ISSUE 6 JUNE 2025

The MakeWaves Monthly

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



Superintendents' Message

We hope you are having a wondering summer break spending time with family and friends this summer! While the traditional school day is not in session right now, our campuses remain filled with students enjoying the numerous summer camps offered by Gulf Shores City Schools. Students are participating in: EcoTourism, Fine Arts, Dolphin Pride 21st CCLC, Summer Wave, Reading, Math, and Camp Invention. Take time this summer to download the GSCS Mobile App if you have not already. This app gives you updated information and news in the palm of your hand! After the download you can customize it by selecting notifications and the schools, calendars, sport groups, etc. that you want to follow.
During the summer, school offices remain open Monday-Friday from 7:30am-4:30pm. If you have any questions about summer assignments or registration for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year, please contact your child's school. We look forward to seeing our students on August 7th.

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

GULF CAMP will be at the NEW Gulf Coast Eco Center! Ages 7-13. Activities can include kayaking, biking, beach exploration, swimming, nature, arts and crafts, outdoor cooking, ropes course* (ages 10+), and more.



Congratulations to Evelyn Lamar on her whole in one at The SJGT Tournament in Auburn at Grand National! Great Finish and score of 79!!



GSMS is so proud of the incredible Onraka House! They showed heart, hustle, and teamwork all throughout Field Day, and it paid off! Excited to share that the Orange House is the overall GSMS Champion for 2025! Go Onraka!











Our American Legion Alabama Girls State and Alabama Boys State delegates had a great experience this week with other delegates from across the state. Gulf Shores High School was well represented with these young men and women!



Gulf Shores City Schools participates in school safety specialist conference!
As we reflect on our attendance to the TASSRO since our beginning in 2019, this year and looking ahead, Gulf Shores City Schools is proud to have our Elementary, Middle, and High School staff, along with our dedicated School Resource Officers (SROs), participating in the TASSRO Conference!
This invaluable opportunity has and will enhance our teamwork, strengthen communication, and foster a safer, more supportive environment for our students. The insights and knowledge gained from the TASSRO conference will empower our staff and SROs to implement best practices, ensuring that our schools continue to be a safe haven for learning and growth. We are committed to continuously improving our educational community and prioritizing the safety and well-being of our students. Together, we look forward to bringing back new ideas and strategies that will positively impact our schools and the lives of our students for years to come.



Our middle school students started their summer adventures with orientation at the Eco Center and we can't wait to see all of the fun things they get into this month!



Mrs. Maddux at GSES recently attended the George Washington Teacher Institute Summer Residential Program in Mount Vernon, Virginia. This is a 5-day immersive professional development experience designed to support educators who value the importance of inclusive history content with an emphasis on leadership. Twenty K-12 teachers were chosen from around the country of all disciplines and grade levels to explore the life, leadership, and legacies of George Washington and the diversity of the 18th-century world in which he lived and how it connects to our world today. Mrs. Maddux is grateful for this amazing opportunity and feels more educated and empowered to better represent Washington and leadership to our students.



Congratulations to our All-State selections! These girls earned it with their hard work, heart, and hustle. We couldn't be more proud and can't wait to see what they bring to the field next season!







Congratulations to Grey Goodman on his 2nd place finish today!
Grey finished with a 77 out at Glen Lakes.



Coach Hill at GSHS traveled to Tampa, Florida to grade AP chemistry free response exams!



The Gulf Shores Soundwaves Middle School Choir ended the school year on a high note! The past few months were filled with hard work and many performances for Mrs. Barnett and her choir students. Performances included the Choir's Spring Concert at GS Methodist Church, singing for the 5th Graders' assembly/tour of the Middle School, helping prepare 5th grade students for their parts in Dolphin Sound's "Little Mermaid, Jr." and seeing them perform, and select 8th Graders singing the National Anthem with the High School Choir at GSHS Graduation at the Wharf Amphitheater. It was a musical end to a great school year!





Meet the 2025 GSVB Rosters! We are so excited for this talented group and the bright future of Lady Dolphin Volleyball!

GULF SHORES LADY DOLPHINS VOLLEYBALL

VARSITY

NAME	YEAR
KAYLA ROSE	12TH
MACEY MOORE	12TH
NORA MALONE	12TH
MADI NELSON	12TH
ABBY TRUE	12TH
JACKI BATIZ	12TH
ALI LAWSON	12TH
CHASTYN COVINGTON	11TH
CAMELIA PEREZ	11TH
MORGEN MUELLER	11TH
CALLIE HOPKINS	10TH
VELMIRA SOBOL	10TH
ELLE HELTON	9TH
RYLEE DEAL	9TH

COACH: LAURA DAVIS

GULF SHORES LADY DOLPHINS VOLLEYBALL

JUNIOR VARSITY

NAME	YEAR
HARMONY MOYERS	10TH
JAYDEN DEESE	10TH
VADA WOOD	10TH
CALI NELSON	10TH
CHARLIE WALSH	10TH
SULLY KUTTER	10TH
EVIE WAUGH	10TH
MARIA (NANDA) ESPINHEIRA	10TH
MARIA KATRUK	9TH
ELIZA NELSON	9TH
SOPHIE POOLE	9TH
MADDIE ANDREWS	9TH
KASON TODD	9TH

COACH: LEAH COOPER

GULF SHORES LADY DOLPHINS VOLLEYBALL

9TH GRADE

NAME	YEAR
SOPHIA CORTES	9TH
CARLEE NIUMATA	9TH
MANUELA MARTINS	9TH
AUDREY GRISSOM	9TH
GRACELYNN COLLINS	9TH
MADDIE MILLER	9TH
KINSLEY KING	9TH
CAILEIGH CRAWFORD	9TH
OLIVIA COLEY	9TH
BAILEY BURGESS	9TH

COACH: TBD

GULF SHORES LADY DOLPHINS VOLLEYBALL

MIDDLE SCHOOL

7TH GRADE	8TH GRADE
HARLEE REES	ANNIE BRERETON
ALI COOPER	ELOISE JOHNSON
OLIVIA COOPER	AVERY MCCLURE
DAISY CARROLL	KALEA MORGAN
ELLA DE'ARMAS	ARYANA FUNDERBURK
CARLEIGH ROBINSON	ISLA MAY
ISABELLA THIES	MILAN FRANCI
ANNABELLE DENT	MACI ANNAN
CARLEIGH LIZARRAGA	JILLIAN SMITH
VICTORIA NICULITI	SAWYER FEIT
NAOMI WHITE	ELLIS MORRISON
ISABELLA DASILVA	MALLORY FREDERICKSON
ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ	LEAH MILLWOOD
	CAMI ZELEDON
	TINSLEE BEEBE
	CHARLOTTE COLVIN
	HADLEY REEVES

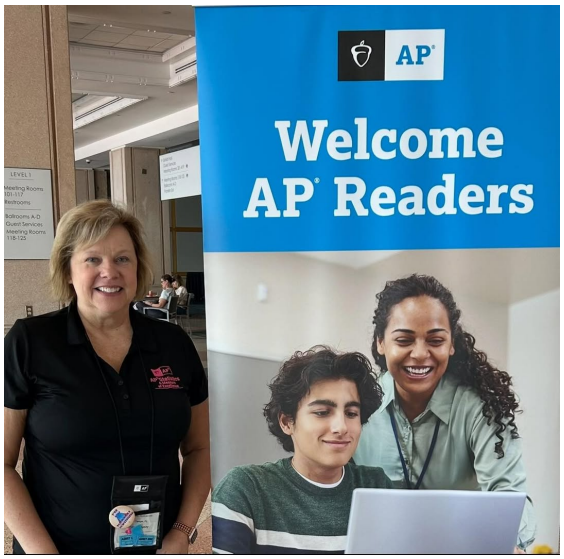
7TH GRADE COACH: KESLEY CANAAN
8TH GRADE COACH: LEANN DOYLE

Congrats to Junior Jacob O'Bryan for being selected to the ASWA Coastal Alabama "Terrific 22" !!
Also congrats to Juniors Price Stephens and John Luke Stephens, as well as Freshman John William Nix, on making Honorable Mention!

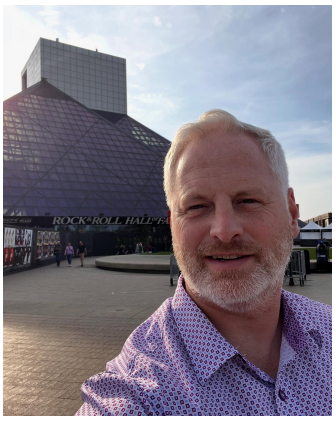


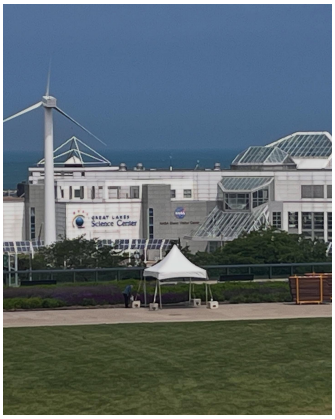


Mrs. Dempsey at GSHS was a reader for AP Statistics. She read/graded Q4 over 1700 times! Not only did she learn from scoring but she also attended PD during lunch and evenings! Mrs. Dempsey says, "It is an amazing experience and I have new ways to help my students be



Mr. Jamie McClung at GSHS attended AP Computer Science training in Cleveland Ohio.





100% attendance from the Gulf Shores City Schools Board of Education attending the three day AASB Summer Conference to make GSCS even better!



Mrs. Jones at GSHS spent a week in Kansas City, MO reading for AP Precalculus! She will bring back valuable information to her students.



Gulf Shores Wrestling representing at University of Little Rock Wrestling Camp!



GSMS & GSHS teachers working on building our future at A+ College Ready training!



A BIG thank you to Wacked Out Weiner, Rouses, and Sarah's Homemade for providing hot dogs and cookies for lunch today for our GSES students and staff! Another BIG thank you to our Gulf Shores Fire Department for grilling the hot dogs and turning on the fire hose to spray the students and staff! We are blessed with the best community partners!













Thank you GSHS Football and Volleyball for having GSES Summer Camp come check out your summer workouts!







Congratulations, Lettie Gatlin at GSES, on winning the Bike to School Day raffle! We hope you enjoy your new bike!



Ms. Pitts at GSHS spent a week in Salt Lake City, Utah grading hundreds of student responses for AP



Several of GSHS teachers are at training with A Plus College Ready!





We have a few openings left for Camp Invention July 7-11 9am-3:30pm. Go to the following link to register! School and city employees can use code HOST for $30 off registration. Anyone else can use code SUN25 for $25 off. **https://www.invent.org/program.../camp-invention/al71/75120**
Contact Hilary McKinney with questions hmckinney@gsboe.org



GSCS Summer Camp



























GSCS Summer Camp





























Summer Band Events are getting closer! Please be sure to make note of these dates!



Celebrating Excellence: Joe Avilez Named Mechanic of the Year!

On behalf of Randy Carlisle and the entire Transportation Department, as well as the Gulf Shores City Schools and School Board team, we are thrilled to announce the remarkable achievement of our very own Joe Avilez, who has been honored with the prestigious “Mechanic of the Year” award by the ASTA, as selected by the ALSDE!
Joe's unwavering dedication, exceptional skills, and tireless work ethic have made him an invaluable asset to our team and the students of Gulf Shores City Schools. His commitment to ensuring that our transportation fleet runs smoothly and safely is unparalleled, and this recognition is a testament to his hard work and expertise.

Joe embodies the spirit of teamwork and excellence, consistently going above and beyond to keep our buses safe and reliable. His meticulous attention to detail and innovative solutions have made a lasting impact on our community. We are incredibly proud to have such a top-notch mechanic on our team!
Please join us in congratulating Joe for this well-deserved honor. Your hard work inspires us all, and we look forward to many more successes together!





Our GSCS teachers are always teaching and always learning!

“Dauphin Island Sea Lab is such a great resource for marine science. I love learning new things about our local ecosystems and organisms. We are learning new lessons and engaging activities. I am so glad that ALSDE let teachers help write marine science standards for the marine science course so that it is more robust and accessible to all schools in Alabama,” acknowledged Carson Schaff.






Softball Summer Workouts
Grades 7-12





Volleyball Summer Camp



GSES Summer Camp Staff



The staff behind the magic of summer camp at GSES!



“Most likely to…. survive on caffeine, field trips, STEAM breaks, and somehow do it after working all school year, too! Here’s to having July off. They sure deserve it!!!

GESE: Get Ready For School Fall 2025

WWW.OLENSKYBROTHERS.COM
Olensky Brothers
OFFICE PRODUCTS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES

2025 BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY PACKS

Gulf Shores Elementary

★ AVOID SHOPPING HASSLES
★ SAVE TIME & MONEY
★ GET THE BRANDS REQUESTED BY TEACHERS
★ PRE-PACKED FOR EACH STUDENT

GRADE LEVEL	COST PER PACK
PreK (optional)	$104
K	$121
1ST	$106
2ND	$100
3RD	$106
4TH	$94
5TH	$96

DEADLINE TO ORDER:
FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025

☆☆☆

PACKS WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE SCHOOL!

To see list of supplies when ordering click "more options" under the grade you would like to view.

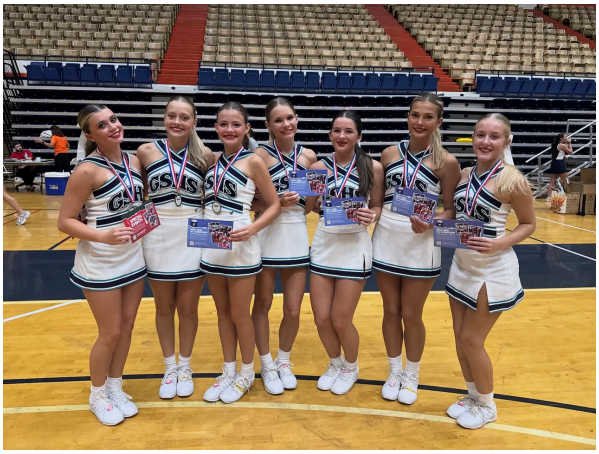
ONLINE ORDERING: WWW.OLENSKYBROTHERS.COM

Click on the "School Supply Packs" tab...find your school on the left-hand side, choose your grade(s) and pay online! Please fill out the bill to and ship to information even though your pack will be delivered to school.

Please email courtney@olenskybrothers.com or call us at (251) 438-2851 if you have any questions!

CONGRATS to the Gulf Shores High School Varsity and JV Cheer Teams!

These incredible athletes brought their A-game to cheer camp and came home with a long list of well-earned accomplishments:
1st Place in Camp Routines — BOTH Varsity & JV!
Multiple Top 3 finishes- BOTH Varsity & JV!
Tradition Award- Given to teams and mascot demonstrating leadership “on and off the field.”
7 Varsity Cheerleaders Named All-American!
6 Individuals, including our mascot, received the “Pin It Forward Award”!
We’re thrilled to recognize our All-American cheerleaders, selected through tryouts for their exceptional skills and talent. These athletes have earned the honor of performing at national events, showcasing their talent on a larger stage:
~Liliana Grandy
~Portia Hollis
~Carson McKee
~Maddy Burkett
~Caroline Taylor
~Ella Gilbert
~Peyton Krueger
And a huge shoutout to our “Pin It Forward” award recipients, honored for showing leadership, kindness, commitment, and motivation throughout the week:
~Fiona Douglas (our AMAZING mascot)
~Carson McKee
~Ella Grace Coop
~Rivers Watley
~Hannah Willman
~Emma Forehand
We are SO proud of these teams and our mascot for representing Gulf Shores with pride and true Dolphin spirit!







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.

GSCS: Get Ready For Some Football!



MAKE WAVES!

SAVE the DATE!

7/7-11	GSCS: Camp Invention 9:00am-3:30pm
7/7-11	GSHS: Band Leadership Training
7/7-11	GSHS: Color Guard & Percussion Camp
7/9	GSHS: Wind Fundamental Camp
7/10	BOE: Combo Work Session/Regular Board Meeting 5:00pm
7/14-18	GSHS: Band Camp 1
7-21-23	GSHS: Band Camp 2
7/22	GSMS: 8th Grade Schedule/iPad Pickup
7/23	GSMS: 7th Grade Schedule/iPad Pickup
7/24	GSMS: 6th Grade Schedule/iPad Pickup

Enjoy these new GSCS commercials!

We Believe…

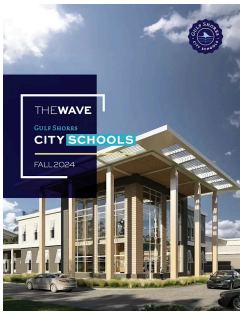
What If…

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
TBA- Mental Health Coordinator

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

Connect with GSCS

Joe McAleer-Social Media