

# The MakeWaves Monthly

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



## Superintendents' Message

November was a month filled with meaningful themes—honor, veterans, gratitude, and family. We were proud to recognize and celebrate our Veterans, including those within our staff, our parent community, and throughout Gulf Shores. Thank you, Veterans!

This month also invited us to pause and reflect on the true spirit of Thanksgiving and the many blessings we cherish. We hope you were able to connect with loved ones near and far. To all employees, students, parents, and community members, we hope you enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with joy and abundance. May the warmth of the season have brought comfort as you gathered with family and friends. November at GSCS has been packed with memorable experiences—Thanksgiving celebrations, balloon parades, food drives, Make Waves of Kindness Day, earning straight A's on the State Report Card, and welcoming our new comfort dog, Phin. Well done, GSCS!

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

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



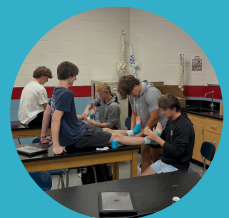
Health & Wellness



Athletics



Arts Education



Teaching & Learning



ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL



MIDDLE SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL



VIRTUAL  
ACADEMY

## Meet Our Student WaveMakers of the Month

### Elementary School

#### Harper Nolan

Grade: 1st Grade

Area of Recognition: Leadership, Generosity & Determination

I'm a WaveMaker because...

We are proud to nominate first grader Harper Nolan as WaveMaker of the Month for Gulf Shores Elementary. Harper was recently crowned Little Miss Shrimp Festival Charity Queen for the third year in a row, collecting an incredible 1,600 items to support local Blessing Boxes. Her efforts contributed to the collection of 4,664 items across Baldwin County, directly stocking our own GSES Blessing Box and helping families in need. Harper is not only dedicated to serving her community but also stands out as a hardworking student who consistently sets and achieves her goals. She consistently demonstrates kindness, always being a friend to others and a positive role model for her peers. Harper's school pride shines through, and she truly loves being a Dolphin at Gulf Shores Elementary. She exemplifies leadership, generosity, and determination both in and out of the classroom. Harper's character and actions make her an outstanding candidate for WaveMaker of the Month.

~Nominated by Ashley Weekley, Lindsay Taylor, and Courtney Hogue



### Middle School

#### Edwin "Win" Spence

Grade: 7th Grade

Area of Recognition: Leadership

I'm a WaveMaker because...

Ed "Win" Spence has truly gone above and beyond, especially during Student Government Elections. Without being asked, he took the initiative to create the entire candidate video, showcasing both leadership and creativity while also running in the election. He is always ready to lend a hand to his peers and teachers and consistently excels in his academics. Ed "Win" looks for every opportunity to get involved and make a positive impact at school. He's a leader, a role model, and he continues to make waves everywhere he goes!

~Nominated by Mary Kathryn Redden~



### High School

#### Velmira Sobol

Grade: 10th Grade

Area of Recognition: Leadership & Sustainability

I'm a WaveMaker because...

I am excited to nominate Velmira Sobol for Gulf Shores High Schools' Student WaveMaker for November. Velmira is a student who consistently brings energy, focus, and dedication to everything she does. As a key member of our hydroponics team, Velmira ensures that our systems run smoothly and that our plants thrive. She approaches each task with care and initiative, and her commitment helps the greenhouse run efficiently and successfully. In the classroom, Velmira is curious and engaged, asking thoughtful questions and contributing to discussions in ways that elevate the learning experience for everyone. She is also a dedicated member of the volleyball team, where her teamwork, determination, and positive attitude set a strong example for her teammates. Velmira is kind, reliable, and respectful, consistently demonstrating responsibility and a willingness to help others. Her upbeat attitude, hard work, and dedication make her a true role model in both academics and extracurricular activities, and she fully embodies the Core Values of Gulf Shores City Schools. ~

Nominated by Amanda Talantis~



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

## Meet Our Staff WaveMakers of the Month

### Elementary School

#### **Beth Pearse - 3rd Grade Teacher**

##### **I'm a WaveMaker because...**

Beth Pearse consistently looks for creative ways to transform traditional assignments into meaningful, engaging experiences for her students. Recently, she took what would have been a standard question-and-answer, individual assignment and redesigned it into an interactive gallery walk. Students collaborated with peers as they moved around the classroom, using sticky notes to respond to questions posted on chart paper. This format not only deepened their understanding of the content but also encouraged communication, critical thinking, and teamwork. Her commitment to making learning interactive rather than passive is evident in all that she does. She is always seeking new instructional models that allow her students to engage more fully, ensuring that their learning is both memorable and effective. Her dedication to creating a student-centered classroom makes her an excellent candidate for this recognition. Amazing Leadership: Beth always cares for everyone with her whole heart. Not only her students, but also the teachers around her. She is there to listen, no matter what is going on in her own world. She strives to make everyone feel like their voices are heard and their ideas matter. I've never heard a negative thing come from her. She is an amazing grade level chair, and third grade is so lucky to have her!

~Nominated by Mary Margaret Phillips & Olivia Clark~



### Middle School

#### **Laura Prater - ELA Teacher**

##### **I'm a WaveMaker because...**

Ashlyn Etheredge: Laura goes above and beyond for our school and our students. She promotes school spirit and has been single-handedly responsible for many of the fun-themed days in which we have participated. She leads her House with pride and inspires those students to go all-in for House Protos. As the cheer coach she holds the girls to the highest level of expectation for school spirit, good character, good sportsmanship, and competitive athleticism. She is also the lead for our ELA department and handles every meeting we have, planning agenda and leading, and acts as a liaison between teachers and admin. She has been the "glue" of the school in many respects during this first quarter of the year!

Regan McClung: Laura Prater leads with grace, character, and a deep commitment to inclusion—always ready with a smile that lifts others. She's the epitome of a team player, inspiring student engagement across countless activities while balancing coaching and before/after school duties with excellence. Beyond school, she's a devoted wife and mother whose love and priorities shine through everything she does.

~Nominated by Ashlyn Etheredge and Regan McClung~



### High School

#### **Amber Pitts - History Teacher**

##### **I'm a WaveMaker because...**

It is my pleasure to nominate Amber Pitts for Gulf Shores High Schools' Staff WaveMaker for November. Amber is an exceptional history teacher whose passion for education, dedication to her students, and commitment to excellence make her one of the top educators at Gulf Shores High School.

Amber consistently achieves the highest pass rate AND average score on AP exams, a reflection of her outstanding instruction and her students' respect for her high standards. She is both tough and caring, maintaining a firm but fair classroom where students are expected to give their best effort. Amber never lets a student fall through the cracks—she follows up, checks in, and holds them accountable. She even monitors their performance in other classes, ensuring each student stays on track academically.

Amber's commitment to learning extends beyond the classroom. She has recently taken on the role of Scholar's Bowl coach, and in a short time, she has revitalized the program. She organizes weekend competitions, schedules teacher matches, and is already building a strong, competitive team.

Amber Pitts exemplifies what it means to be a WaveMaker. Her rigor, consistency, and genuine care for her students set a powerful example for both her colleagues and her students. She values every instructional minute and inspires those around her to do the same. We are fortunate to have such an exceptional educator on our team.

~Nominated by Amanda Talantis~



## Health & Wellness

It was a beautiful day for a Wednesday Walk through the state park. This after school activity provides our staff an opportunity to get 30 minutes of exercise and fresh air while getting to know each other better.



## Athletics

The junior guard (Anna Murray) grabbed the top spot on the [AL.com](#) list of Alabama basketball stars, pouring in 34 points – almost all from long distance. Murray hit 10 baskets from beyond the 3-point arc in the win. She also had 7 assists for the Dolphins.



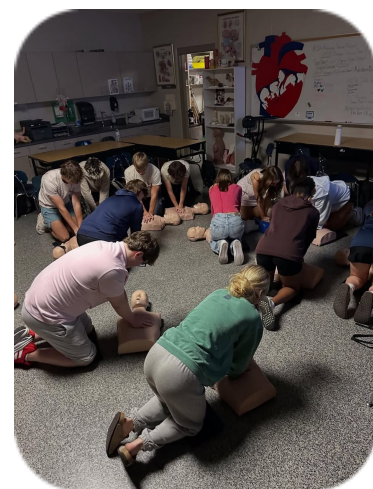
## Arts Education

Altraka Fest 2025 was a tremendous success! Thanks to our talented students, the cafeteria was beautifully transformed with festive Halloween decorations that set the perfect mood. We are beyond grateful for our incredible community judges, who brought such enthusiasm, positivity, and spirit to the event. The students' pumpkin creations were nothing short of spooktacular, each one showed off amazing creativity, skill, and imagination!



## Teaching & Learning

Week 16 in Sports Medicine might just be the best week of the semester! From high-energy Tape Races and chaotic-but-hilarious Blindfold Tape Wars, to earning CPR/AED certifications in Foundations of Health Science, our students were busy learning, competing, and leveling up their skills. We wrapped it all up with a fun visit from former sports medicine students Maya Griffin and Amaya Lohmeier, who continue to make me proud in the real world. Proud week, proud program!



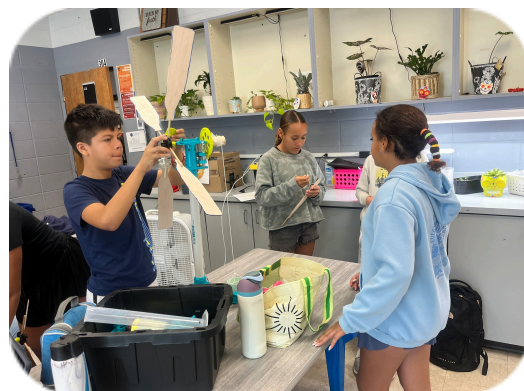
## Elementary School

Third grade has been learning about the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade and reading Tony Sarg's biography, "Balloons Over Broadway." We are working on a STEAM challenge to create the tallest and sturdiest balloon creations.



## Middle School

Our 6th-grade STEM students have been hard at work designing and building their very own wind turbines! They put their creativity to the test as they tested each design to see which turbine could generate the most power. From blade shape to angle and materials, students explored how engineering choices make a big difference! 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

There are six Senior Military Colleges in the United States, and one of them — the University of North Georgia — visited our NJROTC unit at GSHS.

An admissions representative briefed our Cadets on the incredible opportunities UNG offers and helped prepare them for our big trip in March to the National Leadership Challenge. Fantastic presentation, and we're grateful for UNG's time, support, and commitment to our Cadets! A special shout out to 2LT Colton Rowe, who held the undivided attention of 35 teenagers for 50 minutes on their lunch hour. You could've heard a pin drop in our room because these kids were so dialed-in. The U.S. Army brought it!



## Virtual Academy

Our GSVA elementary students had an amazing time practicing their on-demand writing skills by crafting heartfelt kindness stories. Then they put their creativity to work making Kindness Klips — and spreading smiles by “clipping” someone with a little kindness! The day was packed with writing, crafting, snacking, and tons of kindness. What a joyful way to learn and lift each other up!



**Connect With Us! Stay informed on what's happening with Gulf Shores City Schools!**

**[District/Schools Websites](#) - [Facebook](#) - [X](#) - [Instagram](#) - [You Tube](#) - [GSCS Mobile App](#)**

Learning all about Veterans Day at GSES! So thankful for the men and women that have served or are serving our country!



Make Waves Theatre at GSHS has made it to District Trumbauer!



We celebrated GSHS students who took Advanced Placement courses during the 2024-2025 school year. Take a look at several of our students who made qualifying scores and earned a gift card for their efforts. Advanced Placement



A big thank you to Gulf Shores Middle School for dropping off a generous bag of donations to our department! We're grateful for the continued support from our city schools and the incredible Dolphin Nation. Your kindness makes a difference



Eat the Harvest Red Soup Day at GSHS was a hit with Crimson Comfort. A blend of Roasted Red Peppers & Tomatoes with a splash of Cream & Parm.



Dolphin Cruise Fun! Mrs. McCarty and Mrs. Smith's classes!





The NJROTC cadets successfully delivered the food drive items to the Christian Service Center. Over 1,100 items were delivered and organized to support those in need. Kudos to all participants for a job well done.



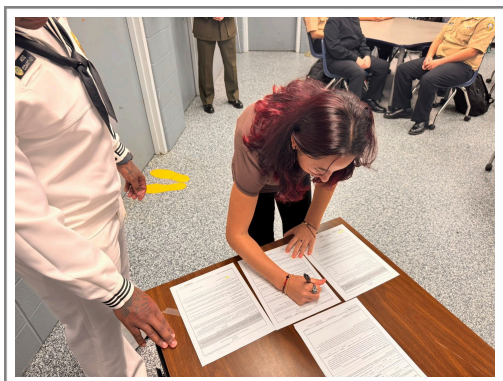
Congratulations to GSES Pre-K teacher, Mrs. Beal, for being selected to receive the WKRG Golden Apple awarded to local teachers who are making a difference in the classroom!



Students in Mrs. Coker's 6th Grade Science class created tectonic plate boundaries with clay. They explored divergent, convergent, and transform boundaries and the impact those plate movements have on our land and lives.



Lieutenant Colonel Meehan had the distinct honor of swearing in one of former cadets into the United States Navy Senior Alissa Hendricks officially took her oath and signed her Navy contract. She will depart for Navy Boot Camp on June 10, 2026, and will then continue her training at Yeoman "A" School. We are incredibly proud of Alissa and wish her the very best as she begins her journey serving our nation!



Congrats to our 7th-9th Wrestling team for finishing in 1st place (Tournament Champions) at the 18 team Hurricane Kickoff.



Congratulations to our 2025 GSHS Marching Band! We are extremely proud of their accomplishments and hard work this season! We are bringing home some more trophies for our All Superior Ratings AND another Best in Class Drum Major award!



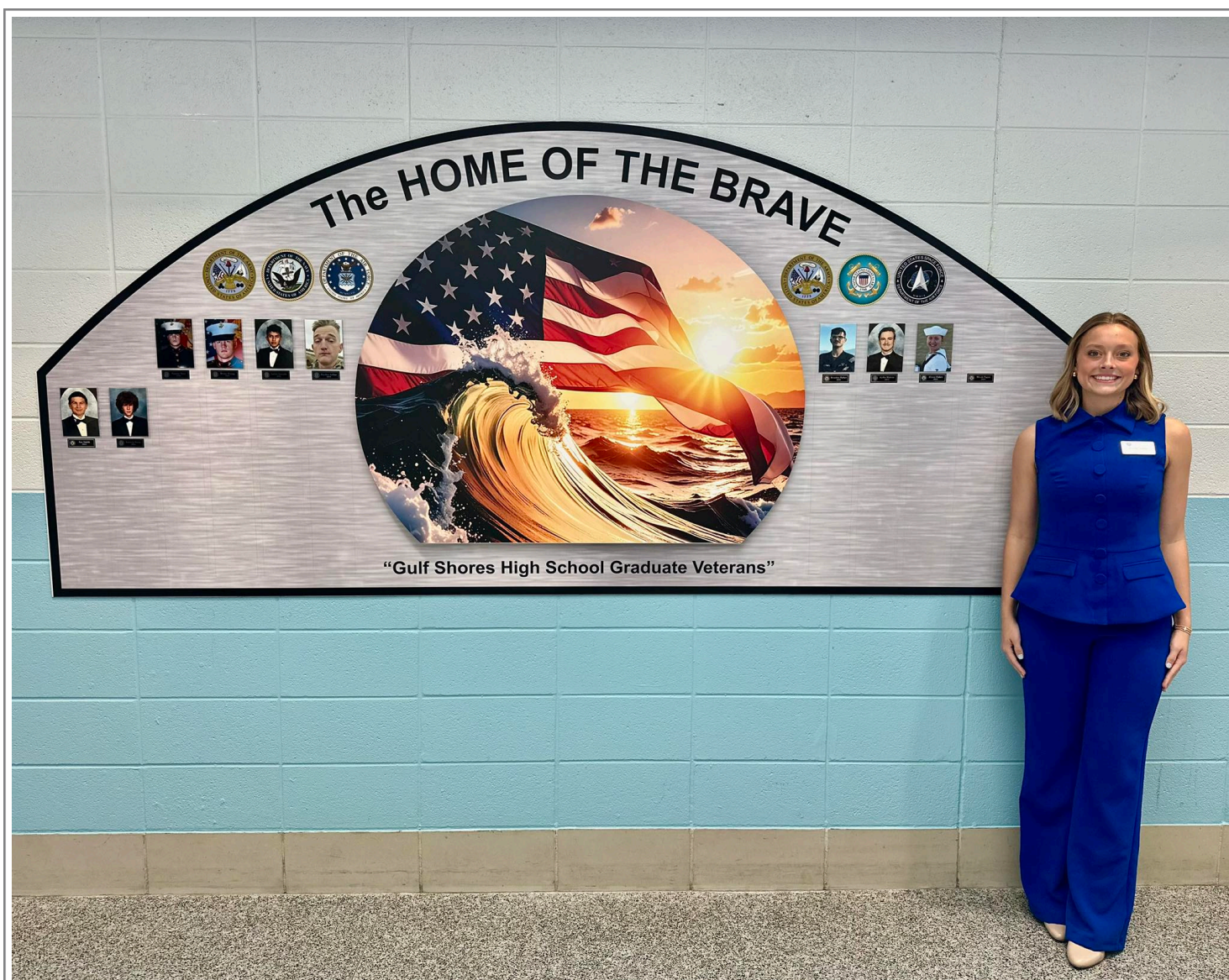
Congrats to Evelyn Lamar who shot a 73 at Peninsula, winning her age group in the SJGT event! Go Dolphins!



XC runners, Harrison, Nolan, and Will competing in Moulton at the State Championship! Let's go, Dolphins!



A special day at GSHS as we had our Home of the Brave unveiling ceremony. This whole project was spearheaded by senior Portia Hollis, who felt like it was important to honor our Gulf Shores alumni who entered the military. Between her own research and working with our NJROTC program, she was able to collect names and photos of our former students who had enlisted and served. This is an ongoing project that we will be able to continue as more of our students decide to make the selfless decision to join the military. In attendance at today's ceremony and reveal included our current NJROTC members, school board members, superintendent, city officials and supporters, and parents of those who are currently photographed on the display. Great job, Portia Hollis! You are a true WaveMaker.



All-State choir auditions in Fairhope! 16 middle and high school choir members are prepared and ready to sing their hearts out!



Our Gulf Shores Middle School Peer Helpers attended the 2025 Peer Helper Jubilee hosted by the Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation! Students heard from great speakers, including Timothy Alexander, Jenni Sheaffer, and students from Whiddon College of Medicine, who inspired and encouraged our student leaders. This event brought together student leaders from across Baldwin County schools to learn, connect, and grow. We are proud of our students for representing GSMS with enthusiasm and commitment to serving their peers. Thank you to the Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation for this excellent opportunity, and to all of our Peer Helpers for stepping up and stepping out as role models!



GSES Peer Helpers attended the Peer Helpers Jubilee on Wednesday at The Wharf. They had the opportunity to network with fellow Peer Helpers from across Baldwin County and were inspired by motivational speakers Timothy Alexander and Jenni Schaefer.



Mrs. Smith's science classes at GSES finished erosion and weathering by painting rocks and enjoying fall activities.



Students at GSES in Mrs Gunter's class took advantage of the great weather and learned about ecosystems through a fun scavenger hunt.



Jamie McClung at GSHS was honored to present along with Dr. Michele Collier and Misty Waldrop the new Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards for the State School Board work session. He was proud of the work of the outstanding committee members representing educators from all grades, college professors, state representatives, and industry professionals.



Environmental science teacher Krista Fleming is inspiring students to become coastal stewards through hands-on science.

Dive into her impact on pg. 30: <https://citylifestyle.com/gulfcoast/issues/2025-11>

IN THIS ISSUE

# KRISTA FLEMING

GULF COAST  
CITY LIFESTYLE™

A photograph showing a woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue polo shirt and green gloves, leaning over a wooden deck. She is holding a knife and cutting into a basket filled with oysters. A young woman with long dark hair, wearing a white hoodie and green gloves, is sitting on the deck next to her, looking at the oysters. The background shows a wooden walkway and some trees under a clear blue sky.

Shout out to GSMS Sustainability Class for coming up on our Lookout Adventure Course today! There's no better way to learn about teamwork, encouraging others, and challenging yourself.



The GSMS Cross Trainers club had a great bike ride through the State Park last Thursday. The ride this time included going through some nice single track trails in the wildlife reserve.

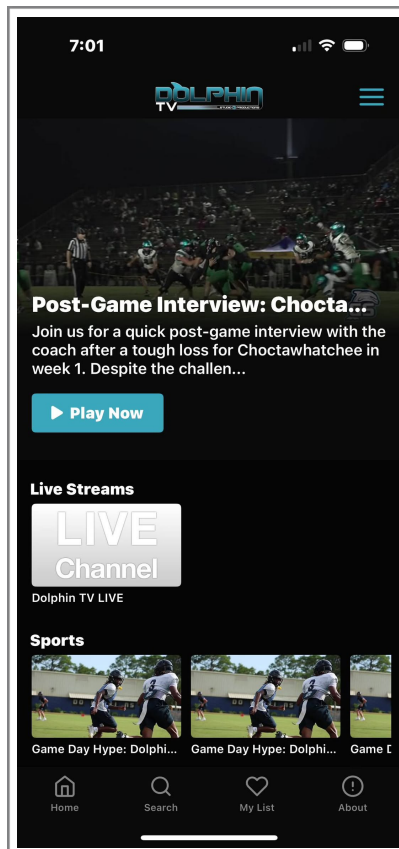


**HUGE DOLPHIN NEWS!!**

Another amazing group of Gulf Shores Middle School divers are certified! This group of kiddos (and parents) have been such a blessing and so much fun! These guys have conquered cold temps, currents, and so much and have soared! I am so proud of them and they all have a piece of my heart! I can't wait to take them out in the spring with warm z VOD (Video on Demand).

You can now download us on Roku TV and your iPhone by searching your App Store for "Dolphin TV".

It's free and easy to use!



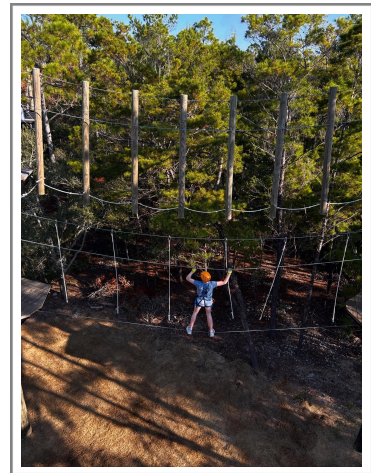
Another amazing group of Gulf Shores Middle School divers are certified! This group of kiddos (and parents) have been such a blessing and so much fun! These guys have conquered cold temps, currents, and so much and have soared! I am so proud of them and they all have a piece of my heart! I can't wait to take them out in the spring with warmer waters and to see cooler stuff underwater! This is why I keep teaching anc planning continued dives! This is why I do what I do! Instructor Lila Harris



GSCS AI district-wide Committee met to review AI tools for education.



We're back in the trees! Mrs. Talantis's class spent the morning on our Lookout Adventure Course challenging themselves and checking out the view



The very talented GSHS Steel Band Drum Line performing in front of the GSES school!





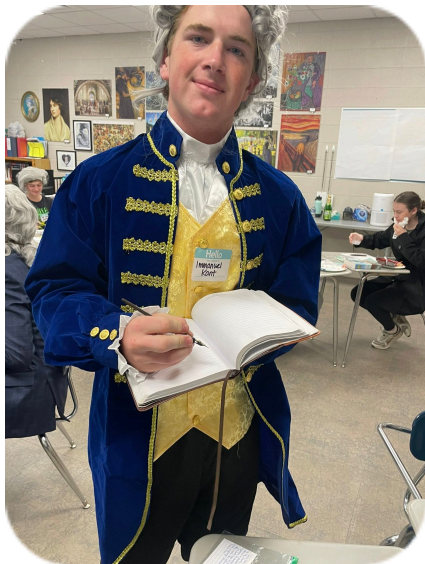
Navy JROTC at GSHS were given the opportunity for a tour of the University of West Florida, providing cadets with access to remarkable opportunities. The next stop was the Veterans Memorial in downtown Pensacola.



Mrs. Cunningham's and Ms. McAleer's classes participated in "Spy School 101" with the International Spy Museum in Washington D.C.! Through this interactive Zoom meeting, students practiced their spy skills and learned about how spies use gadgets, disguises, and their memories be good at their job.



Ms. Pitts' AP Euro students held their Enlightenment salon before the long break. Thoughtful conversations on topics such as religion, government & individual freedoms and delicious



**Gulf Shores High School Sends 10 Swimmers to the AHSAA 6A State Meet!**

Gulf Shores High School is proud to announce that 10 members of our Varsity Swim Team—including swimmers from both Gulf Shores High School and Gulf Shores Middle School—have qualified for the AHSAA 6A State Swim Meet in Huntsville, Alabama. Competition begins Friday morning with prelims, followed by finals Friday evening. The excitement continues on Saturday with a new lineup of events and the same prelim-final format.



Congratulations to Landon Everett on becoming Gulf Shores 2nd ever Gulf Coast Clash Elite Champion. In the process he also recorded his



**The 16th Annual Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive**

**DEAR FAMILIES,**

Our class is participating in the **16th Annual Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive** with Scholastic and non-profit, Beyond Bedtime.

**K-Kids** **12/15/2025**  
TEACHER NAME DUE DATE

**- Our goal is 50 pairs -**

**WHAT TO DONATE**

- Brand-new pajamas in age ranges 0-12, all sizes from newborn to children's XL.
- Pajamas must be a complete set - top & bottom or onesie.
- Pajamas for all seasons.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [www.beyondbedtime.org/scholastic25](http://www.beyondbedtime.org/scholastic25)

**Beyond Bedtime**  
formerly Pajama Program

Beyond Bedtime is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes equitable access to healthy sleep so all children can thrive.

For every pair of pajamas donated, Scholastic will donate a brand-new book to Beyond Bedtime to go to a child facing adversity.

**SCHOLASTIC**

GSES K-Kids are hosting a schoolwide donation to collect new pajamas for the 16th Annual Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive. Our goal is to donate 50 pairs if pajamas. Please read this flyer for more information.  
 \*Pajamas may be dropped off by the GSES library door.

## GSCS Welcomes Phin!

Gulf Shores City Schools is excited to welcome **Phin**, our new comfort dog, who will support students and staff across all three campuses. Phin is a 10-month-old Goldendoodle who has received extensive training from Smeraglia & Co. of Robertsdale. She will work closely with our Mental Health Coordinator, Director of Exceptional Education, and campus administrative teams to provide emotional support, reduce anxiety, and help foster a welcoming, positive environment for all students.

We extend our sincere gratitude to **Mayor Robert Craft and his wife, Trudy**, for generously donating Phin to our district. The idea to bring Phin to Gulf Shores City Schools came from Trudy Craft, and both she and Mayor Craft generously covered the cost of Phin and her training.

We are also grateful to **Dr. Adam Langston and his wife, Dr. Niesje Langston, of Langston Animal Hospital**, who will be providing complimentary veterinary care and food. We extend additional thanks to **Coach Howe at GSMS and his wife, Laura**, owners of **Wag’N Wheels Mobile Dog Grooming**, as Laura will be offering grooming services to ensure Phin is always well cared for. Assistant principal at GSMS, **Ms. Boggus**, will be Phin's caretaker.

“Phin represents our commitment to supporting the whole child,” Gulf Shores City Schools Superintendent **Dr. Matt Akin** said. “She will bring comfort, joy, and meaningful emotional support to students and staff across all campuses.”

To ensure every student has a comfortable experience, families are encouraged to notify their school’s front office if their child has a dog allergy or a fear of dogs so we can make appropriate accommodations. This standard practice helps us plan Phin’s campus visits thoughtfully and safely.

We look forward to the calming, supportive presence Phin will bring to Gulf Shores City Schools.

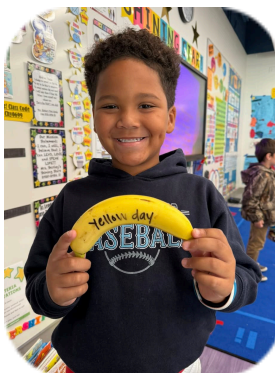


# Eat The Harvest Week

Eat the Harvest Week is excited to have the Nutrition Bus at GSES from **Alabama A&M University** and **Auburn University**. Students in 3rd through 5th grades will be able to learn valuable information about healthy nutrition in an exciting way!



# Eat The Harvest Week



## GSMS Dauphin Island Sea Lab

Our overnight field trip to Dauphin Island Sea Lab was unforgettable! Students became true marine scientists this week as they explored the amazing ecosystems along the Gulf Coast.

Dragged seine nets to catch speckled trout and flounder

Waded through salt marshes to scoop up blue crabs

Tested water quality — dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and salinity like pros

Hauled in a trawl net behind a research vessel to identify Gulf species from microscopic plankton all the way to redfish

Toured the Alabama Aquarium and learned about native marine life in the touch lab

Dissected squid and discovered how incredible ocean organisms really are

Of course, it wouldn't be a school "camping" trip without some fun on land too — Gaga ball, basketball, ghost stories, and evening beach strolls made it extra special.

A HUGE thank-you to our amazing chaperones and the incredible marine experts at Dauphin Island Sea Lab for



## Ball at the Beach with 2nd Grade

Second grade students who met their I-Ready goal for the 1st 9 weeks had an exciting celebration with a special walking field trip! Qualifying students walked over to the high school to meet the Gulf Shores High School Dolphin Football Team. They experienced what it's like to be a GSHS football player by tossing the football with some of the players, participating in drills, and collect players autographs on their individual footballs. These students were extremely appreciative of Coach Hudspeth and his coaching staff for making this memorable day possible.



Thank you for your generous donations for our Red Ribbon Leader's projects during Red Ribbon Week. GSES 5th grader Kennedy Steiner spearheaded donations for the Hope Bag Project along with canned food for Turkey Take-Out and monetary donations for Gulf Shores Fire Rescue.



Congratulations to our 12 Middle and High School Choir Students who auditioned and were accepted into the Alabama Vocal Association's 2026 All-State Choirs....

High School

- Sophia Bauer
- Adrianna Dalier
- Nadia Davenport
- Emma Kakish
- Owen Loper
- Taylor Pinon
- Kaitlyn Venable
- Valentina Watts

Middle School

- Maddie Inzer
- Stella Jones
- Lewis Kakish
- Sean Price

All-State Choir is one of the highest honors awarded to middle and high school choral students.

Hundreds of students from across the State of Alabama participate in the rigorous audition process every year, and only a select group is accepted!

Our choir students are Making Waves!



# Harvest Fall at GSES



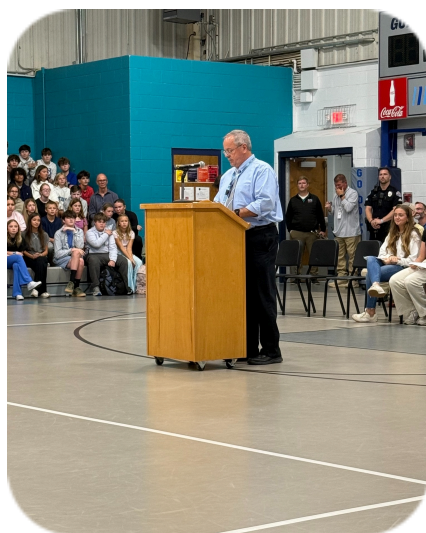
## Veterans Day At GSMS

Gulf Shores Middle School proudly held a Veterans Day assembly honoring the brave men and women who have served our country.

We would like to thank all of our amazing speakers and performers who helped make the event so special. A special shout-out to our History Department for organizing such a meaningful assembly.

We also want to thank Tacky Jacks for generously providing coffee and breakfast for our guests.

Thank you to everyone who helped us honor our veterans and make this day memorable for our school and community.



# Veterans Day At GSES



What a wonderful Veterans Day program Mr. Percy and 3rd grade students and put on at GSES!



# Set Sail GSCS!

Gulf Shores City Schools to launch sailing program; in process of training teachers.



## “The Home of The Brave”

After looking around Gulf Shores High School (GSHS), senior Portia Hollis noticed something was missing from the honors posted on the school walls.

Many alumni and current students have achievements featured along GSHS hallways, such as the ACT 30+ wall at the front of the school. All celebrate scholastic and sport-related achievements, but Hollis found no display of recognition for those who decided to join the military after graduating from high school.

As the granddaughter and great-granddaughter of veterans, she saw a need for recognition of these students and decided to launch the "Home of the Brave" monument.

"Around 150,000 high school graduates annually make the courageous decision to enlist in the U.S. military," Hollis said. "They step away from everything familiar to them — their homes, their families, their schools — to protect people they have never even met."

She said she hopes Home of the Brave becomes an annual celebration for the school and a moment of appreciation for alumni and future students who join the military.

The monument itself will move to the new GSHS once it is open. The memorial lists GSHS alumni since 2020 who joined the military after high school. Currently, there are 11 students featured.



# Make Waves of Kindness



# 2026 Boys & Girls Golf Teams

**GULF SHORES GOLF**



**2026 BOYS ROSTER**

CHRIS HAND - 12<sup>TH</sup>  
 TINO HEREDIA - 12<sup>TH</sup>  
 GRAHAM STEWART - 12<sup>TH</sup>  
 BRYANT BANKS - 11<sup>TH</sup>  
 ANTHONY HOWE - 11<sup>TH</sup>  
 JOEY McALEER - 11<sup>TH</sup>  
 GREY GOODMAN - 10<sup>TH</sup>  
 MATTHEW HOWE - 10<sup>TH</sup>  
 CHASE McBRIDE - 10<sup>TH</sup>  
 DANIEL HURST - 9<sup>TH</sup>  
 KELTON STEINER - 9<sup>TH</sup>  
 JAMES COOPER - 8<sup>TH</sup>  
 BENNY PLYBON - 8<sup>TH</sup>  
 BAYLOR SMITH - 7<sup>TH</sup>




**GULF SHORES GOLF**

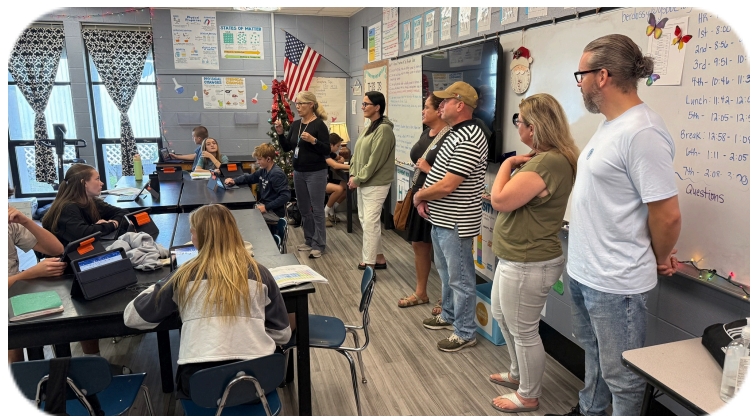
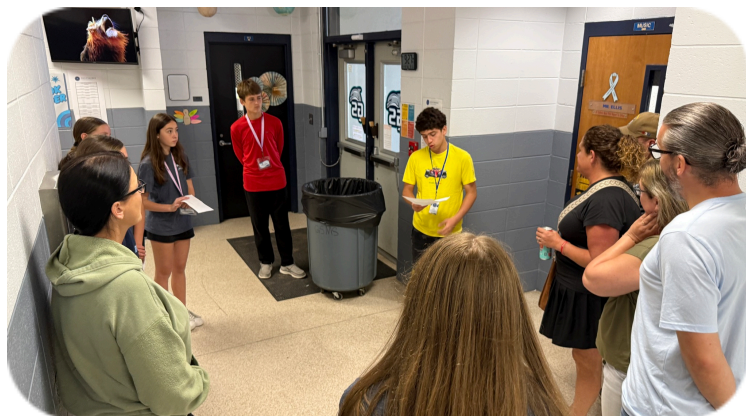


**2026 GIRLS ROSTER**

EMMIE JOHNSON - 12<sup>TH</sup>  
 RAY PEPPERMAN - 12<sup>TH</sup>  
 AVA HIGGINS - 10<sup>TH</sup>  
 EVELYN LAMAR - 9<sup>TH</sup>  
 LILLIAN KENT - 8<sup>TH</sup>  
 KINLEIGH ORSO - 8<sup>TH</sup>  
 ARIANA LEOS - 7<sup>TH</sup>  
 AVERY WATSON - 7<sup>TH</sup>




## November: Tuesday Tour at GSMS



# Exceptional Thanksgiving Feast

The Kiwanis Club of Gulf Shores sponsored an Exceptionally Grateful Thanksgiving Feast for our students for the third year. Thank you to Kimberly Ray, Gulf Shores Methodist Church, Dr. Akin, Dr. Harrison, and our School Board members and Administrators who participated.



# Eat The Harvest Week at GSHS

*Thank You  
for helping us  
celebrate  
Eat the Harvest!*

*GSHS Culinary Arts Classes*

## ROASTED PEPPER & TOMATO SOUP

### INGREDIENTS

- 4 TBSP UNSALTED BUTTER
- 2 YELLOW ONIONS, SMALL DICE
- 3 GARLIC CLOVES, MINCED
- 56 OZ CRUSHED TOMATO, WITH THEIR JUICE, PREFERABLY SAN MARZANO
- 2, 12OZ JARS OF ROASTED RED PEPPERS, DRAINED
- 2 CUPS CHICKEN STOCK
- 1/4 CUP CHOPPED FRESH BASIL, PLUS MORE TO SERVE
- 1 TBSP SUGAR, OR ADDED TO TASTE
- 1/2 TSP BLACK PEPPER, OR TO TASTE
- 1/2 CUP HEAVY WHIPPING CREAM, OR TO TASTE TO COMBAT ACIDITY
- 1/3 CUP PARMESAN CHEESE, FRESHLY GRATED, PLUS MORE TO SERVE



### INSTRUCTIONS

1. HEAT A NONREACTIVE POT OVER MEDIUM HEAT. ADD BUTTER THEN ADD CHOPPED ONIONS. SAUTÉ 10-12 MINUTES, STIRRING OCCASIONALLY, UNTIL SOFTENED AND GOLDEN. ADD MINCED GARLIC AND SAUTÉ 1 MINUTE UNTIL FRAGRANT.
2. ADD CRUSHED TOMATOES WITH THEIR JUICE, DRAINED ROASTED RED PEPPERS, CHICKEN STOCK, CHOPPED BASIL, SUGAR (OR ADD SUGAR TO TASTE), AND BLACK PEPPER. STIR TOGETHER AND BRING TO A BOIL THEN REDUCE HEAT, PARTIALLY COVER WITH LID AND SIMMER FOR 10 MINUTES.
3. YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR SOUP WITH A CHUNKY CONSISTENCY, BUT IF YOU LIKE A BLENDED/CREAMY SOUP, USE AN IMMERSION BLENDER TO BLEND THE SOUP IN THE POT TO DESIRED CONSISTENCY OR TRANSFER TO A BLENDER IN BATCHES AND BLEND UNTIL SMOOTH (BEING CAREFUL NOT TO OVER-FILL THE BLENDER WITH HOT LIQUID AND PULSE A FEW TIMES INITIALLY TO GET IT STARTED), THEN RETURN BLENDED SOUP TO THE POT OVER MEDIUM HEAT.
4. ADD 1/2 CUP HEAVY CREAM, 1/3 CUP FRESHLY GRATED PARMESAN CHEESE AND RETURN TO A SIMMER. SEASON TO TASTE WITH SALT AND PEPPER IF NEEDED AND TURN OFF THE HEAT.
5. LADLE INTO WARM BOWLS AND TOP WITH MORE PARMESAN AND CHOPPED FRESH BASIL.

## Roasted Orange Veggie Soup

### Ingredients:

- Olive oil for frying, about 3 Tbsp.
- 2 large carrots
- 2 large onions
- 2 sweet potatoes, roasted
- 2. 4 cloves garlic
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 1 large (approximately 4 lb) butternut squash, roasted
- 4 cups water
- salt & pepper to taste

### Instructions:

1. Peel and cut butternut squash and sweet potatoes into large cubes, roast in the oven at 350 degrees fahrenheit until browned.
2. Heat oil in a large pot.
3. Dice onions and fry over medium flame until translucent. Add minced garlic, butternut squash, and sweet potato to the pot. Stir to combine.
4. Peel and chop carrots. Add to pot.
5. Saute on medium heat for about 20 minutes, or until vegetables appear to soften a bit.
6. Add broth, water, salt and pepper. Bring everything to a boil, then turn the heat down to a simmer.
7. Leave it to boil for about 1 hour, until all of the vegetables are tender. Remove from heat.
8. When the soup is cooled somewhat, puree it with an immersion blender, or in batches in your ordinary blender. Add some water (about 3 cups, depending on how much boiled away and how thick you like your soup) until you reach your desired consistency.

## Splendid Split Pea Soup with Roasted Corn

### Ingredients

- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 6 cups chicken stock
- 1 1/2 cups split peas, rinsed and drained
- 1 medium russet potato, peeled and diced
- 2 1/2 cups sweet corn kernels, frozen
- 1 Tbsp unsalted butter
- 1 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon Kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
- Garnish with fresh chives or extra corn

### Instructions

- Heat olive oil in a large soup pot over medium heat. Add the onions and celery, and sauté until softened, about 5-7 minutes. Add the minced garlic and cook for another 30 seconds, stirring frequently
- Add frozen corn with 1 tbsp salted butter to the pot and cook until slightly browned.
- Add seasonings, stir for 30 seconds.
- Stir in the stock, split peas, potato, sea salt, and black pepper. Raise the heat to bring the mixture to a boil.
- Reduce the heat to low, cover the pot, and simmer the soup for about 45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cook until the split peas are completely tender and the potato has softened.
- Use an immersion blender to partially puree the soup directly in the pot, leaving some texture for a heartier feel.
- Ladle the steaming hot soup into bowls and garnish with optional toppings like chopped chives, extra corn kernels, fresh parsley, a sprinkle of red pepper flakes, or a dash of hot sauce at the end for added heat.

## Southwest Sunset Soup

### Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 white onion, diced
- 2 ribs celery, diced
- 2 tsp garlic, minced
- 3 Tbsp tomato paste
- 2 carrots, cut in rounds
- 3/4 cup orzo, uncooked
- 5 cups chicken broth
- 1 can (15 oz) black beans, drained and rinsed
- 2 cups frozen corn
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1/2 tsp smoked paprika
- 1/4 tsp chipotle chili powder
- optional, adds spice
- 3 cups fresh spinach, chopped fine
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro, chopped fine
- juice from one lime
- salt & pepper to taste

### Directions

1. Heat olive oil over medium heat in a medium or large sized pot. Add the diced onion & celery. Cook until slightly soft, 2 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for another minute.
2. Add the tomato paste and stir. Cook for 1-2 minutes to slightly "toast" the paste.
3. Add carrots & orzo, stirring to toast.
4. Next, add the chicken broth, black beans, corn, cumin, smoked paprika, chipotle chili powder and, a pinch of salt and black pepper. Stir well.
5. Turn the heat up to high and bring the soup to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium-low once boiling. Let everything cook over a gentle boil for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the orzo & carrots are tender.
6. Once orzo is fully cooked, turn the heat off. Stir in the lime juice, spinach, and chopped cilantro. Taste and adjust the seasonings, adding more salt, pepper, or lime juice if needed.

## BLUEBERRY SALSA



### BLUEBERRY SALSA

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 3 CUPS FRESH BLUEBERRIES, CLEANED
- 1/2 MEDIUM RED ONION, DICED SMALL
- 2 JALAPENOS, SEEDED & MINCED
- 1 RED BELL PEPPER, SEEDED & DICED
- 2 SMALL SALAD CUCUMBERS, CHOPPED
- 3 TABLESPOONS FRESH CILANTRO, CHOPPED
- 1/4 CUP FRESH LIME JUICE
- 1 TEASPOON KOSHER SALT

#### DIRECTIONS:

1. WASH & PREPARE ALL INGREDIENTS.
2. COARSELY CHOP 1 1/2 CUPS OF THE BLUEBERRIES.
3. IN A BOWL, COMBINE THE CHOPPED AND WHOLE BERRIES WITH THE REMAINING SALSA INGREDIENTS.
4. LET STAND FOR 1 HOUR.





# FAFSA FRENZY!

## UNLOCK YOUR FINIANCIAL AID

### 12/2

### TUESDAY: CREATE FSA ID

All Seniors required to be in the Gym during FOCUS

\*Bring your Social Security Number & personal email\*

**9AM-NOON**  
**1PM-4PM**

**APPLY  
FOR FAFSA!**

### 12/9

The Counseling Team will be available to help parents and students apply for FAFSA. Refreshments provided.



Completing a FAFSA application is fast and free. It's the gateway to the largest source of financial aid for college or technical skills training, and is great insurance for unforeseen circumstances.

# /// MAKE WAVES!

# SAVE the DATE

- 12/4 BOE School Board Work Session 4:00pm
- 12/11 BOE School Board Regular Meeting 5:00pm
- 12/16 GSMS/GSHS Sound Waves Choir Winter/Holiday Concert 7:00pm
- 12/19 Early Dismissal 11:30am
- 12/19 Semester 1 & Q2 Ends
- 12/19 - 1/5 Winter Break
- 1/5 Employees Return From Winter Break
- 1/6 Students Return From Winter Break

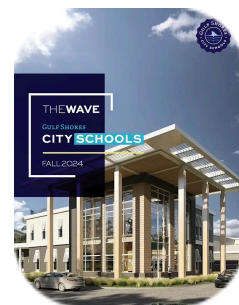
Enjoy these GSCS commercials!

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.

**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!**



## Happening at GSCS:

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



**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

