ISSUE 2 MARCH 2026

The MakeWaves Monthly

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



Superintendents' Message

Spring and warmer weather encourage us to spend more time outdoors. We are fortunate to live on the Gulf Coast, where our students can participate in meaningful experiences such as Science by the Shore – Outdoor Education, walking and biking through Gulf State Park, and planting sea oats to support dune restoration efforts.

We look forward to several upcoming events, including GSHS Prom, the Annual Farm to Table event, Wednesday Walks, Tuesday Tours at GSM, and our Spring Sports. These opportunities allow our students, families, and staff to come together and enjoy the natural beauty of the community we are proud to call home.

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 – JASON "KARTER" REED



Grade: 4th Grade
Area of Recognition: Strong Character
I'm a WaveMaker because…
I am pleased and honored to nominate Karter Reed as a WaveMaker. Having him in my classroom has been a true blessing, as he consistently demonstrates the character, leadership, and integrity that positively influence our learning environment each and every day. He is hardworking, dependable, and self-motivated. He takes ownership of his responsibilities without needing reminders and approaches his work with focus and determination. He prioritizes what needs to be done and holds himself to high standards, completing assignments thoughtfully and on time. He is proactive, puts first things first, and strives for solutions that benefit everyone. What makes this even more admirable is that he does it quietly, without seeking attention or praise. Just as impressive as his work ethic is the way Karter treats others. He is consistently polite, respectful, and kind. He listens carefully during discussions and values his classmates' perspectives. If a peer is struggling, Karter steps in to help without hesitation and without being asked. His willingness to support others strengthens our classroom community and creates an atmosphere where students feel encouraged and valued. Karter also brings a positive spirit to our room. His sense of humor is thoughtful and uplifting, helping to create a welcoming and comfortable environment for everyone. He has a way of making others feel included and at ease. Karter does not simply meet expectations. He elevates them. He leads through quiet consistency, compassion, and responsibility. I can say with confidence that our classroom, our school, and our district is better every day because Karter is part of it. ~Nominated by Jennifer Cunningham~

MIDDLE SCHOOL – CANAAN BOLDING



Grade: 7th Grade
Area of Recognition: Academic Efforts, Positive Attitude, Leadership & Collaboration
I'm A WaveMaker because…
Liz Corcoran says...Canaan always has a smile and an enthusiastic attitude. He puts forth his best effort and encourages others to do so as well. I see Canaan in a small group setting. He is an active participant, which makes a big difference in the lessons that we do. He is polite and kind to everyone he meets. Canaan exhibits exceptional character and is a s hining light at Gulf Shores Middle School.
Regan McClung says...Canaan Bolding exemplifies what it means to BELIEVE in others and lead with quiet integrity. As a new student, he has quickly become a classroom anchor: diligent in his work, kind in his actions, and deeply respected by peers. Canaan consistently models our core values of inclusion, empathy, and excellence. His classmates request to sit beside him because he makes everyone feel seen, heard, and valued. He never falls behind and always ensures no one is left behind. Canaan is a true WaveMaker. He incites action through compassion, cooperation, and character. Canaan didn't just join our school and our classrooms; he has transformed them. In a matter of weeks, he has become the student others gravitate toward: steady in his diligence, generous in his kindness, and unwavering in his integrity. Canaan embodies inclusion, empathy, and excellence, not as words on a wall, but as daily actions that uplift peers and strengthen our school's legacy. Whether on the court or in the classroom, he is a true WaveMaker: sparking cooperation through compassion, and inspiring character through quiet leadership. Canaan doesn't just believe in others, he helps them believe in themselves.
~Nominated by Liz Corcoran and Regan McClung

HIGH SCHOOL – JORJA CARRINO



Grade: 12th Grade
Area of Recognition: Leadership
I'm A WaveMaker because…
Jorja Carrino, a senior at Gulf Shores High School, exemplifies what it means to be a true Wave Maker. Throughout her high school career, she has been a dedicated member of the band program, serving as a clarinetist and sectional leader. She consistently leads by example, always willing to go above and beyond to support her fellow students and contribute to the success of the program. Her leadership is marked not only by her musical commitment, but by her genuine care for those around her and her willingness to serve wherever she is needed. Jorja's passion for helping others extends far beyond the band room. She has a strong calling to serve as a nurse in the United States Navy, continuing her commitment to the well-being of others on an even greater scale. In recognition of her academic achievement, leadership, and character, Jorja has been awarded a prestigious NROTC Nursing Scholarship valued at $200,000. Upon graduating and completing her post-secondary studies, she will be commissioned as an officer (Ensign) in the United States Navy. We are incredibly proud of Jorja and grateful for the example she has set during her time at Gulf Shores High School. Her years here have been defined by service, leadership, and compassion for others. As she begins this next chapter serving her country, we are confident her impact will be even greater, deeper and far-reaching. The future is bright for Jorja Carrino, and we are excited to watch the difference she will continue to make in the lives of others. She is truly a WaveMaker! ~Nominated by William Mixon~

Meet Our Staff WaveMakers of the Month

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – SHELLEY PAPALIA (PARAPROFESSIONAL)



I'm a WaveMaker because…
I would like to nominate Shelley Papalia as a March WaveMaker. Shelley makes an incredible difference every single day in the Behavior Support Unit, and her impact on our students is both powerful and deeply meaningful. Shelley works with some of our highest behavioral-needs students, and she does so with patience, strength, and heart. No matter how challenging a situation may become, she never allows student behavior to derail her commitment to them. She remains calm when behaviors escalate, modeling self-control and emotional regulation in moments when students need it most. Her steady presence often becomes the anchor that helps students regain control. What stands out most about Shelley is her positivity. She is constantly encouraging students, reminding them to make good choices, and reinforcing expectations in a way that preserves dignity and builds trust. She does not give up on students, even on their hardest days. Instead, she stays consistent, knowing that consistency is what helps students feel safe and supported. Shelley truly values student outcomes. Her focus is always on helping students grow, not just behaviorally, but socially and emotionally as well. She believes in their ability to improve and demonstrates that belief through her actions every day.Beyond her direct work with students, Shelley is a supportive and dependable team member. She collaborates willingly, steps in wherever needed, and contributes to a positive environment within the Behavior Support Unit. Shelley embodies what it means to be a WaveMaker. She brings calm to chaos, hope to difficult moments, and unwavering support to students who need it most. Our school community is stronger because of her dedication and heart. ~Nominated by Justin McCory~

MIDDLE SCHOOL – ASHLEY ARNOLD (EXPLORING BMA/FINANCE/MARKETING CLUSTERS, CAREER EXPLORATIONS)



I'm a WaveMaker because…
Mrs. Arnold truly represents the very best of Gulf Shores City Schools and Gulf Shores Middle School. She demonstrates passion and an unwavering love for teaching her students each and every day at GSMS. With high expectations and strong leadership in the classroom, Mrs. Arnold inspires her students to strive for excellence while feeling supported and valued.She never misses an opportunity to go above and beyond for her students, colleagues, and school community. We are incredibly fortunate to have her as part of our Dolphin team. She truly "crushed it" at our most recent "Next Wave" Parent Night and Showcase, where her enthusiasm and dedication were on full display. Her passion is contagious, igniting excitement and pride in both our current and future students. Mrs. Arnold wears many hats at GSMS. In addition to being a rock star teacher, she leads our Peer Helpers program and is the assistant coach for the Girls Basketball Team. No matter the role, she gives her absolute best. She consistently goes above and beyond in every possible way, always greeting students with a smile and serving as a bright light in our building. Simply put, Mrs. Arnold makes GSMS better every single day.
~Nominated by Jamie Hill~

HIGH SCHOOL – JAMIE MCCLUNG (HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE CAREER ACADEMIES, COMPUTER SCIENCE, ENGINEERING ACADEMY)



I"m A WaveMaker because…
Jamie McClung is an amazing Computer Science, Cyber Security, and Robotics teacher for our GSHS family. He consistently goes above and beyond for his students. Since arriving on campus, his work ethic and the quality of his instruction have been phenomenal. While his classes rotate between conference rooms, borrowed classrooms, and sometimes even the library, he makes every space feel like a hub of innovation. He is always working behind the scenes to support nearly every school event, quietly ensuring things run smoothly. Mr. McClung often works on weekends, giving his time freely to support students and school programs. He sacrifices countless hours of his personal time to take students to competitions all over the State and region. Through his leadership the Robotics Club, Cyber Security classes, and Computer Science classes, his students gain hands-on experience, confidence, and opportunities they might never have otherwise. The students in his classes and clubs have so many more doors opened to them because of his knowledge and encouragement. Even when he clearly has a full plate, Mr. McClung remains a kind and supportive co-worker to everyone around him. Having him as a part of our GSHS family truly takes Gulf Shores City Schools to the next level. He is definitely a WaveMaker!

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

Health & Wellness

The gators are moving and so is the GSMS Cross Trainers club. We had a great ride seeing two of our resident alligators along the way.





Athletics

Congratulations to Freshman Evelyn Lamar on her career low at RTJ Magnolia Grove going 3 under!! Evelyn was also the All Tournament MVP and the Fields 1st Place Low Medalist!



Arts Education

Congratulations to these students for representing Gulf Shores Middle School at this year's District VII Honor Band!



Lora Lassiter
Claudia Kelton
Liam Mixon
Jacob McCrary
Garrett Greene
Norah Grace Lowry
Isaac DeJean
Andrew Byrom

Teaching & Learning

Is it living or nonliving?
Mrs. Grant's class at GSES wrapped up their living/nonliving unit with a gummy worms vs. earthworms observation!



Elementary School

Our 5th graders celebrated crushing their 3rd quarter reading and math goals with Choice Day 2.0!

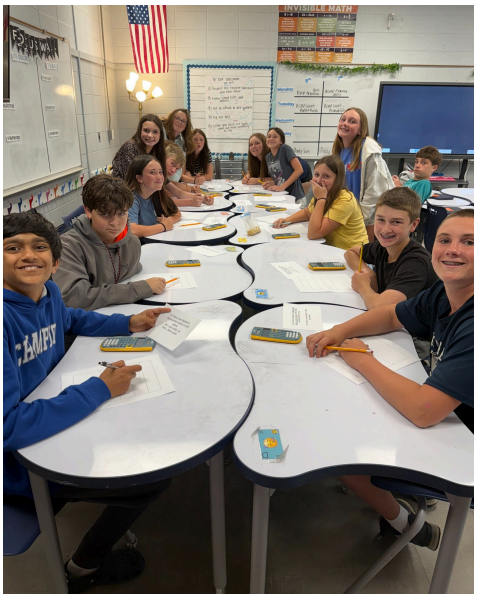
This awesome crew chose the ropes course and zip line at the Eco Center—and they did not disappoint! From fearless climbs to nonstop encouragement, their teamwork and determination were incredible to watch.





Middle School

Mrs. Redden's 6th and 7th grade math classes, students practiced time management with a fast-paced "Scoot" activity as they prepared for ACAP. 6th grade focused on ratios and rates, while 7th grade worked through probability word problems.



High School

Our NJROTC cadets began their day at 6AM. They are presently at Merrill Army Ranger Training Facility negotiating leadership training opportunities. They have already rappelled down an 80' cliff. They will remain fully engaged throughout the day, with activities concluding around 10PM. The cadets are having a blast.



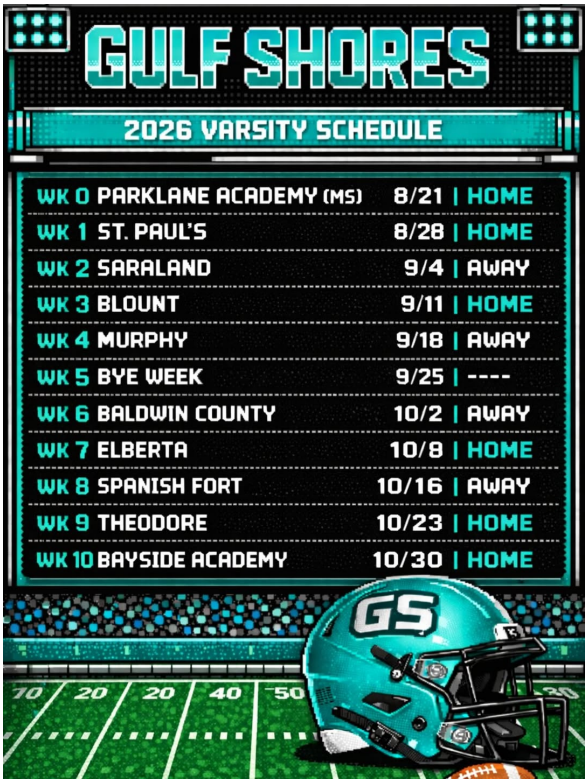
Virtual Academy

Our K–5th grade virtual students have worked incredibly hard the 3rd quarter, and it was so much fun getting to celebrate all of their effort together! Students started the day by adopting a "PEEP", giving it a name and a personality—some students even decided the best option was to eat theirs! Then everyone enjoyed spending time together during a breakfast party followed by a fun egg hunt. It was a great day of laughter, celebration, and well-deserved fun for our amazing students!



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

2026 Fall Football Schedule is out!



Thank you to ACA, North River Yacht Club and Jonathan Griz who was the Patriot Open's guest speaker this year. Jonathan is a Senior golfer at The University of Alabama and is currently No. 14 on the PGA Tour University Rankings!



Huge win for Hyperwave and **Gulf Shores High School**! At the University of Alabama Capture the Flag Cybersecurity Competition, we finished in 1st place Advanced Division, In Person! We also finished 5th place in Division 2, In Person. We brought three teams and they all performed spectacularly! In one year, we went from 2nd place in Division 2 to 1st in the advanced division. Amazing progress! The winning team members each won price money! So proud! Great job team!







Congratulations to GSHS' Macey Moore and Brooklyn Purvis for completing the Youth Leadership South with The University of South Alabama!



A huge congratulations to Melissa from GSMS for winning the Lions Club Peace Poster Contest at the district level! She was recognized in Demopolis and received multiple prizes from the District Governor. What an incredible achievement! Way to share your creativity and vision of peace!



Portia Hollis attended the DAR State Convention yesterday where she was awarded a scholarship for making it to the state level for her essay on democracy.
She is our GSHS DAR Good Citizen; the Bon Secour Chapter DAR Good Citizen; the Southern District of Alabama DAR Good Citizen; and she placed in the top 4 in the State for the Alabama DAR Good Citizen Award. We are so proud of her for representing our school and GSCS so well!





Thank you to Tanya Hill and CNP Team for their update and The Low Country Boil at tonight's BOE Work Session!



Working hard on math review with a fun Easter egg hunt in Ms. Barnes's class at GSES.







Congratulations to Kallie Bryant, who earned Honorable Mention at the Mobile Regional Science Fair for her project studying how light cycles affect the bioluminescent glow of dinoflagellates.
We're also proud of Amelia Autrey and Sterling Miller for representing Gulf Shores Middle School. Amelia designed a still to desalinate Little Lagoon and Gulf waters, while Sterling studied the impact of soil moisture on plant growth.
We are incredibly proud of our Science Fair finalists and their outstanding work!



The Gulf Shores City Council was thrilled to recognize an outstanding group of local students who will compete in the Mobile-area Special Olympics this April.
Please join us in congratulating (from left to right in group photo)

Roland Phillips
August Riddle
John Curtis Shotts
Landon Couture
Wesley Faulkenberry
Scarlett Hadley
Conner Pharo
Isaiah Perry
Krystof Leach
Their determination and positivity inspire our entire community. Best of luck to each of you. We're behind you every step of the way!



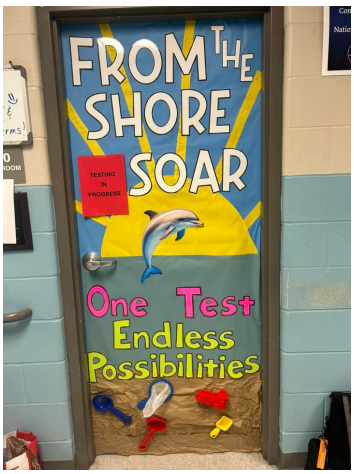
We are thrilled to announce that Ella Sanders has been accepted into The McCollough Institute for Pre-Medical Scholars at The University of Alabama, one of only 30 students selected nationwide for this prestigious program!
Endowed by Dr. Gaylon and Mrs. Susan McCollough, the McCollough Institute is a highly selective living-learning community for aspiring physicians. This unique program offers a minor in Interdisciplinary Pre-Medical Studies, encouraging students to explore the big picture questions of healthcare while receiving exceptional preparation for the nation's top medical schools. Since its inception, the McCollough Institute has achieved a remarkable 100% acceptance rate into medical school. Ella's hard work, passion for medicine, and dedication to learning have earned her a place in this elite cohort, and we couldn't be prouder. Please help us congratulate Ella on this remarkable achievement and on taking such an exciting step toward her future career in medicine!

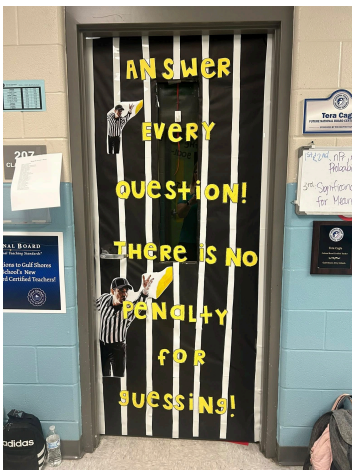


Our GSHS teachers are helping students get hyped about ACT Game Day!! Wouldn't you be motivated to do your best in a testing room that welcomes you like this?









Kids Hope mentors Amelia Fletcher and Sue Ellen Carpenter brought history to life for our students! In honor of the upcoming United States 250th birthday, students dove into a hands-on lesson about the Boston Tea Party. They explored the significance of the 1773 protest against the British East India Company's monopoly and the rallying cry of "taxation without representation."
The experience was complete with formal invitations, a spread of scones and biscuits, and a "Tea Tasting" station. Students used rating forms to rank various colonial teas, enjoying a unique sensory journey into the past. A huge thank you to Kids Hope for making history so interactive and providing our students with such memorable experiences!







Mrs. Murphy's GSHS Health Science students served as simulation patients for Ms. Griffin's 6th-grade Medical Detectives class at GSMS. This was our first cross-curricular collaboration, giving middle school students the chance to practice clinical thinking while our high school students helped bring the patient cases to life.
Future healthcare professionals are learning together!





Congratulations to the new GSES inductees into the National Elementary Honor Society.



















Alabama's Speed King: Carter Davis

Before or after lining up for a race or football game, Carter Davis doesn't dwell on the fact he is likely the fastest competitor toeing the line.

Even back in the day – he's 17 so that day's not so long ago – being the fastest kid on the playground never crossed Davis' mind.

In fact, before or after a race or any sports competition, Davis would describe his attitude as somewhat unassuming. Even if he is the fastest person in Alabama. Davis is a four-star wide receiver as well and is looking forward to upcoming outdoor track state championships April 30-May 2 at the Gulf Shores Sportsplex. And his senior year on the Dolphin football team. Click to view entire story: Carter Davis

















Advocacy was front and center in the CLAS office this week as we hosted our final Advocacy Day of the 2026 legislative session. Members of ACTA traveled to Montgomery to make their voices heard on behalf of education and our students.

We are especially proud that **Jessica Sampley from Gulf Shores City Schools** was among those advocating and representing our district so well. Her voice — and the voices of educators across the state — truly make a difference!











CLAS
SM
Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools

Big congratulations to our amazing 5th grade writers! These students were recognized in the American Legion Essay Contest: “Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday and the Veterans Who Fought for Freedom.”
1st Place – Abby Dent
2nd Place – Kennedi Steiner
3rd Place – Ruth Kakish
We are so proud of your hard work, creativity, and appreciation for those who have served our country! Thank you Wendy Hott and the American Legion Post 44 for sponsoring the contest!



Great day at the ACTE State Tech Fair! Lots of 1st place medals! Everyone from **Gulf Shores High School** brought home a medal! Proud of your hard work!



GSHS Food Science dove into Gong Bao Ji Ding! They learned about smoke points of various fats and the chemical compound hydroxy-alpha-sanshool in Sichaun peppercorns that stimulates Meissner receptors causing the numbing/vibrating sensation. Students used the amazing portable woks from the outdoor kitchen at GSMS for this lesson.





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"



GET THE APP!

App Store Google Play

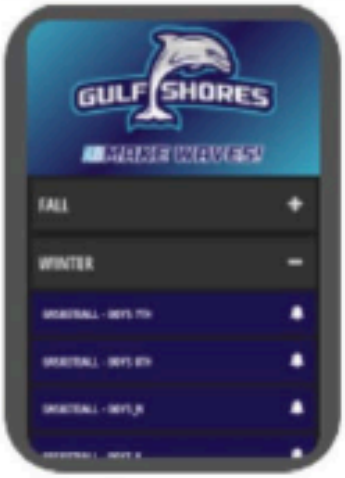
STEP 2:

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



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.



GULF SHORES

ballfrog

Stae Wrestling Champion
Khloe Henshaw



Junior City Council



The Walking School Bus would like to give a big shout out to the GSHS Cheerleaders! Thank you for being the Fun Friday guest!



HYPERWAVE MAKES A SPLASH!

Team 10961 HyperWave is proud to announce that we've won the Rookie All-Star Award at the 2026 Magnolia Regional!

This award is the highest honor a rookie team can earn at a regional event — it recognizes new teams that demonstrate the potential to become a long-term powerhouse in FIRST Robotics. Judges look for strong teamwork, a clear identity, solid engineering foundations, community outreach, and the spark that shows a team is ready to grow and lead.

Being named Rookie All-Star means HyperWave stood out not just for our robot, but for our spirit, our story, and the incredible dedication of our students and mentors. It's a celebration of countless hours of learning, building, problem-solving, and supporting one another.

We're honored, we're energized, and we're just getting started.

Thank you to our mentors, sponsors, families, judges, and the entire Magnolia Regional community for believing in us.

Onward to what's next — the wave is only getting bigger.



Look at these gardens grow! Great job 2nd and 3rd graders at GSES!
Many thanks to the Gulf Shores Garden Club!!





Beautiful weather up on our Lookout Adventure Course with a GSES 5th grade class! Students tried both levels (including our hardest obstacle the Leap Frog) and zipped off the course!

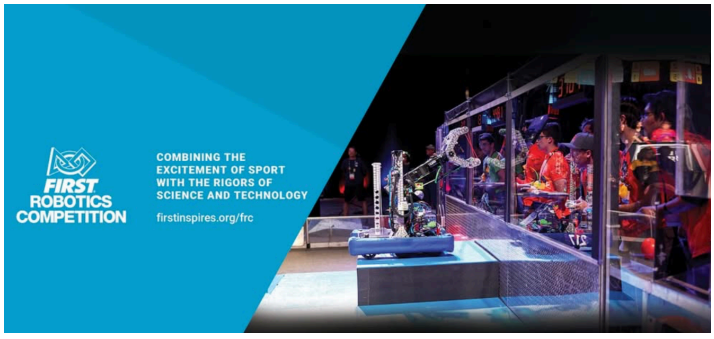




Big congratulations to Sara Todd from Mrs. Pennington's 5th grade class at GSES for winning the "America at 250" poster contest!
She was awarded a certificate, a backpack full of goodies, and a $25 gift card—well deserved for her amazing work!



Please enjoy our Robotics Team! Each match is 2 minutes and 30 seconds. These kids have worked the hardest three 12 hour days of their lives. We are team 10961. The 10,961st team in existence. Number 1 started 30 years ago. You can only score when your hub is activated. It is designated by an arrow on the scoreboard. We scored well in the first match! We are so proud of them! We compete live at this link at 9:08, 9:53, and 10:38!
2026 - Magnolia Regional



Gulf Shores Middle School proudly celebrates the accomplishments of our Computer Science students at the ACTE Regional Fair held on March 6, 2026, at Bishop State.
Our students demonstrated exceptional creativity, innovation, and technical skill, earning multiple top placements and qualifying for the ACTE State Fair.
Digital Art – Level 3
2nd Place Individual (State Qualifier): Claudia Kelton
1st Place Team (State Qualifiers): Arianna Trentmann and Tiffany DeJarnett
Digital Photography – Level 3
2nd Place Team (State Qualifiers): Ethan Manning and Jordan Powell
Multimedia – Level 3
2nd Place Individual (State Qualifier): Maysen Hixson
2nd Place Team (State Qualifiers): Lexy Malone and Lilian Guthrie
3rd Place Team: Avery McClure and Catherine McAleer
Web Design II – Level 3
1st Place Team (State Qualifiers): Abigail Knodel and Georgia Richey
We are incredibly proud of these students for representing Gulf Shores Middle School with excellence. Their hard work and dedication truly made waves at the regional competition.
We wish our state qualifiers the best of luck as they advance to the ACTE State Fair at the University of Montevallo later this month.





Italian Day 2026 was a great success at GSHS. All Cadets ate their fill and we were lucky enough for the janitorial staff, SRO's, nurses, support staff, teachers and administrators to join us as well. Was great to see all the smiling faces and a very special thank you to Mrs Cooper for the use of the library and Rouse's Gulf Shores for preparing such an amazing feast for us.







Some 5th graders at GSES chose to celebrate making their iReady Goal with a bike ride to Fruitful. Ms. Anna Grace and her crew made each of them a granola bowl or smoothie. It was nutritious and delicious!





A huge congratulations to Melissa at GSMS for winning the Lions Club Peace Poster Contest at the district level! She was recognized in Demopolis and received multiple prizes from the District Governor. What an incredible achievement! Way to share your creativity and vision of peace!



Congratulations Isis Eberly and Amelie Walker from GSHS for being selected as this year's Alabama Girls State Delegates!



Mrs. Helms' Class loved our visit to Lake Shelby to learn about the Wetlands and Animals.



What a night! Another Farm to Table in the books. We're so proud of everyone who contributed to this event. The students are super tired this morning, but feeling a sense of bonding over creating something so special for our school and community. Mrs. Madsen and Mrs. Talantis are so proud of you guys!





Big congratulations to Scarlette and Ava!
Scarlette took home 1st Place, and Ava earned the Judge's Choice Award in the Baldwin Humane Society Art Contest! With this year's theme, "Pawsitive Vibes," their artwork was pawsitively purrfect, full of creativity, heart, and love for our furry friends.
We are so proud of you both! Keep shining and sharing those amazing talents!



GSHS Navy ROTCZ is headed north to visit Auburn University NROTC and then will head to the University of North Georgia for the National Leadership Challenge.

AHSAA Region Athlete of the Week presented by **Larry Puckett Chevrolet**
Jesse Rogers - **Gulf Shores High School**
Rogers had a great all around game in Gulf Shores recent win over Gardendale 9-0. He pitched 6 shutout innings to get the win on the mound... and finished 2 for 2 at the plate with a double and scored 2 runs.

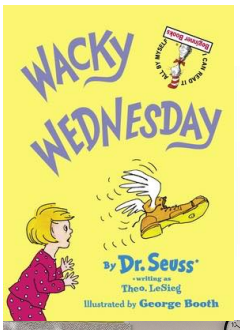


Register TODAY!
https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSees.../viewform...

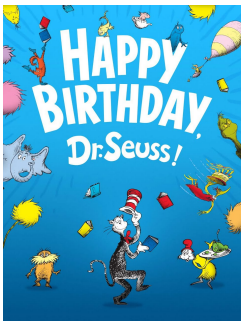


GULF CAMP is back: Registration is now open!
We are offering FIVE week-long sessions Monday-Friday 8am-12pm
Activities include biking, kayaking, crafts, nature exploration, beach days, and our Lookout Adventure Course
You can register for a week-long session or get a day pass! Use code EARLYBIRD by April 1st for $30 off your week-long registration.
For all the details and to register visit **www.gulfcenter.org/summer**





Read Across America SPIRIT WEEK





































GSES wants to send a huge thank you to Robert's AC for taking the time to come read to our Pre-K students on Read Across America Day! Your visit made the day extra special for our little learners.
Seeing community members share their love of reading helps inspire a lifelong love of books in our students. Thank you for investing your time, supporting early literacy, and being such a positive presence in our classroom. We truly appreciate your partnership and support!











Happy Friday from the Walking School Bus Crew! Thank you Gulf Shores Police Department and the K-9 unit for joining us today! We enjoyed learning about K-9 officers and their training!





A huge congratulations to these three GSMS art students for earning 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the Ballyhoo Art Contest! So proud of their creativity and hard work.



Congratulations to the Gulf Shores Middle School Sound Waves Choir for receiving overall Superior Ratings in Performance and Sightreading at State Choral Performance Assessment! Way to go Dolphins!



Check out our newest Open Water certified divers from Gulf Shores High School!
These students put in the time, focus, and determination to master essential dive skills and earn their certification—an accomplishment that opens the door to a lifetime of exploration and stewardship of our marine environments.
A special thank you to Lila Harris of Down Under Dive Shop for her expertise, guidance, and commitment to training the next generation of divers. We're grateful for your partnership and the opportunities you provide our students.
We're proud of this group and excited to see where their diving journeys take them next.




8TH GRADE
GLOW
Dance
FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH, 6 - 9PM
ERIE MYER CIVIC CENTER
SUNDAY BEST DRESS
TICKETS $20
TICKETS SOLD DURING LUNCH
PAYMENT: CASH OR VENMO @GSMSPTO
*PLEASE NOTE STUDENT NAME


GULF SHORES CITY SCHOOLS
Presents
CAREERS ON WHEELS
3rd-7th Grades Career Exploration Event
Friday, May 1st 9:30am - 1:00pm
Businesses & Organizations Needed!
This inaugural event will be a great opportunity for our younger students to explore a variety of careers and interact with our wonderful community partners.
If you are willing to participate and donate your time, please scan the QR code and fill out the registration form. Contact our Career Coach, Tyler Morgan, with any questions at tmorgan@gsboe.org


SOUTH BALDWIN LITERACY COUNCIL
SBLC
SINCE 1983
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF LITERACY
Summer STEAM
Wonder Workshop
BUILD INVENT DISCOVER
CURRICULUM BY LEGO education
Weekly and Daily Sessions Throughout June and July
9:00am-12:00pm
3:00pm-5:00pm
Offered
K-5th Grade
K-2nd & 3rd-5th Grade Groups
$100 Registration
Kids learn to design, test, and "fail forward" to find solutions.
Hands-on play develops critical thinking, teamwork, and creative confidence.
Research shows that "tactile learning" significantly boosts literacy outcomes.
SBLC
21441 Highway 98
Foley, AL 36535
Scan Code to Learn More and Sign Up
For Financial Assistance/Questions
Email Kristin@southbaldwinliteracycouncil.com


Beach BRAIN
University of South Alabama
Gulf Shores City Schools
Explore Teaching This Summer
Get paid, gain experience, and spend part of your summer learning at the beach!
High School Students
Curious about becoming a teacher
Enjoy working with younger students
Show responsibility, positivity and energy
Want real hands-on classroom experience
What You'll Do
Help teachers lead fun math and science activities
Work directly with elementary students during hands-on learning and outdoor exploration
Support small groups, set up materials and assist with daily camp activities
Build real experience in teaching, leadership and communication skills
Opportunity Highlights
Earn $100 per day while exploring a teaching career
Build leadership and communication skills
Work with elementary students in a fun, supportive environment
Inspire local students
Work Schedule
Time: 8:30 am - 4 pm each day
Training/Prep Days: June 2–4
Camp Session #1: June 8–12
Training/Prep Days: June 16–17
Camp Session #2: June 22–26
Location
Gulf Shores Elementary
1600 E 3rd Street
Gulf Shores
$100 per day
$1,500 15 total workdays
Scan & Apply By
Monday, April 20, 2026
Questions? Contact beachbrain@southalabama.edu
USA UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
Learn. Lead. Inspire.

GULF SHORES
CITY SCHOOLS

Spring Walk to School Day

Gulf Shores Elementary, Middle, & High Schools

April 22, 2026

Meet at Meyer Park at 7:10 AM

Walk at 7:15 AM

Join the movement of **Walk to School Day** that inspires the entire community to come together and promote health and safer routes for students to walk to school. This is a fun event to build connections between families, schools, and community leaders as students walk to Gulf Shores City Schools.

All students & their teen/adult chaperones will meet school leaders at Meyer Park at 7:10. Students along with their chaperones will then walk along the designated route to the elementary school, middle school, or high school.

Special visitors tat GSHS!
HOSA students had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Morgan Yordy from Auburn University College of Nursing and Sully from AU PAWS on the Plains. We loved hearing about the important role therapy animals play in supporting health, healing, and student wellbeing.
Highlight of the day: Sully may have stolen the show with a few extra tail wags and plenty of student smiles!
Sully even had a brief introduction to Phin @phingscs
Experiences like this help our students see the many ways compassion and healthcare go hand in hand. Thank you for visiting and inspiring the next generation of healthcare professionals!










The K-Kids at GSES would like to thank our local Boy Scout Troop #49 for refurbishing the blessing box. We are so thankful and blessed to have these boys and their parents in our community!





GSHS is excited to announce that Ty Pitman has been awarded a $1,000 scholarship from the Wisconsin Snowbird Club to support his education at Middle Tennessee State University.
The club shared, “This young man has a promising future and we are pleased to be able to help him move forward.” We are incredibly grateful for the generosity and continued support of the Wisconsin Snowbird Club. Their commitment to investing in our students truly makes a difference, and we appreciate all they do for our school community. Congratulations, Ty! We are proud of you and can’t wait to see all you accomplish at MTSU!





Indoor State Champions
Matthew Howe, Coach Jason Hill, and Carter Davis





Congratulations Gulf Shores Choir!

16 GSMS and GSHS Choir Students competed in 18 events at The Alabama Vocal Association's Solo and Ensemble Festival and Competition in Daphne and did a superb job! We received 14 Superiors (Highest Rating!) and 4 Excellents (Second Highest!!).

Superior: Group Ensemble (All 16 Students!)
Superior Solos: 6th-Gia Diaz, Maggie Kennedy; 7th-Stella Jones, Maxim Vasilchev; 8th-Lewis Kakish, Hayes Wheat
Excellent Solos: 7th-Sean Price; 8th-Maddy Inzer
Excellent Duet: Stella Jones & Maddy Inzer

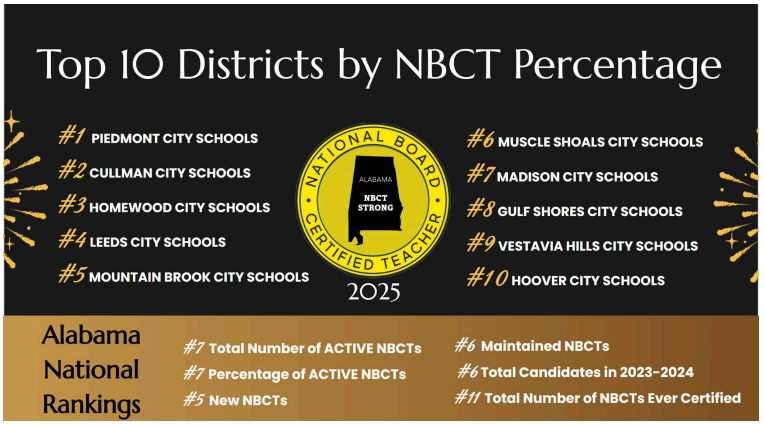


Congratulations to robotics team members from GSMS for their showing at the regional tech fair! All students placed! The following advance to state championships: Odin Houseman, Declan Nelson, Arianna Whyte, Holton Landsgaard, Kasten Fosnaugh, Addison Witt.

Gulf Shores Middle School is proud to celebrate the success of our recent Clothing Drive, hosted by Student Council and National Junior Honor Society. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, we collected a total of 447 items to support those in need.
Congratulations to our top houses:
1st Place: Nukumori – 164 items
2nd Place: Sollevare – 119 items
3rd Place: Amistad – 60 items
Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make this initiative such a success.



Excited to celebrate the Top 10 districts in Alabama for the percentage of National Board Certified Teachers, as well as our national rankings .
Behind every number is a teacher who committed to an incredibly rigorous process to refine their craft and better serve their students. That dedication matters — and it strengthens schools across our state.
Thank you to all who support accomplished teaching and the educators who continue to lead the way. Every student deserves an accomplished teacher.



Gulf Shores Elementary Science by the Shore teachers spent their afternoon learning from Gulf State Park Naturalist Hannah about the vital role of our sand dunes, the unique local flora and fauna, and the park's ongoing conservation efforts. They also explored ways to connect state science standards with these rich, real-world coastal concepts. To deepen their understanding, teachers ventured onto the pier and along the shoreline, experiencing firsthand the natural features that make our coastal ecosystem so valuable.





CABBAGE
GSHS Suitability Academy pulled cabbage and made Asian Cabbage StirFry. They LOVE eating their veggies straight from our gardens!







All-State Choir Festival @ Samford University…an exhilarating vocal music experience for our 12 Middle and High School Choir Students who made it in to these prestigious choirs! Day 1 was an early morning, a long journey, but just incredible! Getting to sing with talented peers from across the state is something they won't soon forget! Thank you, Gulf Shores City Schools, for your support of Arts Education!



What an interesting program we enjoyed! It's great to receive updates on progress at our schools but this one was over the top. The Gulf Shores High School Robotics Team demonstrated equipment and programming skills with live robots! Instructor Jamie McClung has infectious enthusiasm and is quite driven to see these students reach their full potential.
Kiwanis is proud to the premier service organization whose mission is service to children of all ages. What an exciting future our students have an opportunity to pursue.






Link for more info!
https://gulfshorescityschools-my.sharepoint.com/personal/jsampley_gsboe_org/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fjsampley%5Fgsboe%5Forg%2FDocuments%2FGSHS%20Ambassador%20Application%202026%2D2027%2Epdf&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fjsampley%5Fgsboe%5Forg%2FDocuments&ga=1



Thank you to Crave Cookies for the sweet treats celebrating our Gulf Shores City Schools National Board Certified Teachers during Alabama NBCT Week!

National Board Certification is one of the highest certifications a teacher can earn and reflects a strong commitment to professional growth and student learning.
We are grateful for the dedication our NBCTs show every day and the positive impact they make in the lives of their students. Thank you for helping us celebrate these outstanding educators!








Interested in Joining the Swim Team?
Gulf Shores students in 6th–8th grade who are interested in joining the GSHS Swim Team for the 2026 season have the opportunity to participate during 7th period PE. Practices are held at the Rec Center and students will be bused and finished by 3:30–3:45 PM.
Swimmers should have previous swim experience and be able to swim all four strokes.
For more information, contact Head Coach Brook Hopkins at bhopkins@gsboe.org



Congratulations to the Gulf Shores Middle School Sound Waves Choir for receiving overall Superior Ratings in Performance and Sightreading at State Choral Performance Assessment! Way to go Dolphins!

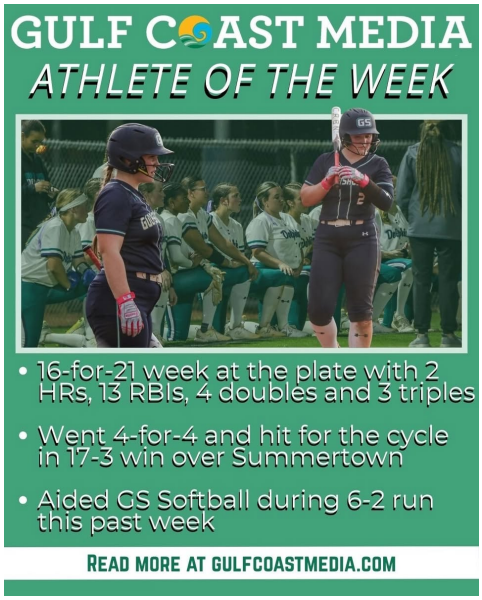




Baldwin County Buzz: Who's Heating Up?

Kayleigh Jacks is put together one of the most dominant weeks at the plate in Baldwin County this season. The Gulf Shores standout went 16-for-21 with two home runs, 13 RBIs, four doubles and three triples, highlighted by a perfect 4-for-4 performance where she hit for the cycle in a 17-3 win.
Jacks has been a major spark for the Dolphins during a busy stretch of Gulf Coast Classic play, and her recent power surge has added a dangerous element to the bottom of the lineup. With all four of her home runs coming in the last couple weeks, Jacks is heating up at the right time.
Click the link in the comments to read more about her standout week for the Dolphins!
Know anyone making noise in Baldwin County sports? Submit athlete names or teams to sports@gulfcoastmedia.com or connect with us on social media!

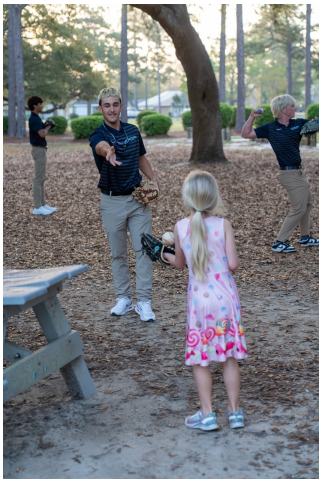
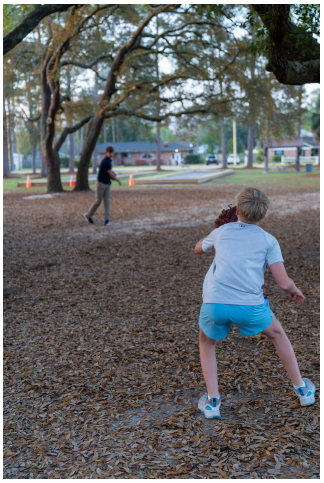




Thank you so much to Gulf Shores First Presbyterian Church for their Easter surprises for the GSCS students walking home on the walking path! Thank you also for your generosity in sharing your parking lot with us.



Did you know that **Gulf Shores City Schools** provides a Walking School Bus?
GSCS Walking School Bus offers parents an alternative to carline drop-off that not only helps them avoid the stress of traffic but also allows them to get to work on time or even early. Additionally, it provides an excellent opportunity for students to get built-in exercise and play, which can improve focus, with fun activities featuring prizes and recognitions!
What makes it especially fun is FUN FRIDAYS, and today was an extra special day because **Gulf Shores High School Baseball** players joined the Walking School Bus. Some of our City of Gulf Shores Youth Athletes, along with other Gulf Shores City School students, had the chance to play catch and interact with the high school baseball players.
It requires only a small effort for all of us to have a positive impact on our youth, each other, and our community. Thank you to GSCS and the GSHS Baseball team for your impact! We truly appreciate you!
To learn more about the Walking School Bus or to register, visit **https://shorturl.at/U9bfU**
For more information about our Gulf Shores Youth Athletic Programs, visit us online at **www.gulfshoresal.gov/athletics**.








We've got another event planned and we are SO excited to share it with you!! The **Dolphin Foundation for Education & Arts** is bringing back the DRAWDOWN!! Please message myself or any other board member for tickets or questions!
Adding a little something extra
The teacher and student who sell the most tickets will EACH win a $500 prize!!
There will only be 300 tickets available and the winner of the drawdown will get $5000!!
This is a fun, laid back event, and we can't wait to see you there!



Seeking School Board Members: Help Shape the Future of Our Schools!

The City of Gulf Shores is now accepting applications for the Gulf Shores City Board of Education. We are looking for a dedicated community member to serve a five-year term beginning June 1, 2026.
If you are passionate about education and want to make a lasting impact on our students and city, we want to hear from you!

Qualifications:
To be eligible for consideration, applicants must:
• Be a current resident of Gulf Shores.
• Be a person of good moral character.
• Hold a high school diploma or equivalent.
• Not be employed by the GS City Board of Education.
• Not serve on the governing board of a private elementary/ secondary school.
• Not be on any Sex Offender Registry.
• Have no felony convictions.

How to Apply:
• Download Online: **www.gulfshoresal.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/1194**
• Pick Up In-Person: Pick up an application at the City of Gulf Shores Executive Office (203 Clubhouse Drive, Suite B).

Deadline:
All applications must be submitted by Friday, April 10, at 5 p.m.
You can return them in perSon to the Executive Office or via email to bphelps@gulfshoresal.gov.



We are so proud to share the incredible accomplishments of our students at the Global Amazing Shake competition at the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta!
Representing GSMS, Benji De Melo, Katelyn Hamilton, and Savannah Hancock competed alongside 519 students from around the world, demonstrating professionalism, confidence, and character in every round.
Among their achievements at the competition:

Katelyn and Savannah advanced to the Top 50
Katelyn was also recognized in the Top 25 for both the Gauntlet and Work the Room rounds
Katelyn advanced to the Top 30
Savannah received a Crew Spirit Award.

Their accomplishments are a testament to their hard work, preparation, and dedication. From our school competition to the global stage at RCA, they represented Gulf Shores Middle School with excellence and integrity.
We are incredibly proud of these students for stepping outside their comfort zones, rising to the challenge, and showcasing what it means to lead with confidence and character.
Please join us in congratulating Benji, Katelyn, and Savannah on an outstanding experience at the 2026 Global Amazing Shake!














Please Join Us!
GULF SHORES CITY SCHOOLS
EARTH DAY 2026
April 24th
8am-2:30pm
Gulf Shores Middle School
Practice Field
If you are a business or organization intreased in hosting or having a booth please email snelson@gsboe.org

A big thank you to Tyler Morgan, Gulf Shores City Schools Career Coach, for organizing a wonderful College and Career Fair for our students. Our 8th graders truly enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to learn about different college and career pathways.
We appreciate the time and effort that went into making this event such a meaningful experience for our students!





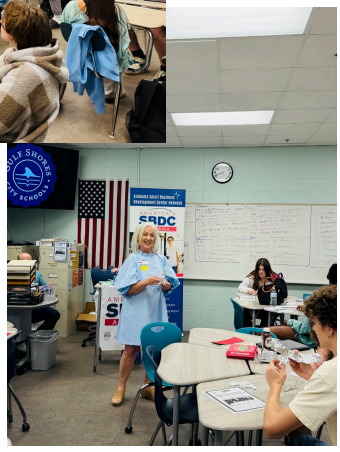






Two wonderful guest speakers recently visited our students!
Dr. Josh Duplantis, Dean of Workforce Development at Coastal Alabama Community College, spoke to 22 seniors about the FAME Built By Baldwin program, an apprenticeship between the college and 11 local advanced manufacturing companies. Accepted students will earn a living wage while receiving a paid associate's degree. The deadline for the FAME application is March 15th and here is the link for any seniors interested in applying. Please reach out to our Career Coach, Tyler Morgan, for assistance if needed. **https://fame-usa.com/fame.../alabama-fame/built-by-baldwin/**
Mrs. Yolanda "Yo'" Johnson, Business Advisor and former Director for the Small Business Development Center, immersed herself in two of Mr. Norton's Business Marketing classes where she taught the students the importance of economic growth and development through entrepreneurship and small businesses. Yo is an amazing asset to our community and region, helping to manage and assist hundreds of people who are looking to start or already own a business.





Ms. Loveless' class visited the Christian Service Center. GSES 4th graders are participating in a service project this year with this caring organization.







The Advanced and Intermediate Bands traveled to Baker HS to participate in the District VII Music Performance Assessment. All students performed wonderfully!
The Advanced Band received all Superior Ratings including "perfect" scores from all four judges. This is an incredible accomplishment as these are the highest scores achievable!
The Intermediate Band received an Overall Excellent Rating with a Superior rating in Sightreading! These students have come a long way from the beginning of the year and this is very impressive for a young group participating in their first MPA!
Congratulations to all of our students on all of their hard work and wonderful performances! Go Band!









JagDay at the University of South Alabama was a HUGE success!
Our GSHS students had an incredible time exploring campus, learning about academic programs, meeting faculty and staff, and getting a real feel for life as a Jaguar.
We're so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic they were and we're excited to see what their futures hold.





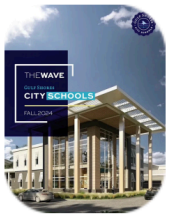
4/2 BOE: Work Session 4:00pm
4/3 GSCS: e-Learning Day (Students do not attend school)
4/8 GSES: Spring Pictures
4/8-13 GSHS: Disney Trip (Band, Choir, Theatre)
4/9 BOE: School Board Regular Meeting 5:00pm
4/10 GSCS: Q4 Progress Reports
4/13-17 GSCS: Spring Break (No School)
4/23 GSHS: Senior Awards
4/24 GSCS: Earth Day (GSMS Practice Field)
4/24 GSMS: Spring Fling Dance Grades 6th & 7th (5:00-7:00)
4/24 GSMS: 8th Grade Low Dance (Erie Myer Civic Center 6:00-9:00)
4/28 GSMS: 6th Grade MTSS Academics
4/28 GSHS: Junior Class Awards
4/29 GSMS: 7th Grade MTSS Academics
4/29 GSCS: 2026 Island Special Olympics
4/30 GSMS: 8th Grade MTSS Academics
4/30 GSHS: ACT 30+ Breakfast
4/30 GSHS: Freshman Class Awards

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

MAKE WAVES!

Matt Akin - Superintendent
Stephanie Harrison - Assistant Superintendent
Sandi Harris - Office Manager
Chad Green - CSFO
Marcelinia Speller - Human Resource Coordinator
Chelsey Neth - Data Management & Reporting Analyst
Jason Watts - Athletic Director
Beau Roode - Director of Operations
Sonya Price - Director of Exceptional Education
Liz Corcoran & Tracy Bennett - English Language Learners
Tanya Hill - Child Nutrition Program Coordinator
Randall Carlisle - Student Engagement, Transportation & Safety Coordinator
Jessica Sampley - Career Tech Coordinator
Karen Pearson - District Testing Coordinator
Laura Goulden - Mental Health Coordinator

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

Joe McAleer - Social Media