Cello Salad
Gulf Coast Sounds
Ginny Lane Bar & Grill
Buffalo Wild Wings
Chick-Fil-A
City of Gulf Shores
Gulf Shores City Schools





Congratulations to Katelyn Hamilton at GSMS for making the Top 30 in the Global Amazing Shake! The Global Amazing Shake featured over 400 contestants from middle schools all over the country, Canada, and Honduras. During each round, students were judged on poise, confidence, quick thinking ability, communication, manners, and other important life skills.
Before moving on to the Top 30, Katelyn had to answer an interview question that she randomly selected while on stage in front of over 700 audience members. Watch the video below to see how well she represented our school, school system, and city! We are so proud of the big waves she made at Ron Clark Academy.
@ronclarkacademy Ron Clark **Global Amazing Shake**



PE students at GSMS received loaner spincast rods from the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division. We are looking forward to a new and exciting unit when we come back from Spring Break! Thank you **Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division** for helping us give our students this experience!



Mrs. McCarty's GSES class at the Dolphin Run-A-Thon pep rally.



Scoliosis screenings at GSMS will be offered on May 8th and/or May 9th. Please contact Nurse Jill at jmorgan@gsboe.org to obtain the parent permission form for scoliosis screening. Students must have a signed permission form to be screened.



GSHS Juniors and Seniors recently attended the University of South Alabama JagDay bus tour. This incredible opportunity provides an immersive experience that goes beyond a typical college tour, giving you a true sense of what it's like to be a college student at USA!





Congratulations to the Dolphin Club scholarships winners!
Left to right:
Weston Reed
Benjamin H. Anthony
Claire D. Colvin
Karagrace C. Harmon
Beck Montiel
and DAC President: Clint Colvin



The Kiwanis Club had the distinct pleasure of awarding 3 scholarships to Seniors at Gulf Shores High School who have played active roles in the school's Key Club. The recipients include Masha Turkic, Alexa Chapman and Baylen Byrd. We are thankful for these students and their commitment to the club and their community.



Congratulations to the girls golf program for their first place finish at the Falcon Invitational at RTJ-The Shoals. They were led by Evelyn Lamar who shot a 2 day score of 155 (78-77) and made the All-Tournament team. Senior Rayla Pierce was also an All-Tournament selection finishing with a Day 2 score of 79.
The boys golf program is hitting their stride into the post season as they finished up the regular season shooting a season low team score of 308 on Day 1 only to be bested on Day 2 shooting a 302.





Congrats 6th grade House animal drawing winners at GSMS!





The Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF) invited K–12 students from across the state—whether in public, private, or homeschool settings—to participate in a creative competition for their new educational outdoor learning station signs. Students at GSMS submitted artwork in 14 different categories, showcasing their love for nature and the outdoors. I'm thrilled to share that Andrea, Lauren and Adrianna were awarded Honorable Mention for the entire state of Alabama—an impressive accomplishment and a testament to their artistic talent!



Shout out to our Fab Four GSES PE teachers for their help with the Dolphin Run-A-Thon!



What an incredible day at Waterway Village! Our Junior City Council put in a lot of hard work for the Spring Market! We hope you came out and supported them and local businesses! A special thanks also goes out to our hardworking Junior City Council members who organized this event from start to finish!





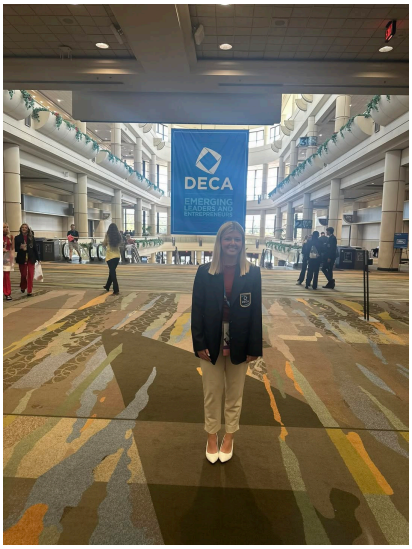
Thank you to Marty Leda and Jeny Stokes from Bender Vacation Rentals for sponsoring a water tent for our participants at the Dolphin-Fun-A-Thon!



GSES Bike Club rode 5.32 miles through the state park Beautiful day for a bike ride!



Bella Sallin is in Orlando with her DECA sponsors, Caroline Hamilton and Ashley Watley competing in DECA ICDC (International Competition). Bella earned her way to Internationals by placing first in the state competition. She's done with testing, and she does the competitive event tomorrow!!! We are so excited for her!



Congratulations to the Dolphins Varisty Boys Track Team! They have earned the first Sectional Boys Championship in school history! Go Dolphins



We would like to give a huge shoutout to one of our outstanding employees — Mr. Mario! GSHS Mario Sabanilla has been an exceptional host, an excellent food runner, and a dedicated team member at Jesse's On The Bay, Ft. Morgan, who excels in everything he does. We are thrilled to share that he has earned a full-ride scholarship! We couldn't be more proud of you, Mario! Keep shining and reaching for the stars!





Fresh from the Greenhouse! The Gulf Shores Sustainability Academy is excited to sell their fresh produce at today's Spring Market! All produce is straight from the student-run greenhouse at Gulf Shores High School.



Ms. Newsom's class at GSES loved listening to the quintet performance today and asking the musicians questions afterwards!



Congratulations to our GSHS golf boys and girls on advancing to Sub-State! Both teams will now gear up to advance as one of the 16 teams left in the state to play for a state championship! Go Dolphins!









Interested in joining the GSMS Band? Sign up for instrument tryouts starting next Tuesday! No experience required! There are plenty of spots available!
https://www.signupgenius.com/.../10C0D49ADAA22A0FEC16...



Thank you Raelyn for all of your hard work and dedication to the GSHS Softball program! We can't wait to see everything you accomplish at Bama!



EARTH DAY 2025

JOIN US!



Gulf Shores City Schools is excited to host our
Annual Earth Day Celebration
Friday, May 2, 2025 | 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM
If you are interested in participating or providing a sponsorship for the event please email snelson@gsboe.org



Dolphin Signing Day for 2025-2026 Kindergarten!

Kindergarten Registration was held and the teachers loved getting to meet the newest GSES Dolphins!



Thank you to Mayor Craft for throwing out the first pitch at the Gulf Shores High School Baseball game!





Congratulations to the GSMS 8th-grade Ferocious Fins Robotics Team on a 4th-place finish at the University of Alabama State Robotics Competition and our 6th-grade team for their victory over several high schools! During the 2.5-hour competition, teams competed against 46 other private and public-school teams in a speed-based, autonomous robot programming challenge through several obstacles. The field, points, and obstacles were not revealed until GAME TIME! Coaches were not allowed to communicate with teams during game time. When it came down to the competition, it was left up to just our students and some quick thinking!

Coaches Regan McClung, Jamie McClung, and Dr. Hilary McKinney would like to congratulate all students on a stellar robotics team inaugural event. A huge thank you goes out to our administrators, teachers, and staff for their support of GSMS STEAM Robotics. GO DOLPHINS!







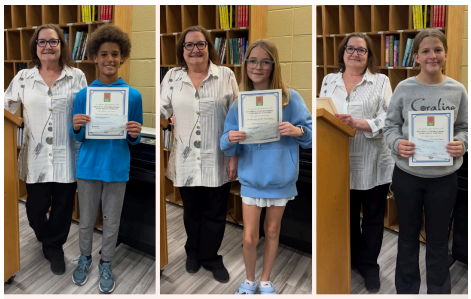
GSMS Optimist Club Oratorical and Essay Contests!

Congratulations to the winners of the Optimist Club Oratorical and Essay Contests!

Optimist Club
Oratorical Contest Winners



1st Place - Mirabella Matson
2nd Place - Katelyn Hamilton
3rd Place - Hayes Wheat



Optimist Club Essay Contest Winners
1st Place - Cameron Sexton
2nd Place - Remi Wittstruck
3rd Place - Cashlin Rigsby



Optimist Club Essay Contest
Honorable Mentions:
Abigail Murray Amelia Autrey
Kinsley Clemons Leila Evers



GSES Aftercare Registration for 2025-2026

Reminder: Aftercare Registration Opens TOMORROW!
May 1–9 | Lottery on May 12
Spots are limited, so don't wait—register through the EZ Child Track website!
Questions? Email Mrs. Blevins at pblevins@gsboe.org



Teachers of the Year 2025

Congrats are in order at **Gulf Shores City Schools**!
By reaching this stage, Angela Kirby, who teaches sixth-grade math at Gulf Shores Middle School, and Kristen Madsen, who teaches culinary at Gulf Shores High School, have earned 2025-2026 District Teachers of the Year for Alabama.
With their achievement, GSCS won both Elementary and Secondary spots for District I, which is made up of Baldwin, Butler, Coffee, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Escambia and parts of Mobile counties.
The announcement from the State Department of Education said the 16 finalists were selected from 155 Alabama educators recommended by “district superintendents, principals and colleagues” and underwent the “rigorous Alabama Teacher of the Year application process.”





GSMS Spring Band Concert



GSES Lighthouse Team

What a year and what some leaders! The elementary school Lighthouse Team had their last hoorah. They have spent their school year serving others in our community and today they got to celebrate all the wonderful things they have accomplished this year.



GSCS National Bike To School Day!

Students and parents are invited to celebrate National Bike to School Day with the City of Gulf Shores on May 7 with a supervised group ride to school!

Morning ride to school meeting points & times:

• Johnnie Sims Park (Kids Park Playground area) - Departure time 7:15 a.m.

• Meyer Park - Departure time 7:30 a.m.

After-School Ride & times:

• Meyer Park - Students will depart from the school at 3 p.m. and arrive at Meyer Park at approximately 3:10 p.m.

• Johnnie Sims Park: Students will depart from the school at 3 p.m. and arrive at Johnnie Sims Park at approximately 3:20 p.m.

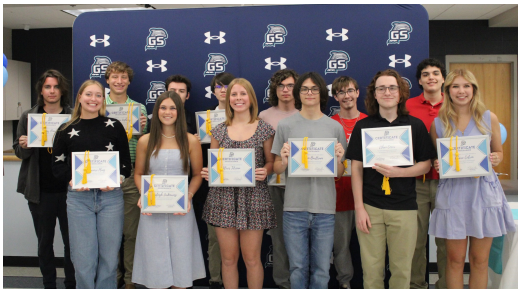
This year, all student participants who register and participate in the bike ride will be entered in to win a bike! Register online here: **https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSepHx9LzIhIo5.../viewform**

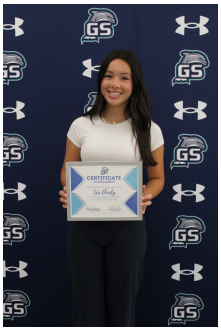
The Gulf Shores Police Department will escort riders to ensure safety along the routes. All participants must wear helmets. For more information, visit gulfshoresal.gov/Bike.



GSHS: 30+ ACT

GSHS celebrated 26 students (2 sophomores, 8 juniors & 16 seniors) who scored a 30+ on the ACT! We are beyond proud of this accomplishment and thrilled they're part of the Dolphin family! A huge thank you to Cosmo's for donating our breakfast for our students & families.



GSES Dolphin Run-A-Thon














Gulf Coast Eco Center Opens

The Gulf Coast's newest environmental education facility officially opened today in Gulf Shores, Alabama. The Gulf Coast Eco Center welcomed community leaders and residents for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its 12-acre campus. The 17,000-square-foot facility features innovative learning spaces, including open-air classrooms, teaching gardens, and an adventure challenge course. Developed through a partnership between the City of Gulf Shores, the Gulf State Park, and the Gulf Coast Center for Ecotourism & Sustainability, the project was funded by the RESTORE Act to enhance environmental education and sustainable tourism along the Gulf Coast.

The Center is already launching its first programs, with GULF CAMP sessions beginning in July. These hands-on programs will offer activities like hiking, biking, kayaking at Lake Shelby, and beach exploration - all designed to connect participants with the coastal environment.

The facility represents a significant step forward for environmental education in the region, creating a dedicated space where visitors can learn about coastal ecosystems while developing practical skills in sustainability and conservation.









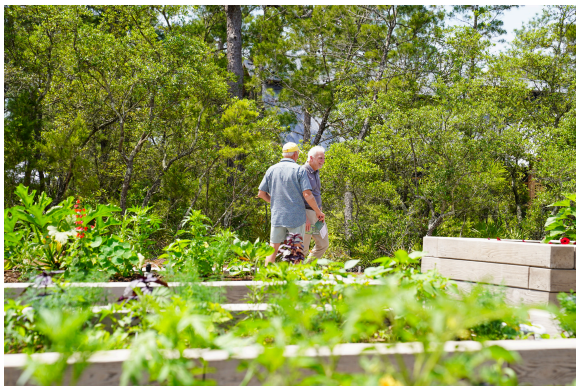














Mrs. Arnold's Wavemakers at GSMS







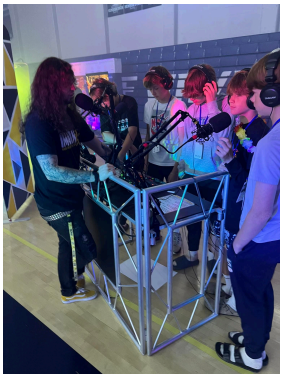


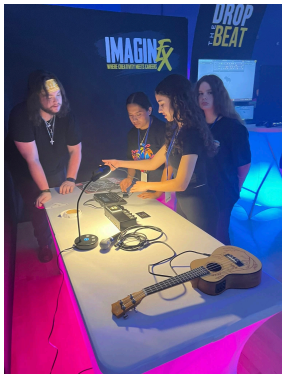


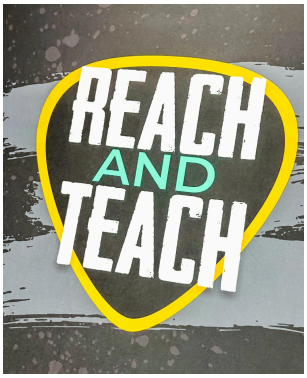
ImaginEX Blue Group

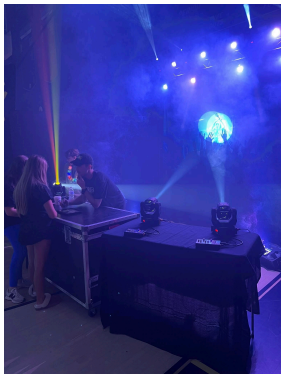


#finfest2025











Mrs. Arnold at GSMS truly went above and beyond with this year's Reach and Teach program. Reach and Teach provides educators with a unique way to introduce students to career paths through hands-on, real-world experiences. Typically, this event is organized by high school students, but our middle school is one of the very few to take on this incredible challenge—and our students rose to the occasion.

They took full ownership of Fin Fest, handling every detail from start to finish. They selected the band, arranged accommodations, cooked meals in our brand-new outdoor kitchen, designed and printed their own T-shirts, created temporary tattoos, sold tickets, created wrist bands, made promotional posters, set up the concert, and so much more.

The Velcro Pygmies were absolutely incredible, not only delivering an electrifying performance, but also engaging with our students in a meaningful way. This unforgettable experience will leave a lasting impact, inspiring our students for years to come.

Meet the Spring 2025 GSCS Open Water SCUBA Certification Class!

Gulf Shores City Schools is proud to introduce the newest members of its SCUBA training program. Nine high school students, six middle school students, and one GSCS employee are the **2025 GSCS SCUBA Class**.

Middle School Open Water Certified

Ram Talantis, Administrator, Jesse Elkins, John Hare, Isabella Holliday, Hadley Reeves, Norah Grace Lowry, Saylor Diley

High School Open Water Certified

Caleb Potts, Logan Alexandres, Mason McDaniel, Dakota Stutzman

High School Working Towards Open Water Certification

Keigan Mullis, Macey Moore, Kelwyn Pingrey, Wyatt Scoles, Stuart Sanders

A total of 15 students and one employee earned the opportunity to participate through a competitive application process. Applicants shared their academic achievements, teacher recommendations, attendance records, and personal readiness for the challenge of SCUBA training. Several students also received supplemental grant funding based on their applications to help offset program costs.

Most participants have already completed their SCUBA certification requirements, with just a few needing final checkout dives to be fully certified. Throughout the course, students are not only developing essential SCUBA skills but also deepening their understanding of scientific principles like buoyancy, tides, currents, and pressure — all closely connected to Alabama's science standards and marine science curriculum.

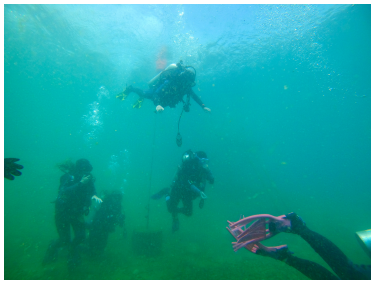
This hands-on program gives students an exciting opportunity to take learning beyond the classroom and into the real world.

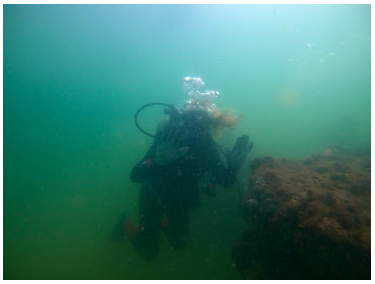
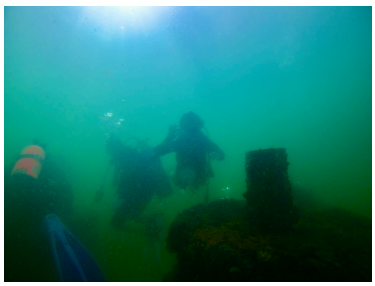
We would like to extend a special thank-you to Lila Harris, Master SCUBA Instructor, and the entire team at Down Under Dive Shop for serving as our dedicated community partners. Their expertise, support, and commitment to student learning have made this experience both safe and unforgettable.

Congratulations to all members of the **2025 GSCS Open Water SCUBA Certification Class**! Your hard work, dedication, and adventurous spirit are a true source of pride for the Gulf Shores community.








GSCS Partners with Down Under Dive Shop

Gulf Shores City Schools is thrilled to partner with Down Under Dive Shop to offer open water and advanced SCUBA certification to our middle and high school students, thanks to very generous grant funding from Gulf Coast RC&D and a ALSDE CTE Middle Grades Grant. Through this one-of-a-kind program, students trade textbooks for tanks as they dive into marine science, hands-on learning, and the breathtaking waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

This isn't just a class—it's a passport to explore the deep, build real-world skills, and discover the power of place-based education. From the classroom to the reef, we're preparing our students to go deeper and continue to #makewaves.

#DivingIntoLearning #PlaceBasedEducation #GulfShoresCitySchools #DownUnderDiveShop #STEAMintheSea #SustainabilityStartsHere

A huge THANK YOU to GSCS CTE Director Jessica Sampley, Down Under Dive Shop, Dive Master-Lila Harris (and Sam Sprute), and Caroline and Katelyn Hamilton for working so hard to facilitate and help these GSMS SCUBA students achieve Open Water Diver Certification! It was a challenging and rewarding experience that they will remember forever. Congratulations Norah Grace Lowry, Hadley Reeves, Izzy Holliday, Saylor Diley, Jesse Elkins, and John Hare. You did it!!! ~Quote by Ram Talantis~

















April & May Senior Calendar

CLASS OF 2025

APRIL 5
PROM
7:00 PM
Eric H Meyer Civic Center

APRIL 9
DEADLINE- SENIOR AWARDS DAY
All scholarship information must be sent to Mr. Eubanks by this day.

APRIL 14-18
SPRING BREAK

APRIL 22
SENIOR AWARDS DAY
10:30 AM
GYM

APRIL 29
ACT 30+ CLUB BREAKFAST
9:00 AM
GSHS LIBRARY

MAY 8-9
SENIOR EXAMS
May 8th- 3rd & 4th block
May 9th- 1st & 2nd block

MAY 19
GRADUATION
Mandatory Practice- 9:00 AM @ The Wharf
Ceremony- 7:00 PM @ The Wharf
- graduates must arrive no later than 6:30 PM

APRIL 9
JOSTENS GRAD ANNOUNCEMENTS
11:00-12:00- FOCUS CANTEEN

APRIL 11
PROGRESS REPORTS
Check PowerSchool

APRIL 21
GRADUATION CONTRACT SENT
Original paper copy with signature must be returned to Mrs. Senkbeil by May 2nd. *No email copies.*

APRIL & MAY 28-2
SENIOR SPIRIT WEEK
- Dress up days
- Kickball tournament

MAY 2
GRADUATION CONTRACT DUE
Original paper copy with signature must be returned to Mrs. Senkbeil. *No email copies.*

MAY 15
SENIOR CELEBRATION DAY
Graduates **ONLY**
- 7:50- Breakfast @ GSHS Library
- 8:30- cap & gown distribution
- 9:00- Grad Walk

MAY 20
FINAL TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS DUE

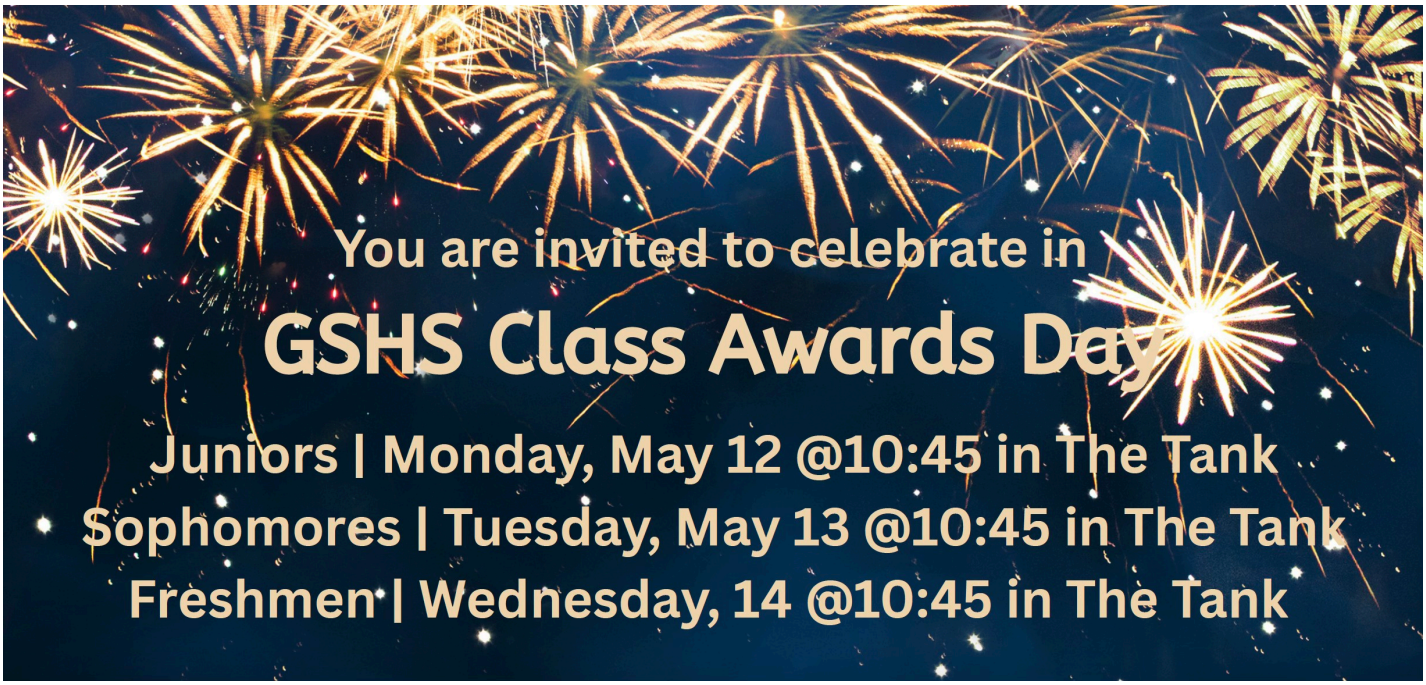

EARTH DAY
Funds raised for sustainability Academy
Thrift boutique clothing- $1-15
Ferns- $15
Cash or card accepted!
ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS INVITED
MAY 2
8am-3-pm
GSHS GREENHOUSE
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
ATALANTIS@GSBOE.ORG

GSCS: Returning Students Registration

GULF SHORES CITY SCHOOLS

Returning Student Registration for the 2025–2026 School Year is now open! Complete by June 13 to ensure your child's schedule is processed. Log into PowerSchool via the website (not the app) at https://gulfshorescs.powerschool.com to complete Returning Student Registration.

GSHS Class Awards







4/28-5/2 GSHS: Senior Spirit Week
5/1 GSMS: Spring Band Concert 7:00pm GS Cultural Center
5/1 BOE: Work Session 4:00pm
5/2 GSCS: Earth Day GSMS Field - All Schools 8:00am-2:30pm
5/5 - 5/9 GSCS: Teacher Appreciation Week
5/7 GSCS: Bike To School Day
5/8 BOE: Regular Board Meeting 5:00pm
5/8 GSMS & GSHS: The Spring Choir Concert 7:00pm
5/9 GSES: Field Day (GSMS Field)
5/12 GSHS: Junior Class Awards
5/12 GSMS: 6th Grade Awards Day
5/12 GSMS: 7th Grade Awards Day
5/12 GSMS: Spring Art Night 4:00-6:00pm
5/12 GSMS; 8th Grade Honors Night
5/14 GSHS: Freshmen Class Awards
5/15 GSHS: Class of 2025 Celebration (Library) 7:50-10:00am
5/16 GSMS: Band Spring Concert
5/16 GSMS: Field Day
5/19 GSHS: Graduation Practice (The Wharf Amphitheater) 9:00am
5/19 GSHS: Graduation (The Wharf Amphitheater) 7:00pm
5/20 GSES: 1st Grade Come See My Genius 10:00am
5/20 GSES: 3rd Grade Come See My Genius 1:15pm
5/21 GSES: 4th Grade Come See My Genius 10:00am
5/21 GSES: 2nd Grade Come See My Genius 1:15pm
5/22 GSES: Kindergarten Celebration/Graduations 8:30am
5/22 GSES: 5th Grade Come See my Genius 10:00am
5/23 GSCS: Last Day of School for Students and Teachers

Enjoy these new GSCS commercials!

We Believe…

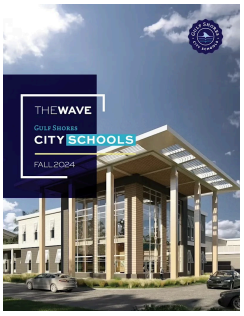
What If…

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:

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