ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 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 emphasize the importance of consistent student attendance and encourages parents to stay actively involved by monitoring their child's academic progress. Our recent "Walk to School" event was a tremendous success, uniting students, teachers, staff, parents, and community members. During the week of October 27–31, our schools proudly celebrated "Red Ribbon Week." The first "Tuesday Talks" session offered a wonderful opportunity for parents to engage and connect on important school topics. If you were unable to attend, we hope you can join us for the next one. We sincerely appreciate the continued support and involvement of our parents and community. GSCS is incredibly proud of our students and teachers for their outstanding accomplishments and participation in activities both on and off campus. We are thrilled about the unique opportunities our students and faculty enjoy living in such a special location. They've been taking full advantage of the state park and lagoon through activities like biking, kayaking, sailing, exploring the ecotourism center, participating in beach cleanups, and much more. Our next Tuesday Tour will be held at GSMS on Tuesday, November 18th. To sign up, click the following link: Take the Tuesday Tour – **Make Waves!**

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

Captain Hudspeth

Grade: 5th Grade

Area of Recognition: Responsibility, leadership, and academic excellence

I'm a WaveMaker because…

It is with great pride that Mr. Kerry Dey and I nominate Captain Hudspeth for WaveMaker. Captain exemplifies the character, leadership, and academic excellence this honor represents.

Respectful and Kind: Captain consistently treats others with courtesy, addressing peers and faculty with respect and lending a helping hand whenever needed. His thoughtfulness creates a positive and welcoming environment.

Responsible and Trustworthy: Dependable in every task, Captain follows through with care and integrity. His peers and teachers know they can always count on him.

A Natural Leader: Captain steps up when he sees a need, takes initiative, and models maturity beyond his years. His proactive leadership inspires others to do their best.

Dedicated Learner: Engaged, curious, and diligent, Captain values every learning opportunity and approaches his work with enthusiasm and precision.

For his respect, reliability, initiative, and dedication to excellence, Captain Hudspeth is an exceptional choice for WaveMaker—an example of what it means to lead, learn, and lift others.

~Nominated by Kim Pennington & Kerry Dey (5th grade teachers)~



Middle School

Landon Haley

Grade: 7th Grade

Area of Recognition: Displays leadership and a willingness to help

I'm a WaveMaker because…

Landon has been such a great leader in our class and in the school. With so many new students, he's always willing to step up by showing them around, helping them learn the routine, and making sure everyone feels included. He goes out of his way to help others and sets a positive example every day. His initiative and the way he leads by example make him a true role model for his classmates.

~Nominated by Kesley Canan (Special Services) ~



High School

Anna Murray

Grade: 11th Grade

Area of Recognition: Leadership & Compassion

I'm a WaveMaker because…

Anna has been an invaluable part of our adaptive PE program, consistently demonstrating compassion, leadership, and dedication. She has built meaningful friendships with our Project Smile students, joining them for lunch daily and engaging with them in the hallways. Her presence in PE is a highlight for our students, who look forward to seeing her each day.

Anna encourages and motivates our students to participate, even when tasks are challenging, helping them build both skills and confidence. Her genuine commitment and positive influence have made a lasting impact on our classroom community. We are truly grateful for everything she brings to our program.

Coach Sexton said, "Anna is the starting point guard for our girls' basketball team, an amazing student, and all-around great kid. I'm not sure what to say, but the second our kids walked in the gym she ran in to help. She hasn't missed a day. Not only does Anna jump right in, she has never expected any recognition from doing so. That's how awesome she is."

~Nominated by Misty Balster (Special Services) & Brian Sexton (Girls Basketball Coach)~

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

Meet Our Staff WaveMakers of the Month



Elementary School
Amanda Dalton - Counselor

I'm a WaveMaker because...
Mrs. Dalton is always somebody you can count on. She plays a vital role in fostering a positive and supportive school environment. Many students reach out to her daily for comfort, and she makes herself available for them. Mrs. Dalton provides emotional and academic guidance to students by helping them navigate challenges both inside and outside the classroom. She also works with teachers and parents to give them tips for helping their children through difficult situations. Mrs. Dalton is someone the front office can rely on, and she is so appreciated! Her unwavering commitment to the growth and mental health of the entire student body makes her truly deserving of this recognition.
~Nominated by Jessica Schreier~



Middle School
Sarah Whittler - Behavioral Support/SPED Teacher

I'm a WaveMaker because...
I am honored to nominate Sarah Whittler for the WaveMaker Award. Although she is new to our school, Sarah has quickly made a huge impression through her kindness, positivity, and dedication. I have been really impressed with how she approaches each day with thoughtfulness and a willingness to go above and beyond, whether it is supporting colleagues, encouraging students, or stepping in to help wherever she is needed. Sarah's caring nature, strong work ethic, and ability to build genuine connections have made her an invaluable member of our school community in such a short time. She embodies the qualities this award represents and is truly deserving of this recognition.
~Nominated by Mr. Jamie Hill~



High School
Spencer McClendon - Social Studies

I'm a WaveMaker because...
Mr. McClendon consistently demonstrates the core values of Gulf Shores City Schools. Spencer is dedicated to becoming the best teacher he can be. He actively participates in professional development, seeks out new strategies, and applies what he learns in the classroom to benefit his students. Beyond his teaching, Spencer brings a positive and encouraging presence to the high school. He makes the workplace enjoyable, supports his colleagues, and is always willing to share ideas or give feedback. His enthusiasm for teaching and for being part of a team helps create a collaborative environment that others appreciate. Spencer is also dependable. Whenever there's a need in the Social Studies department, he is quick to step up and lend a hand. He models what it means to be a team player, and his willingness to go above and beyond shows his commitment not only to his students but to the school community as a whole. For his dedication, teamwork, and positive influence, Spencer is highly deserving of this recognition.
~Nominated by Damon Howe~
Mr. McClendon is in his second year of teaching at GSHS and the passion and energy that he has brought to the History Department can't be understated. I have been fortunate to see firsthand his teaching approach that is engaging and exciting for his students. He connects with them on a level that allows them to feel heard and understood while providing relevant and constructive feedback that breeds results. His willingness to take on the challenge of AP World History shows his selflessness and team spirit. On top of all of that he has worked tirelessly to build and grow our Cross-Country program. Mr. McClendon exemplifies the Dolphin Spirit and is beyond deserving of the WaveMaker Award!
~Nominated by Owen Corcoran~

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

Health & Wellness

Cross Trainers club had a great time on our rock wall, with Olivia Yates, Raine Robertson, and Emma Guthrie all making good progress on knocking out the different routes. Cross trainers is open to all GSMS students and they meet every Monday and Thursday to run, ride bikes, and climb the rock wall. See Mr. Reetz or Mrs. Holmes for information.





Athletics

Our Gulf Shores Middle School Cross Country Team had an outstanding showing at the Orange Beach Invitational!
Individual Highlights:
-Piper Gates finished 4th in the Varsity 5K with a time of 25:09
-Kysan Deloach finished 28th in the Varsity 5K with a time of 24:05
-John Nolan Redden finished 38th in the Varsity 5K with a time of 26:06
The Varsity Boys Team finished in a tie for 3rd place!
We're so proud of our runners for their hard work, effort, and determination!





Arts Education

Thanks to our Amazing Art Teacher-Mrs. Holland-the students in Mrs. Shirley's First Grade Class created these beautiful Pumpkin Patches!



Teaching & Learning

The monsters are BACK!

The GSMS art students got to deliver the 1st graders at GSES their monsters! Our talented 1st graders dreamed up their very own monster drawings, and the GSMS art students brought them to life as stuffed animals! This year, Mrs. Arnold's class added something extra magical...each monster came with a special tag that says: "From imagination to animation — scan to see the magic!"
When the 1st graders scanned their tags on their iPads, they got to see their monsters actually come to life! This project is such a fun collaboration that we look forward to every single year, full of creativity, teamwork, and a whole lot of smiles!







Elementary School

During WIN time, Mrs. Helms' first graders are busy discovering Heart Words!





Middle School

Students biked to Woodside Grill to "brunch and learn" with experts from the Learning Center. In addition to learning about native box turtles, students brainstormed ideas for their sustainability projects: reducing litter, recycling, environmentally friendly swaps, and campaigning for styrofoam alternatives.




High School

Mrs. Talantis' Sustainability class and Mr. Schaff's class teamed up and took students to kayak in little lagoon and use a seine net to observe native species. A special thank you to the city for providing a great lifeguard and Dr. Simpson and Kim Miller for helping us along the way with the field observation.






Virtual Academy

Our Gulf Shores Elementary Virtual Academy students had an amazing time at the farm last Friday! They learned all about how cows digest their food and got a firsthand look at life on a working cattle farm.
It was a day full of learning, laughter, and memories at The Patch by Lillian Cattle Company!




Shout out to Harper Nolan, who was named Little Miss Shrimp Festival Charity Queen for the 3rd year in a row, collecting 1600 items! Thank you for sticking the GSES Blessing Box!



It was such an honor to be recognized by these amazing ladies for GSHS Volleyball's Teacher Appreciation Night! Alisha Tolbert said, "They impact my life more than they know! Thankful for such a great group of kids I get to call students and athletes"!



Gulf Shores High School NJROTC Cadets have started the school year stronger than ever before. Check out the latest newsletter, The Dolphin Dispatch! Click on the news picture below!


The Dolphin Dispatch

GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL NAVY JROTC 1 OCTOBER 2025

BEST START EVER

FIRST QUARTER NEARLY COMPLETE

Cadets Watched the Blue Angels from a Private Charter in Pensacola Bay

Dolphin Families,

Wow, first quarter's almost in the rearview already—how'd that happen so fast? Seriously, time just sort of slips away, doesn't it? Anyway, just wanted to say: thanks a million for all the ways you show up for this NJROTC crew. None of this works without you. No kidding.

Last week? Perfect example. Our schedule was tight, so we had to skip group PT on Friday. Not ideal, but we rolled with it. Threw out an extra credit challenge—run a mile solo, snap a finish-line selfie, text us your time on Remind. We figured maybe a handful would even bother. Instead, over a quarter of the unit took the opportunity and ran with it (pun intended). One Cadet's dad even lit up and knocked out the mile too. That's what we're talking about—with this type of support, dedication, the sky is the limit. (continued on page 2)

5th Grade Peer Helpers ready to serve!



Our first GSES K-Kids meeting of the year is in the books! We're so proud of these great leaders with big ideas. Stay tuned for all the exciting things this amazing group will be doing throughout the year.



Huge thank you to Mrs. Akin at GSHS, for spearheading a U.S. Service Academy Application Process Briefing with Senator Katie Britt's Office. Despite a government shutdown, Ms. Savannah Cleveland, who was originally scheduled to brief in person, delivered invaluable insights via Zoom. We all gained a deeper understanding today, even those of us who have been in the business for a while. Grateful for this exceptional school and the dedicated professionals who are passionately committed to showing our students the possibilities beyond high school, and more importantly, providing a roadmap to achieve them.



Dolphins are Full-Speed Ahead! GSHS cheerleaders match the nautical theme decked out in nautical style for the football game! They are selling Spirit Bags before school on Game Day Fridays!





Mrs. Beal & Miss Portia's Pre-K Classes had a sweet time this Fall Friday morning enjoying s'mores while reviewing all the 2-D shapes we've learned this week and getting a sneak peek at next week's 3-D shapes! Learning is always more fun with a little marshmallow magic!

Great first contest of the season! Our band received a score of 1 in all categories, and Best in Class Drum major! Go Dolphins!



Mrs. Butts' first graders at GSES learned about jobs in our community during Community Helper week from guest speaker Corporal Butts.



Rising TIDE students ate GSES have been learning all about how our brains work. They even built their own brains - labeled with common brain functions.



Our cadet staff at GSHS attended the Alabama Joint Leadership Development Conference (JLDC) in Mobile, AL.



Mr. Dey's Science classes at GSES got off the beaten path to discuss Ecosystems… They found decomposing trees, Reindeer Moss and all kinds of other different decomposers…





Congratulations to our
GSMS National Junior Honor Society Officers
For 2025-26

President: Katelyn Hamilton
Vice-President: Lilly Grace Longshore
Secretary: Savannah Adams
Treasurer: Eloise Johnson
Reporter: Jocelyn Plash

Sponsors: Tori Erdossy and Wendy Holmes

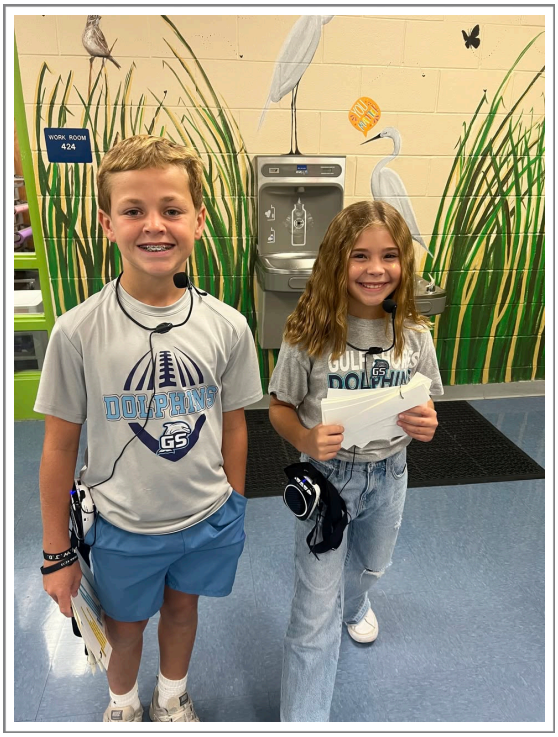
It's Taco Tuesday writing in Mrs. Duelm's 5th grade class at GSES!



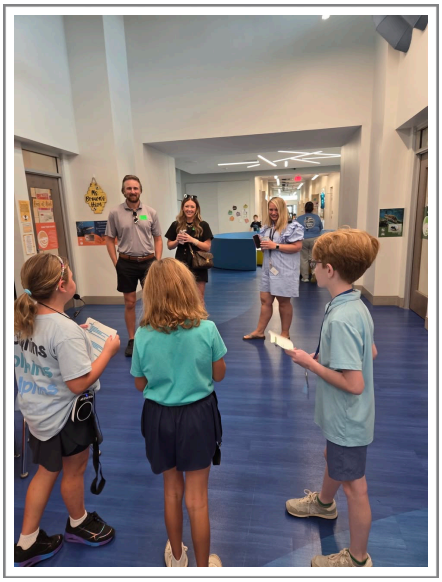
Aren't these the most vibrant and spectacular crayons ever! Hats off to our kindergarten team for another smashing Pumpkin Parade!



Our Student Lighthouse team did a great job guiding visitors around our first Tuesday Tour at GSES.







The Gulf Shores Cheer Program is ready to take the mat! GS Middle School is competing for the first time and we are so proud of them!



Dr. McKinney and Coach Lee from GSES completed the CSL course and are newly certified GSCS bus drivers! Congratulations!





Making mozzarella at GSHS!



We had a fantastic visit to Gulf Shores Elementary, where we got to connect with students and chat about how important it is to stay active and get involved in sports!
A big shoutout to the GSES coaches and staff for having us – and for sharing some fun (and high-fives) while we were there!
Winter sports registration is now open for basketball and flag football. We can't wait to see your young athletes out on the court or field this season. Don't delay – registration closes **October 19**!
Sign up here: https://shorturl.at/rUVbK



Mrs. Coker's Flight and Space Class at GSMS has been exploring what it takes to soar through the skies and survive beyond Earth! Students have been studying the physics of flight, launching water pressure rockets, vacuum-sealing foods for space storage, and mixing dry, non-perishable meals just like astronauts do. They also explored America's most famous space shuttles as the imagined life on a real space mission.



Mrs. Todd's class at GSES has the very best custodian! She keeps our room shiny and fresh, but more importantly, she brings a contagious smile and amazing attitude. We appreciate Ms. Kayla for keeping us clean and lifting us up every day.



Mrs. Barnett and the GSMS choir crushing their Fall Concert!





GSHS would like to thank CACC and AU for presenting the application process with our senior students during Free College Application week.





Cuban Experience in Spanish Class at GSMS! Our Spanish students got toasted taste of Cuban life by cooking up some delicious Cuban rice, black beans, fried plantains in the outdoor kitchen! They learned so much about Cuban culture, teamwork, and flavors - and had a blast trying new foods together!



Mrs. Cunningham's class at GSES went on a walking field trip to the Christian Service Center! During the visit, students learned about the food pantry at the center, how the center helps community members, and delivered their serve project as part of 4th grade's Art From the Heart project.





Huge congratulations to senior Tres Moore for being named the Gulf Coast Athletic Club's Gulf Shores High School Make Scholar Athlete of the Month! This honor also makes Tres eligible for the GCAC Scholar Athlete of the Year Award, which will be announced this spring. Way to represent, Tres!



Fifth Graders at GSES enjoyed hands-0n science instruction outdoors as they explored a decomposing log! They observed how mushrooms, insects, and other decomposers break down dead matter and return nutrients to the soil - an important part of their local ecosystem.





Ms. McAleer's class had the pleasure of visiting The Christian Service Center! Students learned about the many wonderful ways the center supports those in need, and shared their own artwork to accompany Meals on Wheels deliveries.



Congratulations to Nicolette Meade ($1000 scholarship) and Michael McNeill ($500 scholarship) at GSHS. Nicolette and Michael were winners of the Community Bank Scholarship Contest at the football game. They were randomly selected to participate from a list of all Seniors with perfect attendance and no tardies to school for the first 55 days of the school year.





Happy Halloween from GSES Admin









Halloween field trips hit differently! We had the privilege of visiting Live Oak Retirement village today to trick-or-treating the residence. What a precious group of people! If you don't have any plans today goodbye and see them. Thank you to the Student Lighthouse team for going with us and being such great leaders!







Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. Deese were excited to have their first official meeting with the 25-26 Student Lighthouse Team. They were busy creating their mission statement and preparing for their upcoming service project with Live Oaks Senior Living facility. It's going to be a great year with this wonderful group of student leaders!



Thank you to our GSHS dual enrollment partners for offering valuable information for ur parents. If you have a student interested in learning more about dual enrollment options please see Mr. Eubanks. The deadline for spring is November 19th.

Thank you to our local Mardi Gras Krewe, The Marshals, for investing in our students. They are partnering with GSHS to offer a $500 scholarship to a graduating senior looking to enter a trade school or apprenticeship. Please see our Career Coach Tyler Morgan for more details.





Cadet Garrett Perry from GSHS went to MEPS and joined the United States Marine Corps. He will be working the Security Forces Teams that provide anti-terrorism security for vital national assets like naval installations around the world during his enlistment. He will be shipping to Paris Island after graduation in May of 2026.



The K-Kids Club day event was exciting at GSES! We crafted our bags for the upcoming trick-or-treat trip to Live Oak retirement home. We look forward to seeing our friends!





On Custodian Appreciation Day, Mrs. Deese's class at GSES was treated to Mr. Calvin reading to their 1st grade class!



The Wave Gym was rocking as our 7th and 8th grade girls at GSMS kicked off the 2025-26 basketball season with their first official practice!



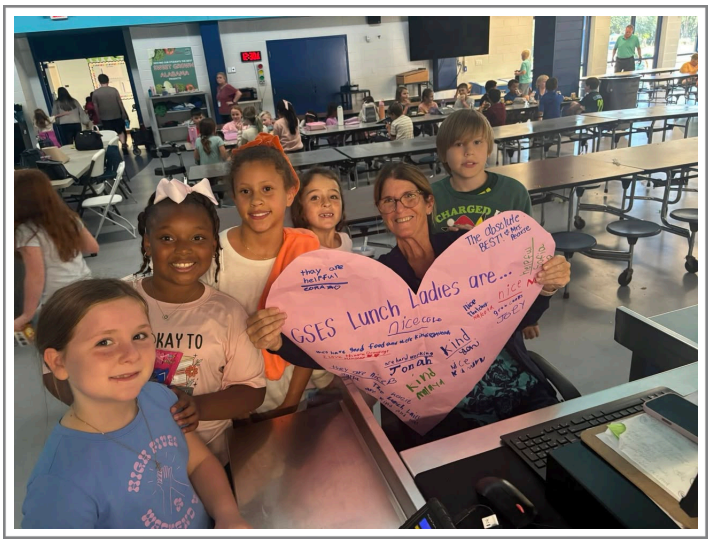


2025-2026 GSES K-Kids Officers

Presidents - Delilah Brenner and Callie Schmidt
Vice-President - Keller Alford
Secretary - Natalie Hastik
Treasurer - Reagan Ingold
Sergeant at Arms - Stella Fetchko



Mrs. Pearse's 3rd Graders at GSES were excited to celebrate our wonderful custodian, Mr. Calvin, and our sweet lunch ladies. We are so grateful for the way they serve our school each and every day!





GSHS Lady Dolphins hit the road to regionals!





The GSMS Cross trainers club had a great bike ride in the State Park, including stops at a couple of great overlooks and getting to see a HUGE pig frog! We are always looking for new members that want to come run, ride bikes, and climb the rock wall with us.





Mrs. Miller's and Mrs. Freidkson's classes at GSES, along with the Gulf Shores Garden Club, cleaned out the new planters and replanted them with fresh plants!
We can't wait to watch them grow!









Flight and Space Class at GSMS

Mrs. Coker's Flight and Space Class has been exploring what it takes to soar through the skies and survive beyond Earth! Students have been studying the physics of flight, launching water pressure rockets, vacuum-sealing foods for space storage, and mixing dry, non-perishable meals just like astronauts do. We also explored America's most famous space shuttles as they imagined life on a real space mission.We are excited to see our students dive into their books each week!







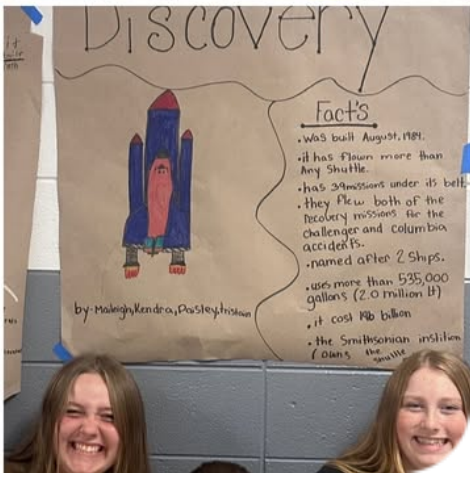












A special thanks to our teachers at GSHS who participated in Free College Application Week by decorating their doors from their Alma Mater.

























The 2026 Golf Season is right around the corner! Tryouts are coming up and anyone interested must follow the rules below. Looking forward to a great season!

Last week two amazing groups of students came together to work on a collaborative book writing project! Project Smile alongside Mrs. Mitchell's AP Seminar (B) shared stories and helped edit each other's personal writing about GREATFULLNESS. They also brought their writings to life with illustrations. After all the work was finished, they enjoyed cupcakes and cookies and continued to share stories and favorites in movies and music.







Dolphin Dash 5K & Fun Run



Peer Helpers at GSES

Peer Helpers at GSES participated in a training session where they practiced important skills such as connecting with others, active listening, and showing empathy. These skills help them build kindness, recognize when someone may need support, and be a safe and trustworthy friend to their classmates. Our motto is: Be the Good, Show the Way, Lend a Hand













GSMS has a Theatre class!

Gulf Shores City Schools and Gulf Shores Middle School have a new program: **THEATRE**! Gulf Shores High School Theatre, Caleb Landrum and Reagan McClung have partnered to bring a very in demand program to life! Scheduling only allowed for one class, and it is PACKED. What a beautiful sign of the times!
For those who don't know, Mrs. McClung has more theatre than robot experience, coming in at 20 years for theatre of all ages and 11 for middle school robotics. Theatre is her first love, and she got into robotics because of her son. WHAT A RIDE! Let's rock it till the wheels fall off!



Congratulations Swim Team



Rockin' and rollin' into the 50th day of kindergarten at GSES! From sock hops to root beer floats!







Club Day at GSES

Karaoke/Dance Club



Spa Club





Reading Club



Jewelry Club



Sports and Sportsmanship Club





Lego Club



Directed Drawing Club



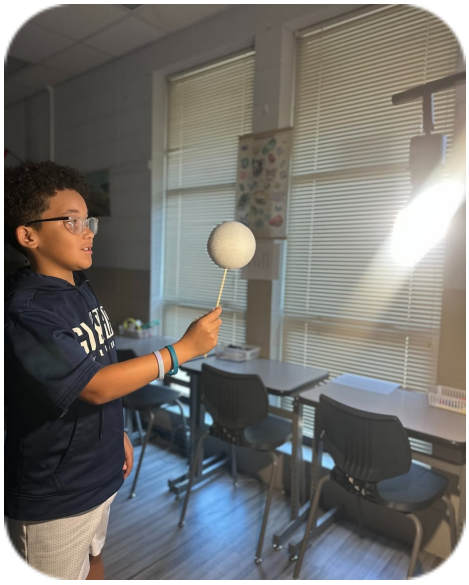
Peer Helpers collecting donations for the GS Fire Station! Thank you to everyone who donated!



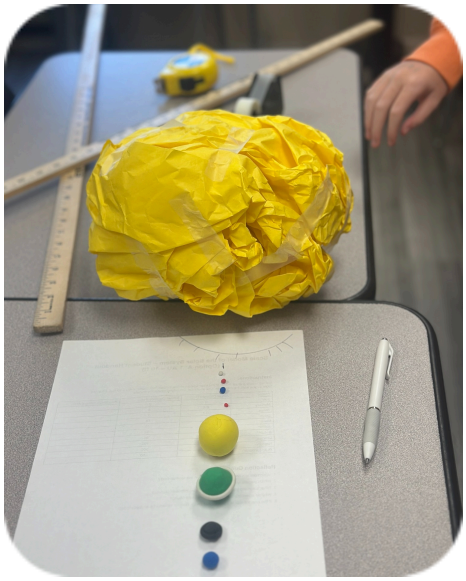
6th Grade Science at GSMS

Our 6th grade Science students have been on an incredible journey through the solar system — exploring the Sun, Earth, Moon, and other celestial objects that make our universe so fascinating.
Did you know it's extremely difficult to model the solar system to scale? Using clay models and a football field, students discovered just how massive and mind-blowing our solar system really is!
Fun fact: A group called "To Scale: The Solar System" actually built a true-to-scale model in the Nevada desert. They needed 7 miles of open space just to fit everything — and even then, when viewed from above, the planets looked like tiny pinpricks in the sand!













Health Science & Sports Medicine at GSHS

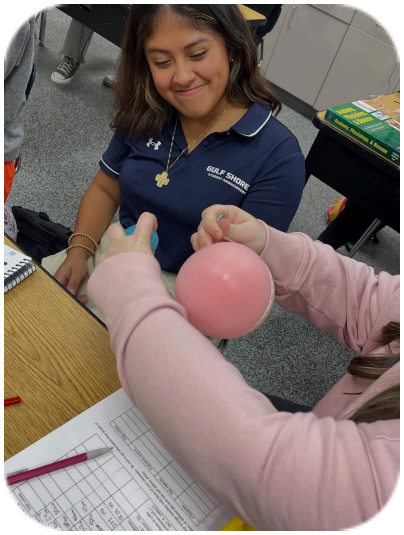
What an exciting week! We welcomed the Alabama HOSA State President and her advisor for an inspiring visit, cheered on our team at the volleyball area tournament, practiced foot and ankle palpations, and started gearing up for our shock scenario simulations next week. Learning, leadership, and hands-on skills — all in one amazing week!

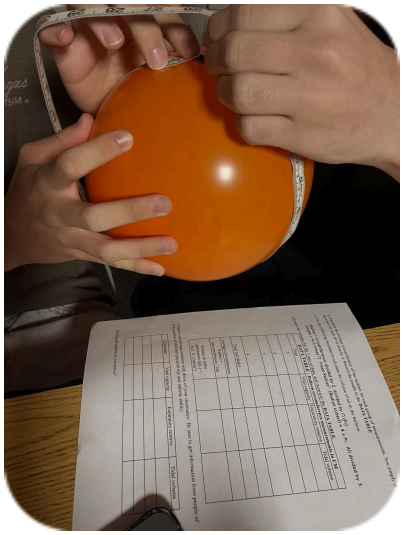






Exploring Lung Capacity!
In Mrs. Murphy's Human Body Structures & Functions class, students became respiratory scientists! Using balloons as makeshift spirometers, they measured and compared three types of lung capacity — discovering how much air their lungs can really hold. Hands-on learning helps bring anatomy to life — one deep breath at a time!





We are proud of Price Stephens for representing the name on the front AND back of his jersey! You never know when the moment will come when you are setting the example in your school and your community!

My name is Dawn and I work at the Gulf Shores [redacted] One of your players came to try on clothes at the fitting room, before the Theodore game. He came in twice and both times he was very pleasant, had manners and excited that we are supporting Gulf Shores, he was really happy about that. I want to compliment the coaching staff for supporting manners and his parents should be proud of their son.....I want to put a huge shout out to #9 Stephens for being an exceptional young man! I am so proud of Gulf Shores Football, keep up the great work!!!!



Price Stephens
SR - LB

Shout out to these three GSMS art students for volunteering their time to help with the pumpkin painting table at the Boo Bash Trunk or Treat at the Alabama Gulf Coast Sports Center.



Gulf Shores Lady Dolphins Softball GOLF TOURNAMENT

November 16th 2025
12 pm Shot Gun Start

Register Your Team NOW at
https://gshssoftball.com

Foursome Entry $500

GULF SHORES VARSITY TENNIS





NOVEMBER 5TH

3:30 - 5:00 PM

Gulf Shores Tennis Center

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP ON COACH CORCORANS DOOR, ROOM 130

TENNIS TRYOUTS

GSES Pre-K teachers learning and making waves at the Early Childhood Education Conference in Birmingham!



Special thanks to Gulf Shores First Presbyterian Church for providing special Halloween treats to students who walk home after school.



Dr. Sonya Price is National Board Certified, District Leadership, Director of Exceptional Education and Special Services for Gulf Shores City Schools. You will not meet a more enthusiastic and capable leader anywhere. We are fortunate to have a person of her caliber on our school staff.…
Dr. Price explains upcoming "Make Waves of Kindness" taking place on November 13 which is a specific initiative of Gulf Shores City Schools intended to organize events and raise funds to support students and staff. Make Waves of Kindness is a call to action to spread kindness through small, ripple-like acts that create bigger waves of positive impact. Examples include performing random acts of kindness, like giving a compliment, helping a neighbor, or picking up litter, to inspire others to do the same. What a great program, as we were able to learn that these children have talent beyond what the eye can see and the mind can think, and an update on Make Waves of Kindness coming up November 13. Learn more at **https://www.gsboe.org/.../engaging.../makewaves-of-kindness**



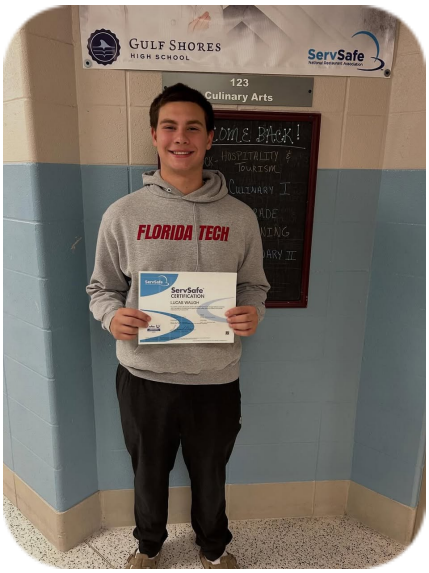




Thank you, GSHS Volleyball Seniors!
You've been such a huge part of our program, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for each of you! Your hard work, leadership, and dedication have left a lasting mark at Gulf Shores!

Thank you, Macey Moore, Kayla Rose, Madi Nelson, and Abby True!

Congrats to Somer & Lucas for passing their ServSafe Manager Exam!





Red Ribbon Leader Kennedi Steiner and Mrs. Dalton at GSES collecting the canned goods donated each day for Kennedi's Red Ribbon Week project. Thank you to your generous donations so far!



Be Your Own Hero: Say NO to Drugs

Drug Free Week October 27-31















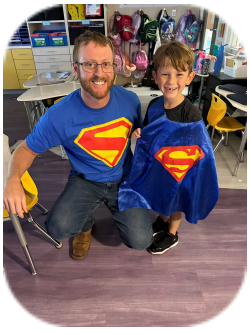














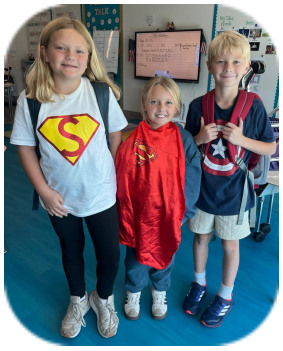












Drug Free Week October 27-31

Bright Choices, Bright Future

























Red-y to Be Drug Free

Drug Free Week October 27-31





























Sail Away From Drugs

Drug Free Week October 27-31























Drug Free Week October 27-31

Teamwork Makes The Dream Work

















GSES: A rockin' good time celebrating the 50th Day of School!











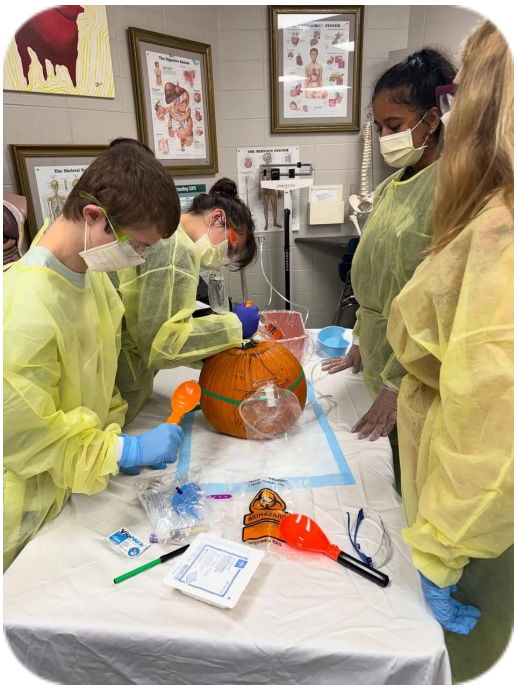








Pumpkinectomy Season with PCT & Project Smile at GSHS!
Our Patient Care Technician students put their skills to the test with a “Pumpkinectomy”—a hands-on pumpkin dissection lab integrating surgical asepsis and teamwork, while sharing the OR with Project Smile leaders!
Students prepped their surgical field, donned PPE, and performed a mock “surgery” to remove pumpkin seeds (a.k.a. “Adhesions”).
Thankful for a little Halloween fun!



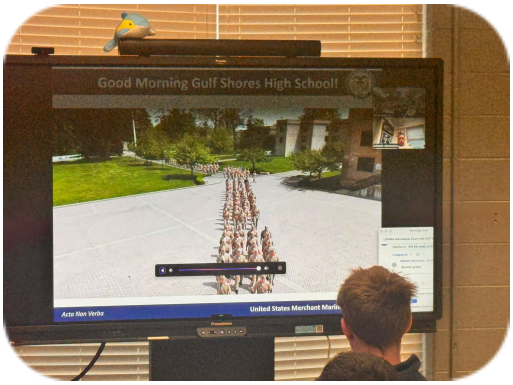




Big shoutout to Naomi at GSMS!

Her beautiful artwork was chosen for the cover of the Gulf Shores Middle School Choir Concert program! So proud of her talent and creativity!



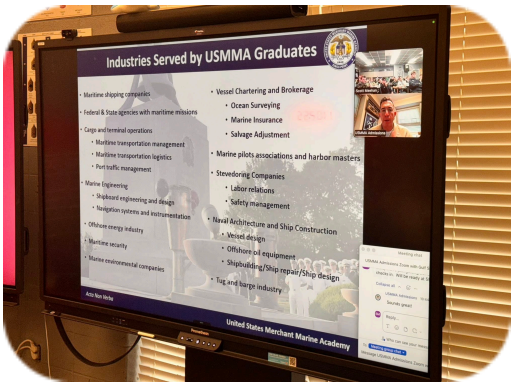


Our cadets at GSHS benefited from a distinctive opportunity, participating in a briefing by the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy-USMMA admissions officer, which was a novel experience for them.



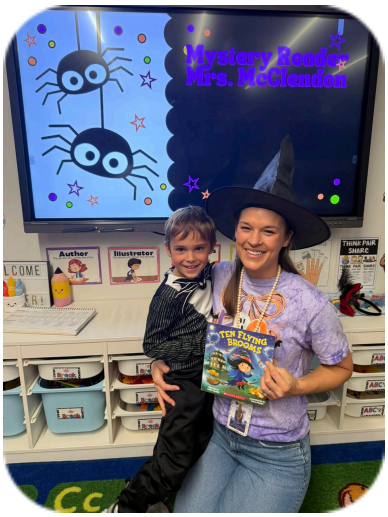








Mrs. Merchant's Mystery Reader was Pre-K teacher, Mrs. McClendon - aka known as Mom to Jackson!



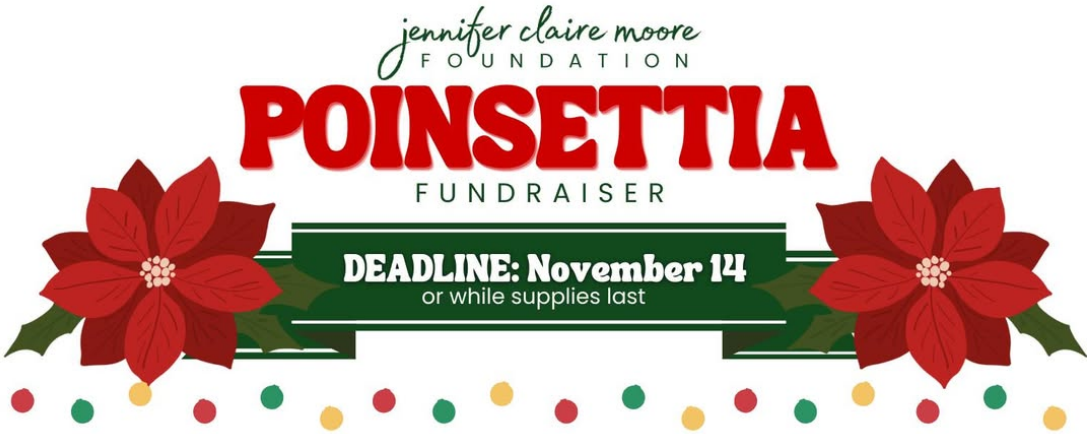


Coach B Stephens took a little field trip to show students that math is practical. They used trigonometry to calculate angles and distances on the pickleball courts and football fields.



GSES Peer Helpers Fundraiser

Ordering is now open for these beautiful poinsettias the Peer Helpers sell each year as their fundraiser.



6": $18
8": $24
10": $30

SCAN TO ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS TODAY

SCHOOL: _____ PEER HELPER: _____

WHAT THIS BENEFITS...

Buy a poinsettia, grow a leader!
Each plant sold supports the Peer Helpers Jubilee, a one-of-a-kind event where students gather for two days of encouragement, learning, and connection.

HEAD TO
JENNIFERMOOREFOUNDATION.COM
FOR MORE INFO

LIMITED QUANTITIES

ORDER EARLY, DON'T WAIT

DELIVERY OPTIONS

PLANTS WILL BE DELIVERED TO SCHOOLS DECEMBER 1-5

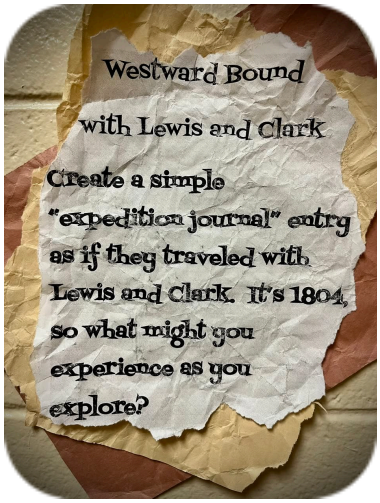
For orders of 15 or more poinsettias:
JCMF will deliver directly to your home or business for FREE!

For orders of less than 15 poinsettias:
Select a school from the list on the cart page, and enter the name of the school/Peer Helper who should receive credit for the sale. Your plant(s) will be delivered to the school of the Peer Helper that you note and they will deliver your plant(s).

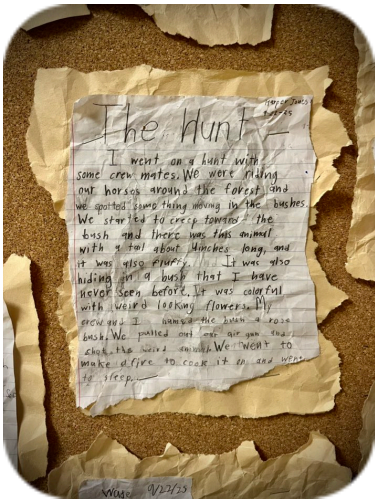
OR
Pick up at Baldwin Mutual Insurance
315 East Laurel Ave in Foley
December 2nd-4th from 9am-4pm.

Westward Bound with 5th Grade

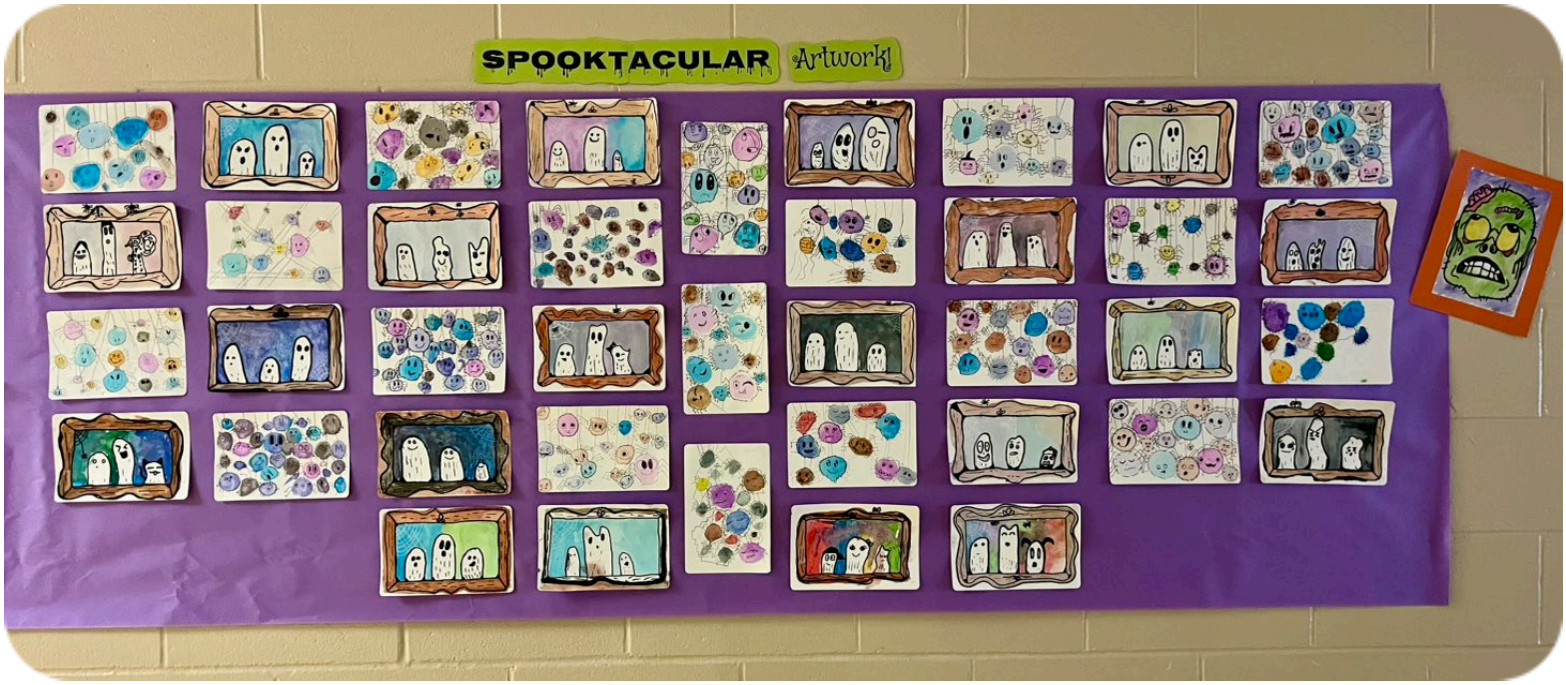
5th grade has been busy around these parts! On our trip west, we documented our adventures in our expedition journals! Lewis and Clark sure taught us a lot! Now that we're settled (the first quarter's come and gone), we took a break from all the toil to make a little **SPOOKtacular** trouble!







SPOOKtacular!



7th Grade Energy & the Environment!

Our 7th grade students GSMS had an amazing visit from the Alabama A&M and Auburn University Extension team! Mr. Scott Sligh and Mr. James Wallace brought the energy (literally!) as they taught students about geothermal, solar, hydroelectric, nuclear, and wind power.
Students not only learned how these energy sources work, but also explored the career opportunities connected to them.
It was a fantastic hands-on learning experience filled with great questions, curiosity, and excitement for the future of energy!





Middle School Art



GSMS art teacher Mrs. Michaelson, dressed up as Frida Kahlo to spark creativity and inspire my students! They created some incredible Frida-inspired artworks that truly captured her bold colors and spirit.









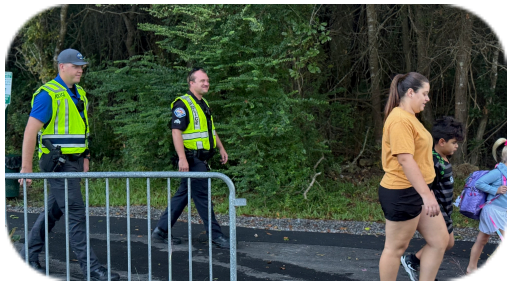


Fall Walk to School Day!

Fall Walk to School Day 2025! Walking School Bus was FULL of old faces and new as we celebrated Walk to School Day. Thank you GSHS Cheerleaders for being FINtastic leaders along the way! Special Thank you to **Gulf Shores Police Department** and **Gulf Shores High School Cheerleading**!












October Happy Teacher Challenge - ABC Day! - Anything BUT a Cup Day!

















Gulf Shores Middle School& High School Choirs

Gulf Shores Middle School Choir students took a ‘Field Trip’ to the High School last week to practice together for their Fall Concert. Our rehearsal was fun, musical, crazy and a little bit cozy when we moved from the Band Room to the choir classroom!
So, how do you fit 68 middle schoolers on four sections of risers? The answer is very closely!









Tuesday Tour: Middle School

You're Invited to the Tuesday Tour at Gulf Shores Middle School!



Join us for an exclusive opportunity to step inside the classrooms of Gulf Shores Middle School and experience the innovation, culture, and energy that define Gulf Shores City Schools.
We're welcoming the **first 50 community members** to take part in this guided tour, where you'll also get a chance to meet our new principal, **Mr. Jamie Hill**.

Date: Tuesday, November 18th

Time: 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Location: Gulf Shores Middle School

Spots are limited, so be sure to secure yours!
We look forward to showing you what makes Gulf Shores Middle School truly exceptional!
Each registration will be for one person only

GSCS Middle School Tuesday Tour

Space Camp: GSMS

Reach for the Stars!
Apply Now for the Space Academy at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center
Hands-on STEM • Leadership • Astronaut Training
A Prestigious Opportunity for Middle School Students

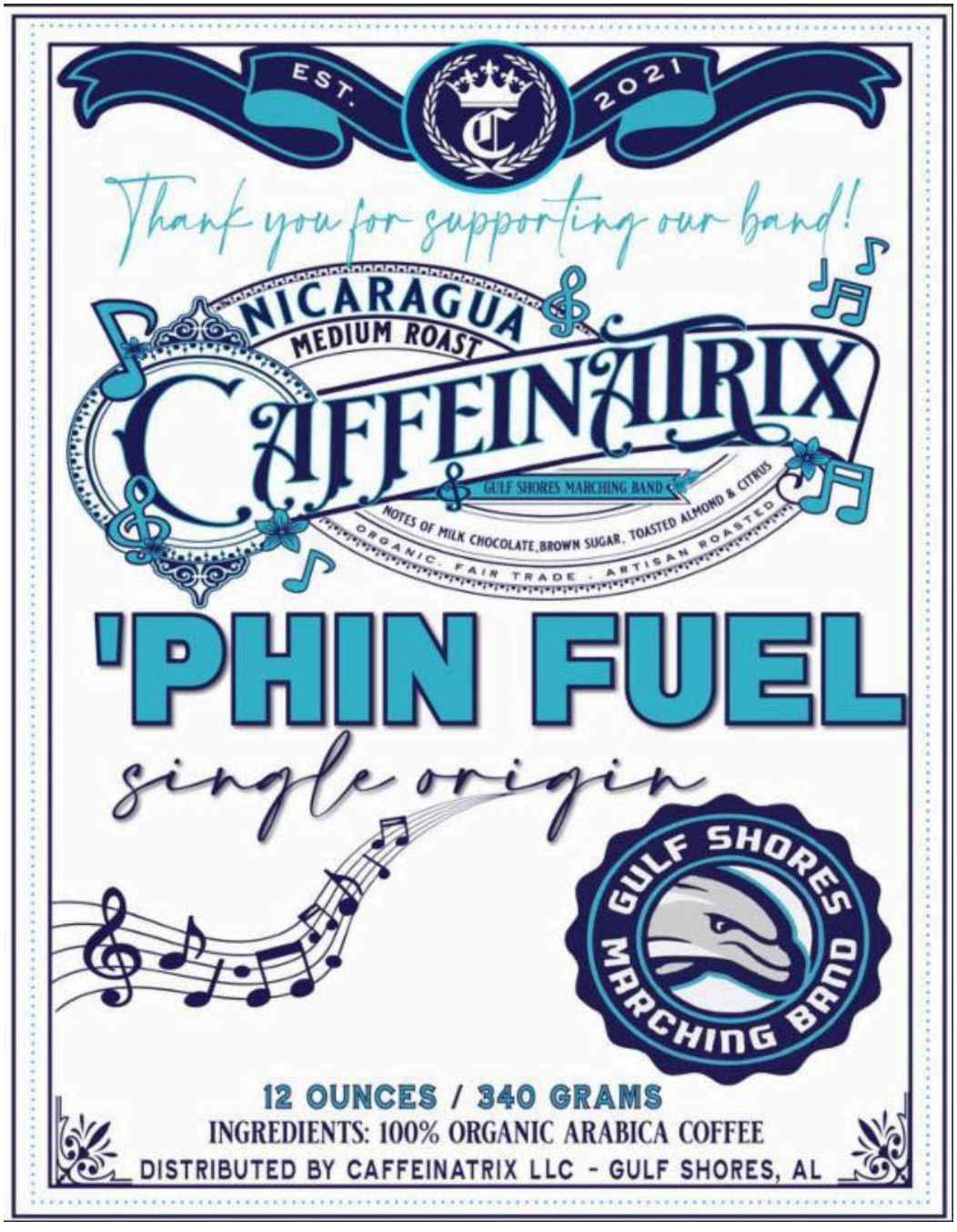
SPACE CAMP SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS: Many GSMS students and teachers have received full scholarships to Space Camp through SALSA. And, most recently 20 GEMS students attended through a CTE grant written our CTE Director Jessica Sampley.
Space Academy® for Leading Students in Alabama (SALSA) is a program funded by the State of Alabama Legislature that awards a male and female student between the ages of 12 to 14 from every legislative district in Alabama a scholarship to attend a special session of Space Academy® at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville.
To learn more about Space Academy, please visit:
https://www.rocketcenter.com/SpaceCamp/Alabama/SpaceAcademy

ROCKETCENTER.COM
Space Academy for Leading Students in Alabama (SALSA) | U.S. Space & Rocket Center
2026 S.A.L.S.A. Application is open from October 1, 2025 to April 5, 2026!Scroll down for application instructions and link to apply

Support the Gulf Shores Bands

Our coffee fundraiser has officially launched and runs through Friday, Nov. 14. Support the Gulf Shores Bands by purchasing your own 12oz bag of our custom-blended, organic coffee named 'PHIN FUEL by band members. Bags are $25 each and limited, so reserve yours today and please share with your friends & family!
Your coffee will be roasted just days before you pick it up by Caffeinatrix® in partnership with the Gulf Shores Band Boosters, and 100% of proceeds go directly to the band.
Orders will be available to pick up on the following dates:
- 12/9 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the High School Winter Concert
- 12/10 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. at the High School Band Room
- 12/11 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Middle School Band Concert

All concerts are held at the Gulf Shores Cultural Center.
More details and the link to the pre-order form below. Thank you for your support!
https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/BYKR27NQF6SQY



International Food Festival at GSHS



























ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2025

Dolphin Smile

Dolphin Smile class at GSHS participated in a walking field trip to Woodside Restaurant in the Alabama State Park, where we gained hands-on experience with ordering from a menu, managing payments, and practicing good restaurant etiquette and social skills. We extend our gratitude to Woodside for accommodating our group!









GSES Harvest Festival



GSHS: A home run of a Halloween!

What started as a fun idea a few years ago has turned into a Gulf Shores fall tradition. Players hit the field in creative Halloween costumes — from box office icons to WWE stars to superheroes — while fans filled the stands for the free event on a crisp October evening. Between the laughter and the friendly competition, players said it felt like a playoff crowd, and coaches hope to keep growing the spooky season, crowd-pleasing game each year.





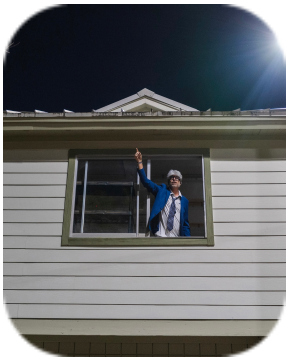
























GSMS Faculty Race

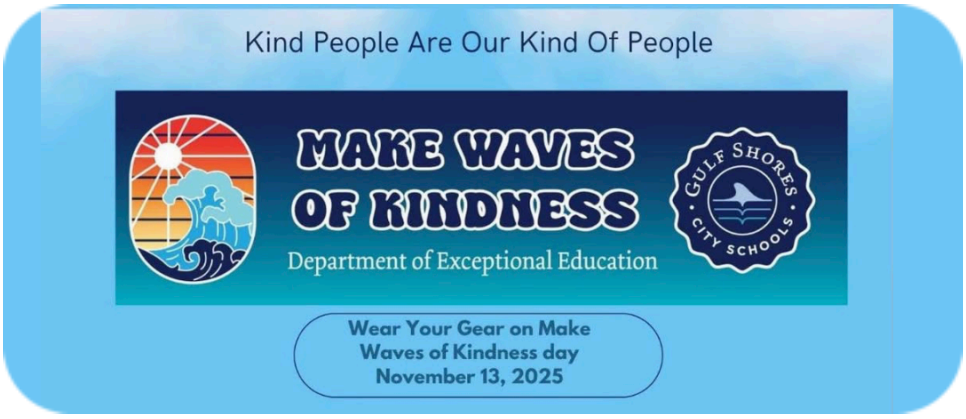




Make Waves of Kindness Day



Make Waves of Kindness Day is coming on November 13th!



GS Athletics Spirit Wear

Pre-order at the link below. Items will also be sold at the Stadium on Game Days. **https://forms.gle/**







11/3-7 GSCS: Eat The Harvest
11/6 GSES: Veterans Day Assembly @ GSMS Gym
11/6 BOE: Work Session 4:00pm
11/7 GSMS: Veterans Day Assembly @ GSMS Gym
11/11 GSCS: Veterans Day (No School)
11/13 GSCS: Make Waves of Kindness Day
11/13 GSES: Spirit Night (Lulu's)
11/13 BOE: Regular Meeting 5:00pm
11/14 GSCS: Q2 Progress Reports
11/15 Dolphin Dash 5K & Fun Run 8:00am
11/18 GSCS: Tuesday Tour at GSMS 9:00am
11/24-28 GSCS: Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)

Enjoy these GSCS commercials!

We Believe…

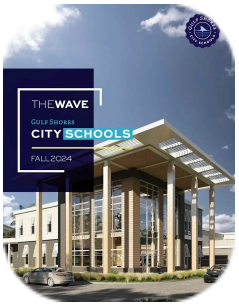
What If…

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! Get your copy today!



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 Liz Corcoran - 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
Laura Goulden - 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