

The MakeWaves Monthly

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



Superintendents' Message

As we begin a new year and semester, we are excited about the many events available for our parents and community. **Excitement filled our schools** as “Phin” celebrated a birthday and turned one! This month, we recognized our **Board of Education** and shared our appreciation for the important work they do for our school system. We also expressed our immense gratitude to our dedicated **bus drivers** — their attention to detail and commitment to safety are nothing short of amazing for our students. We are looking forward to February and the **Tuesday Tour at GSES on February 3rd**. Our entire district will also participate in **Gulf Shores Gives Back on February 26th**, and we invite our parents and community members to join us in giving back. This year, we are dedicating GSGB to the memory of **Reverend Christy Ennen**. GSCS is also excited with our partnership with the **Gulf Coast Eco Center**, where our students were actively involved in learning activities that support sustainability, and utilizing the rope and climbing course. More information will be coming your way about the many events planned across our district. As always, make plans to attend!

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

Knox Kelley

Grade: 3rd Grade

Area of Recognition: Kindness & Responsibility

I'm a WaveMaker because...

It is my pleasure to recommend Knox Kelley for WaveMaker. He consistently demonstrates an outstanding attitude and commitment to our classroom. Knox actively participates in every activity and discussion, bringing enthusiasm and thoughtful ideas that enrich our class environment. Beyond academics, he goes above and beyond to help others, always offering encouragement and assistance to classmates who may be struggling. What truly sets Knox apart is his kindness and sense of responsibility. Each day he comes to my class, he takes the time to clean up any messes left behind by others and ensures that all the chairs are pushed in before leaving. This small but meaningful act makes a huge difference to me and reflects his strong character and genuine care for others and his school. He is a positive light in our classroom, and we are lucky to have him as part of our school community. He is an excellent role model for peers and a truly deserving recipient of WaveMaker!

~Nominated by Mary Margaret Phillips Special Services, Gifted~



Middle School

Emmalyn Coop

Grade: 7th Grade

Area of Recognition: Trustworthiness & Being Respectful

I'm a WaveMaker because...

Emmalyn is an outstanding student who is consistently kind and respectful. She can be trusted to complete any task she is given with care and responsibility. Each morning, she eagerly volunteers in the office and approaches every school day with a positive attitude. Emmalyn is a pleasure to have at school and sets a wonderful example for others.

~Nominated by Rachael Osborn - Registrar~



High School

Arlo Gohn

Grade: 10th Grade

Area of Recognition: Leadership

I'm a WaveMaker because...

Arlo is known for his strong work ethic and unwavering dedication to every task he takes on. Whether he's tackling a challenging project or assisting, he approaches each responsibility with focus and determination. His reliability makes him someone others can count on, and his consistent effort ensures that the work he produces is always of the highest quality. Arlo doesn't shy away from challenges; he embraces them as opportunities to learn, grow, and contribute even more. Beyond his hard work, Arlo's helpful nature truly sets him apart. He is always ready to lend a hand and even use his own time to make sure everything is done right. His willingness to go above and beyond doesn't just benefit the school—it inspires those around him to strive for excellence as well. With a positive attitude and a genuine desire to make a difference, Arlo brings out the best in everyone he works with.

~Nominated by Tim Simmons - Fine Arts~



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

Meet Our Staff WaveMakers of the Month

Elementary School

Jennifer Cunningham

Grade: 4th Grade Teacher



I'm a WaveMaker because...

Jennifer Cunningham has a magnificent way of hyping up her class and getting them excited every day! She leads them in cheers and chants and has developed an amazing classroom culture where students know they are accepted and will achieve! Students from fifth grade still make time to stop by and give her a high-five! She strives for excellence in academics as well. She is very well planned and prepared. She shares her skills with other teachers on our grade level. She is also the first to step up to create documents and charts to keep us all on track. No matter what the day holds, you can count on her to give a smile and let you know it will all be fine. I speak on behalf of the fourth grade team when I say Jennifer is a true wave maker, and we are blessed to have her!

~Nominated by Stacey Smith~

Middle School

Whitney Boggus

Assistant Principal



I'm a WaveMaker because...

Assistant Principal Whitney Boggus is a Wavemaker because of her outstanding dedication and impact at Gulf Shores Middle School. Although this is only her second year at GSMS, she has already become an integral and indispensable member of the leadership team and Gulf Shores City Schools. Whitney consistently leads by example, approaching every challenge with a work ethic that is truly second-to-none. No task is too big or too small. She tackles every issue that comes across her desk (and many that don't!) with professionalism, determination, and an unwavering commitment to students and staff. Beyond her tireless work ethic, Whitney brings a "Hall of Fame" energy that keeps our school environment fun, inviting, and fresh. She builds strong relationships, supports others wholeheartedly, and creates a positive culture wherever she goes. Her dedication goes above and beyond the school day, exemplified by opening her home to Phin, the GSMS support dog, an act that speaks volumes about her compassion and commitment to our school community. Whitney Boggus truly embodies the spirit of a WaveMaker, making lasting waves that positively impact everyone in the Gulf Shores community for years to come.

~Nominated by Jamie Hill~

High School

Damon Howe

College & Career Academies, Social Studies, Athletics, Marketing Academy Teacher



I'm a WaveMaker because...

Coach Damon Howe is a true WaveMaker at Gulf Shores High School. His presence in our building genuinely makes a difference each day. He consistently goes above and beyond for both students and staff, willingly taking on any task he is assigned or asked to do without hesitation.

Coach Howe brings a can-do, positive attitude to GSHS every day and approaches each day as a great opportunity. He sets a strong tone of enthusiasm and professionalism that positively influences our school culture. Coach Howe is deeply connected to his students and intentionally works to meet them where they are, providing the support, encouragement, and guidance they need to succeed both academically and personally.

He continually strives to improve his classroom instruction by seeking out and implementing engaging strategies that make learning meaningful and accessible for all students. From classroom management and instructional practices to culture and climate, Coach Howe consistently makes our school a better place. His dedication, positivity, and unwavering commitment to our school community make Coach Damon Howe highly deserving of recognition as Gulf Shores High School's WaveMaker this month.

~Nominated By Tim Webb~

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

Health & Wellness

GSMS after school program hit the trails and had a hot chocolate break to warm up!



Athletics

With wins over Baldwin County, Spanish Fort, and Saraland POD wrestling improves to 13-0 on the season and has won its 6th consecutive Region Duals Championship! Go Dolphins!



Arts Education

8th graders in art at GSMS had a blast making Pop Art Self Portraits!



Teaching & Learning

1st graders at GSES were recently invited to a GSHS ROTC flag presentation. We are thankful for Mr. Theodoro and the ROTC students for for teaching us the flag ceremonial folds, retirement, and historical significance.



Elementary School

Building and Virtual Reality have both been happening in STEAM at GSES!



Middle School

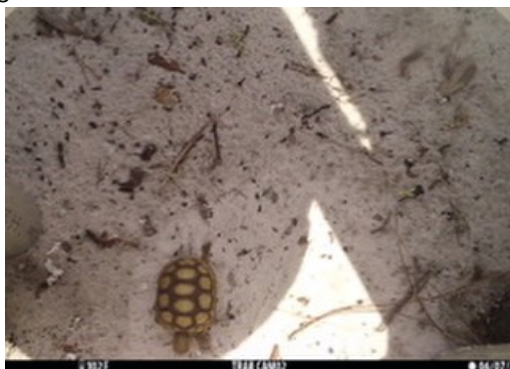
Middle school aftercare students enjoyed their first weekly visit to the Eco Center; roasting vegetables, planting, sanding, and munching on raw veggies.



High School

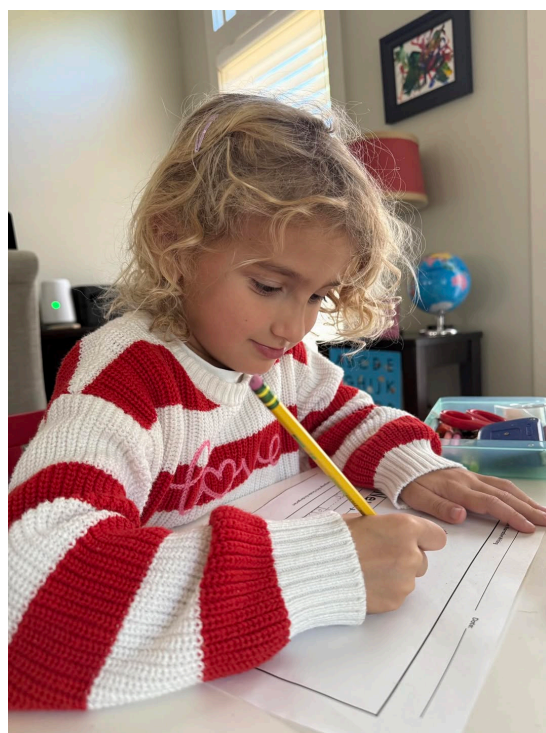
Last semester, one of our amazing teachers, Carson Schaff, had marine science students analyze trail camera data to help Gulf State Park (GSP) better understand how people interact with gopher tortoise burrows. That curiosity turned into action—and action turned into opportunity when they submitted a proposal to Samsung Solve for Tomorrow and just learned they are receiving a \$1,000 award to keep the project growing! Now, Mr. Schaff's Engineering II students are teaming up with GSP to help tackle the problem together—field visits, classroom collaboration, and a naturalist joining them to kick it off in person. This is place-based education at its best: real-world problems, trusted partnerships, and students learning by doing.

Congratulations to Mr. Schaff and his students!



Virtual Academy

Charlie, GSVA kindergarten student, is thoughtfully writing and illustrating on her ELA assignment



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](#)

Teams that conquer the Lookout Adventure Course together win together! GSHS Baseball got some time geared up today to see who could do our elements the fastest!



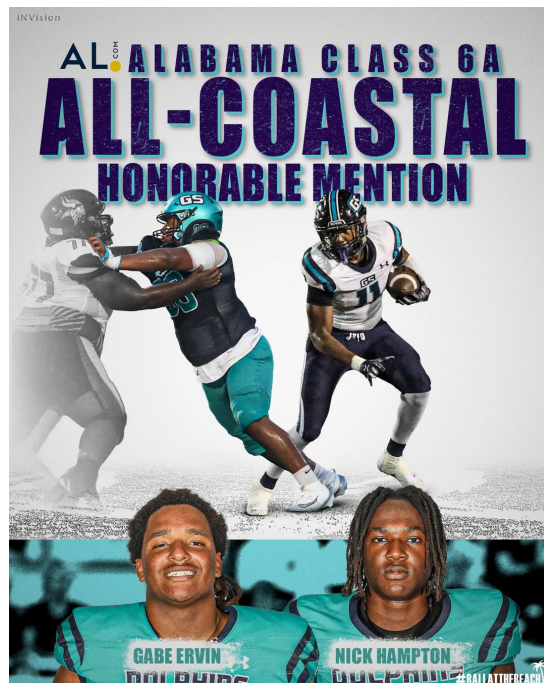
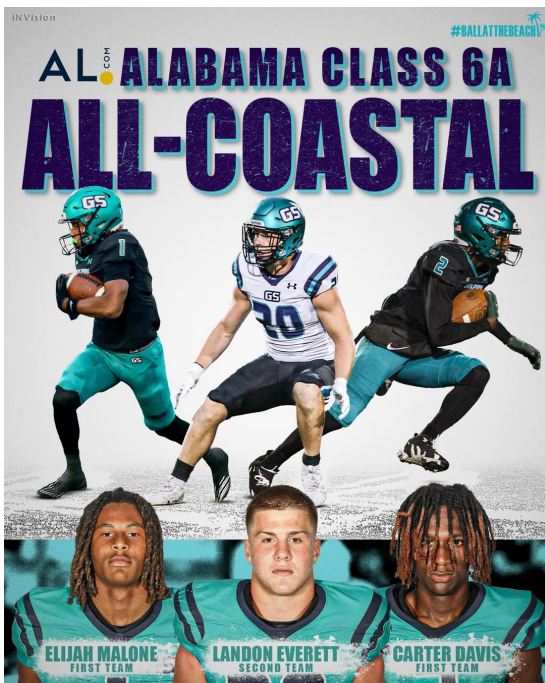
Perfect Attendance Achievement at GSMS

We are proud to celebrate 19 GSMS Dolphins who achieved perfect attendance for the first semester! Their commitment to showing up every day reflects dedication, responsibility, and a strong focus on learning. Being present matters!

Every class, every lesson, every opportunity. These students set a great example for their peers and show what's possible with consistency and determination.

Congratulations to our perfect attendance students! Let's keep the momentum going as we head into the next semester. We can't wait to see even more students join this achievement!





GSHS had a cadet remember to wear her uniform on the first day back from Holiday break so she could be advanced. Congratulations to Cadet Ingram on being advanced to SA.



Phin is READY for 2026! Wiggles are warming up, tail is on full speed, and belly rub requests are officially back in session! Phin is beyond excited to welcome students back for an amazing 2026 school year. She's been practicing her hallway smiles, perfecting her calming cuddles, and saving extra love for every student who walks through our doors. Here's to a year full of learning, laughter, and lots of paws-itivity!



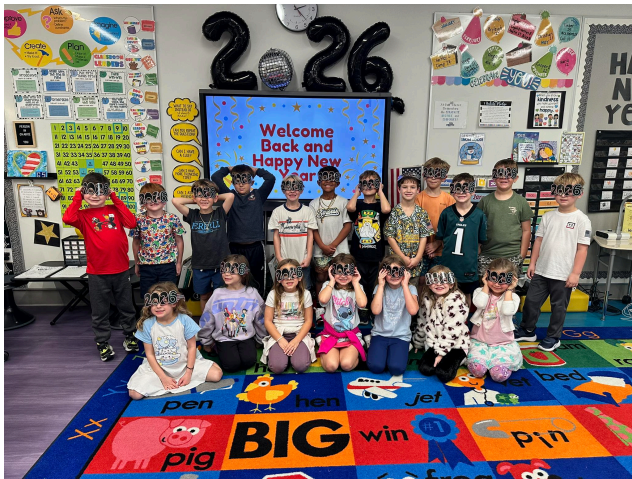
Congratulations Amelia Autrey, Madelyn Bibby, Emma Colvin, Michael Hagan, Isaac Menning, Elizabeth Bodenhamer, Callie Bryant, Case English, Sterling Miller, Caston Fosnaugh, Katelyn Hamilton, Jocelyn Plash, Amelia Heise, Maesen Hixson!

Gulf Shores Middle School science students have been hard at work designing, testing, and analyzing their own experiments—and their dedication paid off! Through curiosity, perseverance, and critical thinking, these young scientists conducted hands-on investigations that earned them spots as finalists in our school science fair.

We are so proud of their creativity, problem-solving skills, and commitment to scientific inquiry. Way to represent GSMS!



Happy New Year from Mrs. Helms and her Crew !!!



Congratulations to Ty Pitman!

Ty earned Runner-up in the Congressional App Challenge for Alabama's 2nd District, hosted by Congressman Barry Moore!

His innovative app stood out among entries from across the district, showcasing creativity and technical skill. We're so proud of Ty and excited to see what he builds next!



Before Winter Break, the Kids Hope Mentoring Program held a Christmas party filled with fun and smiles. Students enjoyed pizza, cookies, and games as they celebrated together.


GSMS also surprised our mentors with a cake as a small token of appreciation for all they do for our school and community.

Thank you to our incredible mentors for always giving so much of your time, care, and support. You make a meaningful difference in the lives of our middle school students, and we are so grateful for you!



Join HOSA Future Health Professionals on Wednesday, February 4, in the GSHS Gym Foyer as HOSA partners with LifeSouth for our 3rd blood drive of the year

 GSHS HOSA - Gives Back to our Community

 It's a beautiful day to save a life!



**Gulf Shores High School
Blood Drive**

**Located in the Gym Foyer
Wednesday, February 4, 2026
Free T- Shirt for all Donors!**

8:00am-2:00pm

Scan Below to Make An Appointment:

All donors will receive a recognition item and a free cholesterol screening. Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and show photo I.D. 16-year-olds require written parental permission.



LIFESOUTH
Community Blood Centers

Gulf Shores Middle School Science Fair finalists attended a banquet at the Gulf Coast Center for Ecotourism and Sustainability to celebrate their achievements and participate in final interviews with a panel of judges. Sixth grader Kallie Bryant earned 1st place for her research on bioluminescence. 2nd place was awarded to seventh grader Michael Hagan for his baseball-related investigation of the Magnus Effect. 3rd place resulted in a tie between Amelia Autrey (7th grade) for her inquiry into desalination and Sterling Miller (6th grade) for his research on soil moisture. Special thank you to our community judges: Jackie McGonigal, Kelly Reetz, Hillary Bryan, Nancy Tuttle, Kasey Mathias, and Carson Schaff.



Great time in Columbus at the ABCA Convention for GSHS Baseball Coaches! Coach Jacks, Coach Cleckler, Coach Valenzuela, and Coach Gordon are enjoying the opportunity to learn, connect, and talk baseball with coaches from all over the country. From great speakers to even better conversations, it's been an awesome experience picking up new ideas, all with the goal of bringing new tools, drills, and perspectives back to our program to better serve our players.



- George Washington High School
- Georgetown High School (TX)
- Germantown High School (WI)
- Glendale High School (CA)
- Granbury High School (TX)
- Great Bridge High School (VA)
- Grosse Pointe South High School (MI)
- Guerin Catholic High School (IN)
- Gulf Shores High School (AL)
- Harlingen South High School (TX)
- Hawaii Prep Academy
- Herndon High School (VA)
- Hickman High School (MO)
- Highland High School (VA)
- Hillcrest High School (MO)
- Hinton High School (IA)



FIRST GSHS Robotics Kickoff is here!! Look out for our progress posts coming soon. Here we go!! Thank you to our Gulf Shores School Board member Dale Jernigan for joining us on our very first kickoff.



Coastal Alabama Community College hosted a lunch for principals and superintendents from the Baldwin County, Gulf Shores, and Orange Beach School Systems. This was the first of several K-12 outreach meetings that will be held in the six-county Coastal Alabama footprint in the coming weeks. Shown below is Dr. Matt Akin (Superintendent) and Dr. Tim Webb (GSHS Principal).



Congratulations to the 7th Grade Boy's Basketball Team at GSMS on finishing the season 20-2.



Fifth graders at GSES enjoyed their first weekly activity doing the adventure ropes course with the Eco Center staff.



GSHS Aviation hosted the Alabama State Department of Education (the amazing Craig Collins) and a film crew (Jose and Bryce all the way from California and Oregon) to spotlight our aviation program. The video will be released later this year on PBS!

While they were on site, GSHS received a returned flight waiver that cleared an aviation student to begin flight training.

The result: our first in-house instructional flight in our own plane, captured as it happened, with our GSHS alum flight instructor and one of our amazing students.

Quoted from Jessica Samply, CTE Director, "It all happened so fast that I didn't fully take the time in the moment to recognize the gravity of it all. It was a very surreal day to say the least. I remember sitting in the conference room when we interviewed Haley just a few years ago and talking about wanting to have our own GSCS plane for flight instruction, and now, here we are.

I'm so grateful for all the people who have played a part in helping us make history and provide such an amazing opportunity for our students at such a low cost."



A wrestling event poster for Gulf Shores High School. It features a blue background with a white and blue dolphin logo and the letters "GS". The text reads: "POD", "GULF SHORES WRESTLING JANUARY 23RD @ BHANN CROSSPLEX", and "AHSAA 6A STATE DUALS FINAL 4".



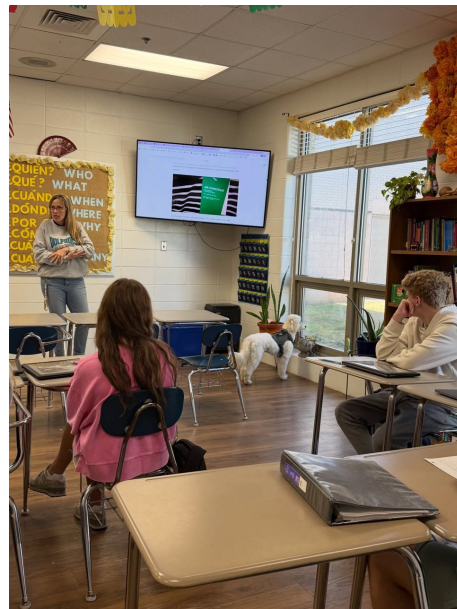
GSES Pre K is 100 days brighter!



Our GSHSHealth Science Internship class is gearing up for rotations @baldwinhealth The internship provides students the opportunity to shadow health professionals in various roles and departments.

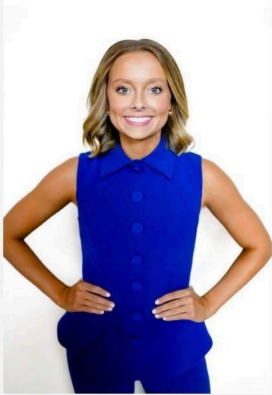


Sustainability Class = Tail Wags Approved! Hi friends! Phin here Today I got to visit the high school sustainability class, and let me tell you... these humans are doing BIG things for our planet We talked about caring for the Earth, making thoughtful choices, and how even small actions can make a pawstitive impact. I supervised closely (from the floor, obviously) and handed out plenty of calm vibes, smiles, and a few gentle tail wags Proud of these students for thinking about the future — for all of us, two-legged and four-legged alike Until next adventure, Phin



DISTINGUISHED YOUNG WOMEN OF ALABAMA

Top 8 Finalist



**Portia Hollis
Baldwin County**

Congratulations to GSHS Senior, Portia Hollis, for representing herself, her family, her friends, and the Dolphin Nation well at the 2026 Distinguished Young Women of Alabama competition. Portia finished as a Top 8 finalist and was the winner of the Community Service Award. We are Dolphin proud of you!



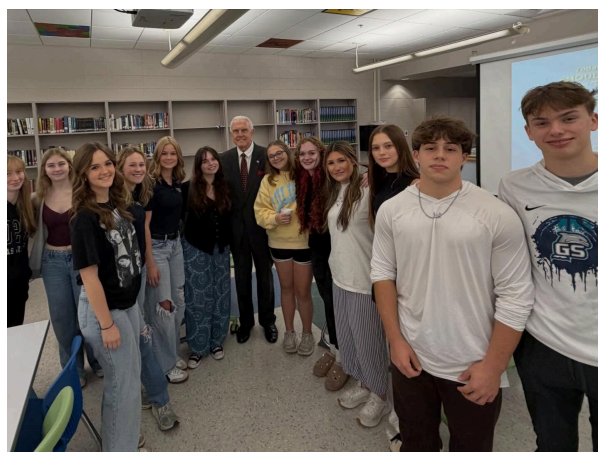
Our Dept. Of Exceptional Ed hosted two sessions of Special Education Transition: Planning for a Full Life. Katrina Wellborn of APEC (AL Parent Education Center) presented the training. Joining us were representatives from ADRS, The Arc of Gulf Coast Alabama, Passage USA, Cindy Haber Center, Coach Shawn Weaver, and Exceptional Foundation of the Gulf Coast who shared resources with parents.



Coastal Alabama Community College Culinary Competition results are in! Gavin Walker secured 2nd place overall and received a \$1000 scholarship! Congratulations on representing Gulf Shores High School so well!



Thank you, Dr. McCollough, for spending last Friday with our GSHS students! Your insights on becoming a phenomenal healthcare professional inspired our future leaders and reminded us what excellence in healthcare truly looks like.



Gulf Shores High School Students! Take a look at this opportunity to get SCUBA certified! (GSMS students will get information from the middle school on a later date.)

ATTENTION SENIORS
 Cap & Gown Photos are February 23!



- GSHS Library
- 8:00am-3:00pm
- Must have a scheduled time slot
- \$35 sitting fee
- No make-up day
- Questions? LCooper1@gsboe.org

Sign Up Here  Pay Sitting Fee 

GULF SHORES
HIGH SCHOOL



INTERESTED IN
SCUBA CERTIFICATION

Sign Up Here:
<http://tinyurl.com/GSHSscuba26>

Deadline **2/18/26**

[Questions?](#)

See Dr Hamilton for details!

Congratulations to Dean Angela Barlow and Associate Dean Charity Bryan for being awarded an Alabama Summer and Afterschool Program (ASAP) grant from the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE)!

This funding brings to life the “Beach BRAIN” (Building Reasoning, Application, and Inquiry in Numeracy) program—a dynamic partnership with Gulf Shores City Schools designed to transform how students perceive and use mathematics.

A Collaborative Powerhouse

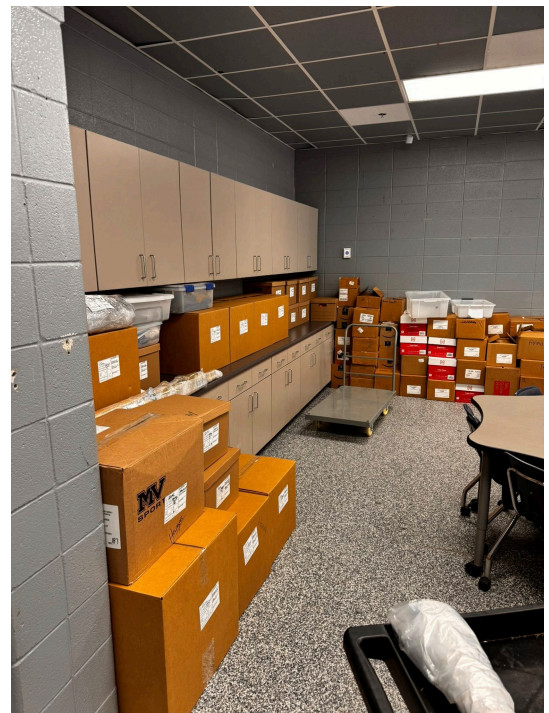
What makes Beach BRAIN truly unique is the interdisciplinary teamwork behind it. Faculty from the Department of Leadership and Teacher Education and the Stokes School of Marine and Environmental Sciences are joining forces to create a one-of-a-kind learning environment. Together, they are bridging the gap between classroom theory and the real-world scientific wonders of our coastline.

By combining the expertise of our education and marine science faculty with the vision of Gulf Shores City Schools, we are helping students make waves in their mathematical journey!

Please join us in congratulating the entire collaborative team on this amazing achievement.



NJROTC has been tasked with planning and executing the relocation of GSHS to the new facility on Foley Beach Expressway. We're calling it "The Big Move." The Big Move will require planning, logistics, and communication to ensure that we make this transition, on time, without interruption to instructional time. We are flattered to have been asked and see this as an opportunity to teach our cadets about large-scale planning. They will participate in the planning process, filing, leasing, inventories and the absolute necessity of maintaining 100% accountability across the transition. Our cadets are ready to go and we're all excited to get started.





Kindergarten and First Grade's turn at the Sensory Trail in afterschool care!



Gulf Shores senior Hayden Cook continues to build his legacy on the mat. The standout wrestler helped lead the Dolphins to a second-place finish at the AHSAA State Duals and was voted Baldwin County's Most Outstanding Wrestler by area coaches. Cook is now just five wins shy of 200 career victories, ranks No. 2 in the state at 144 pounds (Class 6A) and is committed to wrestle at Minot State this fall.

GULF COAST MEDIA
 COUNTY BUZZ: WHO'S HEATING UP

HAYDEN COOK
 GULF SHORES WRESTLING

READ MORE AT GULFCOASTMEDIA.COM

GULF COAST MEDIA
 ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

- Helped Dolphins place 2nd at State Duals
- 5 wins away from 200, ranked No. 2 in the state for 6A 144-lb
- Voted Most Outstanding Wrestler by county Coaches

READ MORE AT GULFCOASTMEDIA.COM

The Wharf Opens Application for \$10,000 Baldwin Scholarships



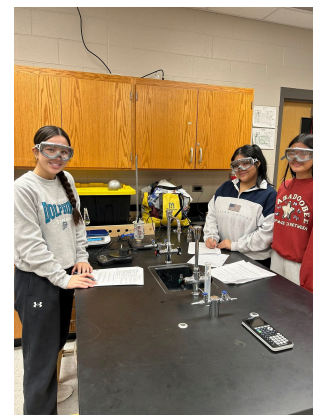
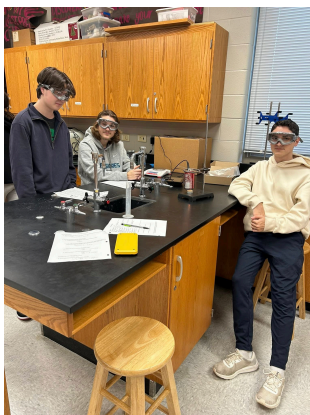
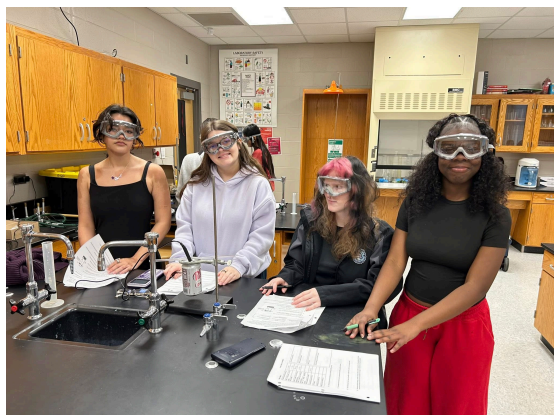
Great meeting with the GSES K-Kids! But truthfully, we were after the snacks this morning! Thank you for the donuts, cookies, and chips! We had so much fun.



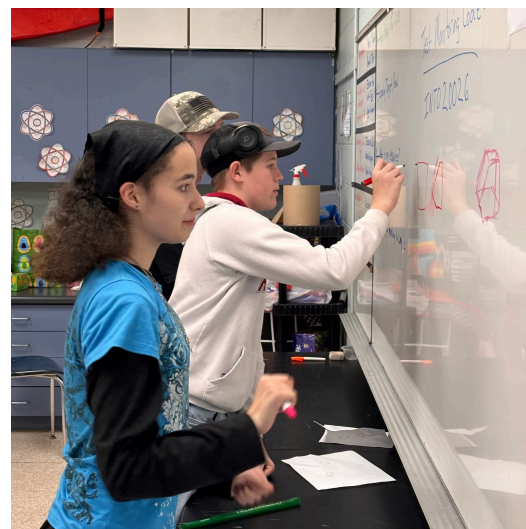
GSMS Peer Helpers put together treat bags filled with candy and handwritten encouragement notes to support and motivate their peers as they prepare for an upcoming test.



Coach Hill's AP Chemistry class at GSHS jumped into the lab on this cold winter's day and learned how to use can calorimetry to calculate heat lost from a candle to water!



Mr. Prince's Turbo Dolphins at GSMS are designing template nose cones for the Greenpower F24 race cars.



Gulf Shores High School Cheerleading and Mascot tryouts will be held February 23-27. Any current 8th grade student interested in trying out must sign up in the middle school front office by Wednesday, Feb. 11. Current 9th-11th grade students will sign up in Coach Barnett's room (Room 109) at the high school. A MANDATORY parent meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 12 @ 5:30 pm in the GSHS library. Any questions should be sent to Coach Barnett at wbarnett@gsboe.org

Make Waves
GSHS
Cheerleading Tryouts

Important Dates

Interest Meeting
 February 12th @ 5:30 PM - GSHS Library
 *Program expectations and requirements will be discussed.

Clinic & Mock Tryouts
 February 23rd - 26th
 3:30-5:00
 The Wave Gym

Tryouts
 February 27th
 3:30-FINISHED
 The Tank

Tryout packets will be available at the interest meeting. If you are unable to make the meeting, you can pick up a packet at the GSHS Front Office after February 12th.

WHITNEY BARNETT - WBARNETT@GSBOE.ORG JENNIFER TOLBERT - JTOLBERT1@GSBOE.ORG

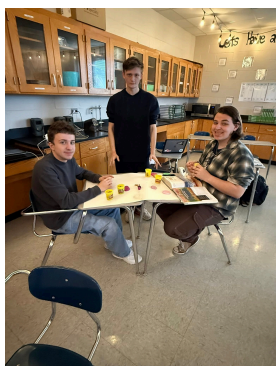
30 degrees and these young women from GSHS said “YES, we still want to bike ride today”!
Wellness is a priority in Sustainability class. The lesson was supposed to just be about familiarizing ourselves with the Gulf State Park. But a takeaway lesson was how important RELATIONSHIPS are to ACCOUNTABILITY!



Gulf Shores High School Launches new robotics team



Sustainability Club at GSMS is preparing to serve our community on Arbor Day at the Gulf Coast Eco Center from 8:30-11:30. We'll be loading trees, teaching visitors about the important ecosystem roles of oysters, and sharing the good work that Mobile BayKeepers are doing to restore oysters in Mobile Bay.



AP Bio students in Dr. Hamilton's class are bringing cell membranes to life—learning how structure drives function and adapts to the cell's needs with chalk and Play-Doh!



Thank you to PO1 Theodoro, the GSHS NJROTC program instructor, for meeting with our 8th-grade students! Our students gained valuable insight into the opportunities available through ROTC at the high school level and what it means to be part of the program. We truly appreciate your time, leadership, and commitment to supporting and inspiring our students.



GSHS's Matthew Howe, is Alabama's 6A State Champion Pole Vaulters with his 14' jump!!! Please join me in congratulating him in his efforts and his win!
 He came in at 12'6" and cleared first try and 13', 13'6" to follow all first attempts!!
 He cleared 14 feet first attempt to win the meet and went on to give 15 feet a try- basically.. he ran out of pole!



Alabama First Class Pre-K Opens January 15th!

Pre-Registration is now open for our four OSR PreK classrooms beginning Thursday, January 15th. You can access the pre-registration site by going to the following site: <https://prek.alaceed.alabama.gov/>

Registration is open from Thursday, January 15th through Sunday, March 1st. Anyone who is registered after March 1st will not be considered for the drawing, other than the waitlist. The drawing will be on Friday, March 13th on our GSES Facebook page. We will go live at 1 o'clock. Be sure to register for the 2026-2027 school year, keeping in mind that registration does not guarantee a spot in the program.

For those interested in applying, please remember that all children must live in district, be 4 by September 1, 2026, and be fully potty trained in order to attend.

Pre-Registration Opens January 15

Time to shine

ALABAMA FIRST CLASS PRE-K

Pre-Registration Application:

Visit <https://prek.alaceed.alabama.gov>

- First Class Pre-K programs are accepting online pre-registration applications for the 2026-2027 school year beginning January 15th. (If you need assistance with accessing the online application, contact the local school/program.)
- Enrollment is open to all children four years of age on or before 9/1/26* who are residents of Alabama. (Children who are eligible for kindergarten are not eligible for pre-k.)
- Enrollees must provide a copy of the child's birth certificate. (It may be uploaded into the online pre-registration site or submitted directly to the local school/program.)
- Enrollees must provide proof of residence – either a current utility bill or copy of a lease or mortgage. (It may be uploaded into the online pre-registration site or submitted directly to the local school/program.)
- Public school system pre-k programs may have zoning requirements that determine eligibility for attending a program at a particular school. (Contact the school for attendance zone information.)
- There is no registration fee for First Class Pre-K programs.
- Upon enrollment, a child's immunization record must be provided to the school or program.
- No child will be denied participation on basis of income, sex, race, color, national origin, or disability.

Pre-Registration Dates:

January 15 - March 1

Random Drawing Details:

Acceptance into a First Class Pre-K program is strictly through random drawing. Parent/Guardian does not have to be present at drawing. Email notices of acceptance status will be sent in mid-April.

Site Name : Gulf Shores Elementary

Drawing Date : March 13, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM

Drawing Location : Will be done virtually on the GSES Facebook page



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
Early Childhood
Education

children.alabama.gov



Download the GS Athletics app today. Search Gulf Shores Athletics in the App Store or Google Play.



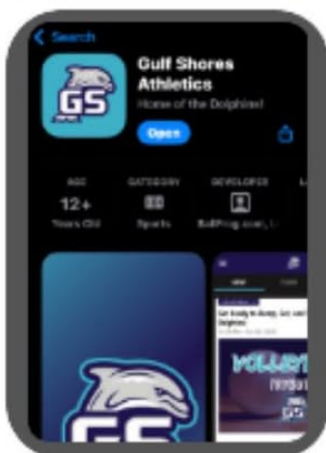
DON'T MISS ANOTHER SCORE, SET, GOAL OR RUN!

The Gulf Shores Athletics App is the best source for the latest news, schedules, scores and rosters. Follow every team and club in one mobile app!

START USING THE GULF SHORES ATHLETICS APP TODAY!

STEP 1:

Download the app by visiting the Apple or Google Play app store and search "Gulf Shores Athletics"

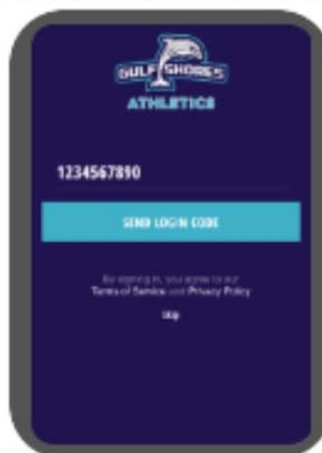


STEP 2:

Sign in with your 10-digit mobile number for login code to access the app...only have to do this once!

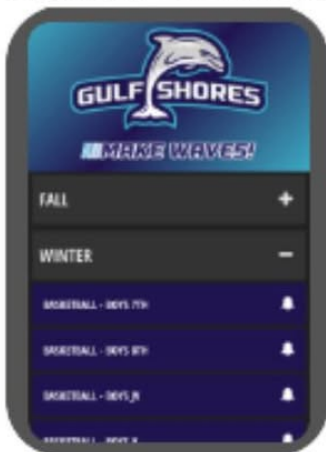


GET THE APP!



STEP 3:

Browse through NEWS, TEAMS and the SCHEDULE. Click on TEAMS and scroll through the list. Tap on the bell icon to follow a team.



STEP 4:

Tap on teams to view their NEWS, SCHEDULE, SCORES and ROSTER. Select the bell in the top right corner to manage notifications.



POWERED BY ballfrog



GSCS National Board Teacher Candidates

This year's National Board Teacher candidates are diligently working toward their certification, and we are immensely grateful for the community's unwavering support.

A heartfelt thank you to the Dolphin Foundation for Education & Arts for their generous contribution toward component funding, which makes this journey possible. We also extend our deep appreciation to Brett/Robinson Vacations and Phoenix Gulf Shores HOA for providing a beautiful and inspiring workspace. We were fortunate to have our Regional Inservice Director, Dr. Stephanie Hulon come and support teachers during the workshop!

A special thanks to the Lodge for providing breakfast pastries. We also greatly enjoyed the wonderful lunches provided by Beach House on Tuesday Bahama Bob's on Wednesday, and The Cove on Thursday! Your collective support not only uplifts our educators but also strengthens our students' success by fostering accomplished teaching. Teachers who have gone through the Board certification process say that it is the most valuable and transformative professional development they have ever received. Thank you for being champions of education in our community!

[Dolphin Foundation for Education & Arts](#)

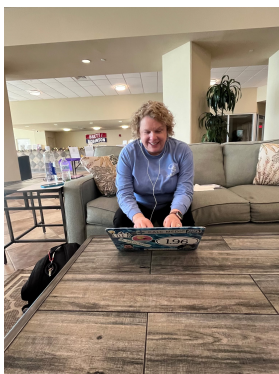
[Brett/Robinson Vacations](#)

[The Lodge at Gulf State Park](#)

[The Beach House Kitchen & Cocktails](#)

[Bahama Bobs](#)

[The Cove Bar & Grill](#)



Celebrate 2026 School Board Member Recognition Month



January Is

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION MONTH

#SchoolBoardMVPs



January is Alabama's 33rd annual observance of **School Board Member Recognition Month** in Alabama. The Alabama Association of School Boards (AASB) encourages communities across the state to celebrate and recognize local school board members for their unwavering commitment to providing high-quality public education for all Alabama students.

This year's theme, **"School Board Members: The Real MVPs,"** shines a spotlight on the vital leadership role school board members play in calling the winning plays for Alabama's public schools. Like the most valuable players on a team, board members provide vision, strategy, and steady guidance—often behind the scenes—to ensure school systems thrive. This theme honors their teamwork, dedication, and lasting impact on public education throughout the state.

A special thank you to Kevin Corcoran, President; Dr. Nicky Gotschall, Vice President; Dale Jernigan; Kelly Walker; and Frank Malone for all you do for Gulf Shores City Schools. Your dedication and leadership truly make a difference!



THANK YOU, SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS!
#SchoolBoardMVPs

GULF SHORES BOARD OF EDUCATION

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!
Mrs. Beal & Miss. Portia's Pre-K



ALABAMA
ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BOARDS

Tuesday Tour at GSES!



Join Us for a Special "Tuesday Tour" at Gulf Shores Elementary!

We're excited to invite you to a unique opportunity to explore the heart of Gulf Shores City Schools! On **Tuesday, February 3rd**, from **9:00 AM to 10:30 AM**, come take a guided tour of **Gulf Shores Elementary School** and see the innovative learning happening in our classrooms. It's a chance to connect with our amazing educators, experience our vibrant school culture, and see firsthand the incredible things your community is doing for our students. We'd love for you to join us and be a part of the journey! To sign up, simply click on the link below:

[Take The Tuesday Tour](#)

Come see the difference at Gulf Shores City Schools—we can't wait to show you around!

Gulf Shores Gives Back 2026

Gulf Shores Gives Back will take place on Thursday, February 26th, with a rain date of Friday, February 27th! Please visit our website to learn more and stay tuned!

<https://www.gsboe.org/gsgivesback>



College & Career Fair at GSHS



MONDAY
February 23,
2026



TIME
10 AM -
NOON

At Gulf Shores High School Gymnasiums

COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR

Be the Spark that Ignites a Student's Future.

email Tyler Morgan
tmorgan@gsboe.org
for more details

SIGN UP HERE TO PARTICIPATE!



State Champions Alert at GSHS

GSHS Indoor Track athletes competed today, and they all performed quite well! Congratulations to Carter Davis and Matthew Howe for bringing home State Championships. Additionally, Carter set a new state record in the 60 and is ranked the 7th fastest athlete in the NATION!!



PL	Team	PTS	PRJ
1	Northridge High School	60	60
2	Hazel Green	46.5	46.5
3	Homewood HS	45	47
4	Mountain Brook HS	34.5	37.5
5	Spain Park	30.5	30.5
6	McAdory High School	28	28
6	McGill-Toolen Catholic	28	28
6	UMS-Wright	28	28
9	Gulf Shores HS	21	21
10	Jackson-Olin	20	28
11	Fort Payne	17	17
11	Blount High School	17	23

GSHS Dolphin Football

DOLPHINS IN THE WILD
FORMER DOLPHINS COMPETING AT THE NEXT LEVEL

#BALLATTHEBEACH

Make Plans For The Spring Market!

The Gulf Shores Junior City Council is thrilled to announce the return of its Spring Market, scheduled for Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Waterway Village.

The Spring Market will feature a wide variety of items, including local produce, baked goods, products from local retailers, and unique arts and crafts. Guests can enjoy delicious options from onsite food trucks or dining at nearby restaurants.

“This event is a wonderful opportunity to support local businesses and experience the creativity and flavors of our community,” said Lindsey Hart, Public Engagement Manager. “We’re proud that the Junior City Council leads this initiative, giving students hands-on experience in civic engagement and event planning.”

Vendor applications are now open! Categories include fresh foods, cottage kitchen items, handcrafted goods, and plants. Vendors must be original producers and comply with all applicable permits and health regulations. For details or to apply, visit <https://ayrs.io/a-G580>.

The Junior City Council program empowers high school students in grades 10–12 to learn about local government, develop leadership skills, and make a positive impact through community projects like the Spring Market. For more information, visit www.gulfshoresal.gov or contact Lindsey Hart at lhart@gulfshoresal.gov.

— GULF SHORES JUNIOR CITY COUNCIL —

SPRING MARKET

MUSIC | LOCAL VENDORS | KIDS CORNER



MARCH 28 | 9 AM - 2 PM | WATERWAY VILLAGE
23558 EAST GULF AVENUE, GULF SHORES, AL

GSHS Complete Your FAFSA Application!



FAFSA FRENZY!

UNLOCK YOUR FINANCIAL AID

Senior Incentive Alert!

If you complete a FAFSA application and it is processed by the federal government before March 6th, you will receive an eLearning day on Tuesday, March 10th!

8:30AM - 11AM

12PM - 4PM

**APPLY
FOR FAFSA!**

**FRIDAY
FEB 6**

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

Bring your computer, Social Security Number & personal email



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.

Flight Training at GSHS is Starting Soon!

Our Flight Instructor and GSHS alum, Brock Harris, has started ground school with students this week! Also, test flight #1 was successfully completed on Tuesday. Flight Training is starting soon!



SAVE the DATE

- 2/3 GSCS: Tuesday Tour at GSES 9:00am
- 2/4 GSHS: HOSA Blood Drive 8:00am-2:00pm
- 2/5 BOE: Work Session 4:00pm
- 2/6 GSCS: Q3 Progress Report
- 2/10 GSES: Class Pictures
- 2/11 GSHS: Dual Enrollment Parent Information Meeting 5:00pm
- 2/12 GSES: Spirit Night (The Yard)
- 2/12 BOE: School Board Regular Meeting 5:00pm
- 2/12 GSHS: Cheer Parent Meeting 5:00pm
- 2/16-17 GSCS: Mardi Gras Holiday (No School)
- 2/18 GSCS: E-Learning Day (Students Do Not Attend School-Learning is From Home)
- 2/18 GSHS: Scuba Certification Deadline
- 2/20 GSCS: Galentine's Bingo 5:00pm (Embassy Suites - Gulf Shores)
- 2/23 GSHS: Seniors Cap & Gown Photos
- 2/25 GSMS: Rising 5th Grade Next Wave Parent/Student Information Night 5:00pm
- 2/26 GSCS: Gulf Shores Gives Back Day
- 2/27 GSCS: (Make Up Day if needed) Gulf Shores Gives Back Day

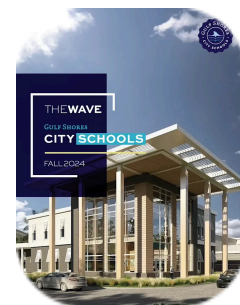
Enjoy these GSCS commercials!

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
- [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

