ISSUE 9 SEPTEMBER 2026

The MakeWaves Monthly

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



Superintendents' Message

The 2026–2027 school year is off to an exciting start, and our campuses have been filled with energy, learning, connection, and plenty of opportunities to MakeWaves! It has been wonderful to see our students embracing new experiences and our staff creating meaningful opportunities for students to learn, grow, and shine.

In this September issue of **The MakeWaves Monthly**, we're celebrating the accomplishments of our students and staff while sharing ways for families to stay connected and involved throughout the school year. From athletics and performing arts to special programs and community traditions, there are so many ways to be part of the Dolphin experience both on and off our campuses. Be sure to check the final page for October calendar highlights and a reminder to download the GSCS Mobile App so you can stay connected wherever you are. Mark your calendars for Fall Sports, Tuesday Tours at GSES, the Sound Waves Choir Fall Concert featuring GSMS & GSHS, Red Ribbon Week, the end of Quarter 1, early dismissal, Shrimp Festival activities, and e-Learning Day.We also invite our families and community members to join us for Gulf Shores City Schools Board of Education meetings, held at The Wave Center for Learning, 1717 East 3rd Street, Gulf Shores, AL 36542. Meetings are held on the first and second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., respectively. Thank you for being an important part of our Dolphin family. Together, we're **Making Waves and Making a Difference!**

Dr. Matt Akin, Superintendent

Dr. Stephanie Harrison, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction & Innovation

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL

VIRTUAL ACADEMY



Health & Wellness



Athletics



Arts Education



Teaching & Learning

Meet Our Student WaveMakers of the Month



Elementary School
Hazel Hess 3rd Grade
Area of Recognition: Acts of Kindness
I'm a WaveMaker because...

Hazel Hess, a third-grade student at Gulf Shores Elementary School, is a wonderful example of a WaveMaker. Recently, a family visiting from North Alabama reached out through a local community page hoping to reconnect with Hazel after their eight-year-old son met her while visiting Gulf Shores. His mother shared how much Hazel's kindness meant to him and hoped the children could remain friends. Hazel's kindness was not prompted by recognition or an adult watching; she simply chose to include another child and make him feel welcome. Hazel consistently demonstrates kindness, respect, positivity, maturity, and compassion. She truly makes waves wherever she goes!
~Nominated by Pam Parker, Instructional Coach!



Middle School
Carter Sexton 8th Grade
Area of Recognition: Demonstrates Responsibility and Trustworthiness
I'm a WaveMaker because...

Carter exemplifies leadership, maturity, and responsibility every single day. On his own initiative, he stepped up to manage our afternoon loaner iPad system, ensuring devices are checked in, returned, and charging before the end of the day. His exceptional trustworthiness, positive attitude, and willingness to help make him a respected role model among both his peers and faculty.
~Nominated by Laurie Berry, Media Specialist~



High School
Evie Waugh
11th Grade
I'm a WaveMaker because...

A particular day this week before second block, an obviously distressed freshman boy approached me asking about a room. I told him where I thought it was but offered to make certain. Before I knew it, Evie came out of our classroom and calmly said, "I'll take him." She led him down the hall and delivered him to his destination. Later, she explained that she recognized him from middle school, when she was in eighth grade and he was in sixth. She simply said, "*He just needed help*," as if helping him were second nature. That kindness is exactly what it means to be a WaveMaker.
~Nominated by Tim Smith, ELA Teacher~

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

Meet Our Staff WaveMakers of the Month



Elementary School
Jessica Driggers
Student Support Services Specialist
I'm a WaveMaker because…

From her very first day, she has demonstrated what it means to go above and beyond. As a new paraprofessional, she arrived eager to learn, excited to prepare her space, and ready to meet and support her students. She consistently steps up when a need arises, even when it falls outside her typical responsibilities, and willingly seeks additional training to better serve students. She approaches new challenges with a positive attitude, follows guidance with care, and is always looking for opportunities to learn and grow. Her flexibility, initiative, and genuine dedication to students make her an incredible asset to our school.
~Nominated by ES Administrators~



Middle School
John Overton
Basketball Coach and Social Studies Teacher
I'm a WaveMaker because…

Coach Overton is in his 2nd year at GSMS and teaches in our Social Studies Department He also coaches boys' basketball!! He is always at work, has a smile on his face and teaches with his hair on fire every day!! He is a true Dolphin and makes our school a better place! His infectious attitude and personality are what our school culture is all about!!
~Nominated by Jamie Hill~



High School
Kelly Quinley
Registrar
I'm a WaveMaker because…

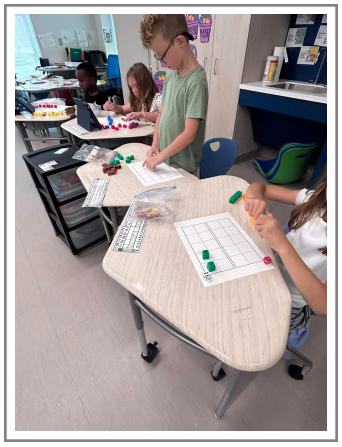
I am honored to nominate Mrs. Kelly Quinley as our Gulf Shores High School WaveMaker of the Month for September. Mrs. Quinley has been instrumental in the transition to our new high school facility. While enrolling large numbers of new students over the summer, she has taken the time to personally take each student and his/her family on a walking tour of the new facility. Mrs. Quinley's professionalism and customer service approach have helped create a great first impression, set the stage for a successful transition, and reinforce the culture and climate of Gulf Shores High School for our new students and families. She is truly a WaveMaker!
~Nominated by Dr. Tim Webb~

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

Elementary School

Mrs. Edenfield's class is using dice and cubes to practice adding two numbers and then subtract the smaller number.





Middle School

Our 6th graders are putting their coding and computational thinking skills to work by building a TACObot – Testing and Coding Object!
Students are following plans from Carnegie Mellon University's Coding & Computational Thinking with LEGO® SPIKE™ Prime course as they build, test, code, troubleshoot, and make improvements to their robots.





High School

AP European History classes are diving deep into the Reformation. Students constructed responses to SAQs & competed against their classmates to see who could create the best response.





Virtual Academy

Session 1: What it Takes to Become an Author
Thank you, Susan Caver, for inspiring us!

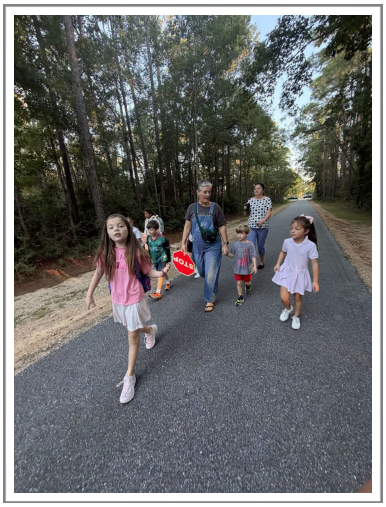






Health & Wellness

I spy with my little eye… some sharp minds on the move! Our Walking School Bus kids struck up a game of I Spy to entertain their eyes and minds while walking to school this morning!
Who says learning only happens in the classroom? There are all kinds of fun ways to keep our observation skills sharp, our minds engaged, and our bodies moving.



Athletics

Where Greatness is Earned!



Athletes' success comes from the work they put in behind the scenes!



Arts Education

Our GSMS Art students are putting their own creative spin on some familiar fair animals! These "Fair Animals with Attitude" are full of personality, creativity, and plenty of character.





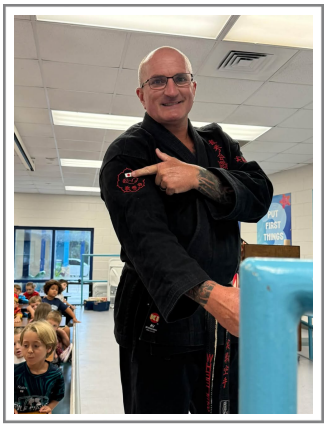






Teaching & Learning

A Huge Thank You to Sensei Chris Wheeles for coming to teach our First Graders all about Japan!!! He taught them to count to ten in Japanese, showed them martial art weapons, and shared interesting facts about Japan!!!





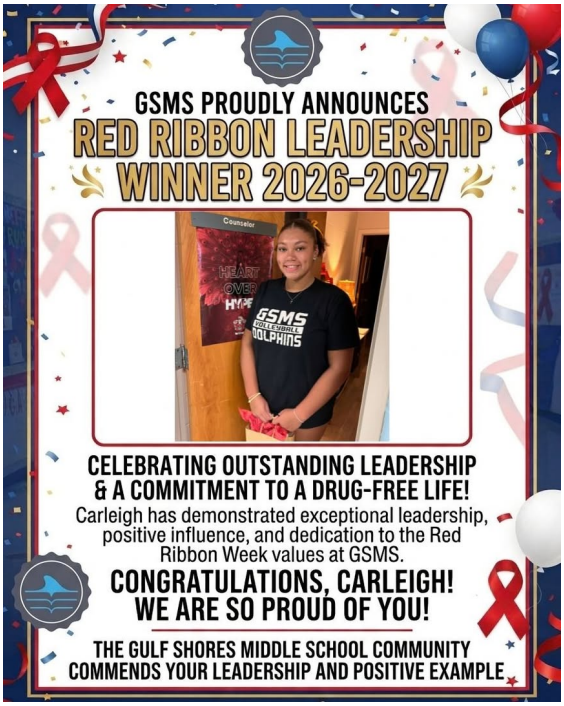
It's Game day and Mrs. Payne's boys are showing their support for the Dolphins!



Thank you for your generosity Cactus Cantina, DeSoto's and Island Tan!



Congratulations to Carleigh Robinson, our 2026–2027 GSMS Red Ribbon Leadership Winner!
Carleigh has demonstrated outstanding leadership, a positive influence on others, and a commitment to making healthy, drug-free choices. We are proud to have Carleigh Robinson represent Gulf Shores Middle School and the values of Red Ribbon Week.



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

From communication to palpation, we're learning what it takes to move with purpose!
Our Health Science & Sports Medicine students are getting hands-on with the fundamentals of patient care—practicing effective communication, identifying shoulder bony & soft tissue landmarks, assessing shoulder ROM, and mastering goniometry
Because great sports medicine professionals don't just know the anatomy—they know how to listen, assess, communicate, and connect the dots.
Learn it. Feel it. Measure it. Move it







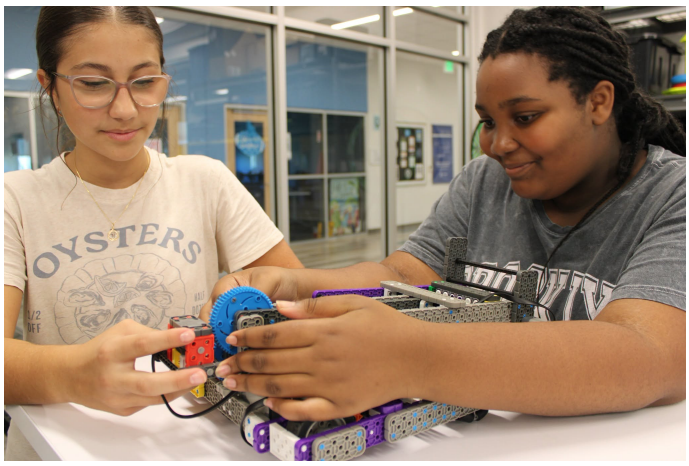






HyperWave Robotics is back at it in our brand-new space, The Innovation and Design Studio! Students grades 6-12 practice Tuesday-Thursday until 5:30 to prepare for upcoming competitions. It's the beginning of something big, where discovery leads to innovation which leads to FUN! It's a beautiful mess, and we LOVE it!

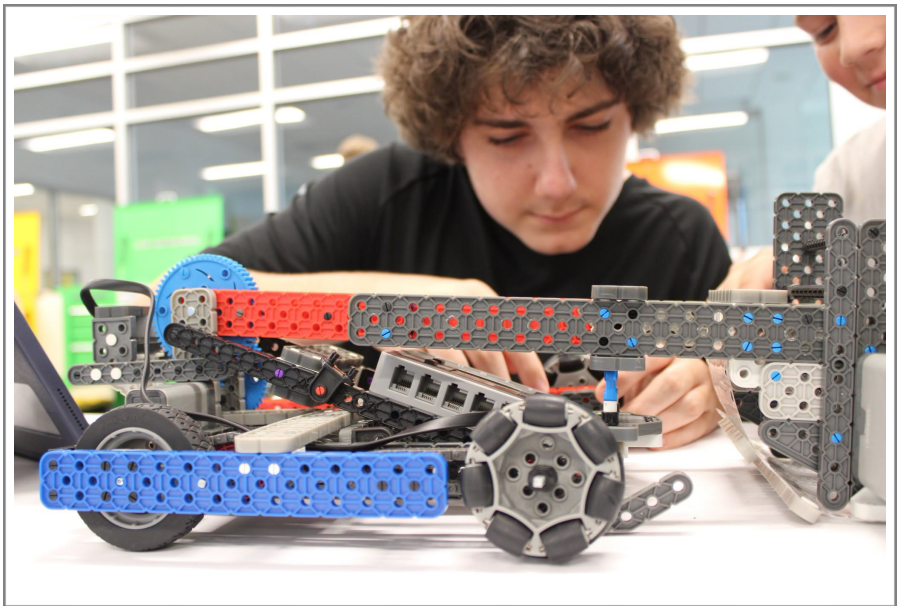












Mrs. Helms, first grade class at GSES, loves getting to explore with her world travelers! It was a great day learning about Asian culture, traditions and more! We added 4 countries to our Passports!









Our Walking School Bus students were excited to welcome our first special guests of the year! Students learned about the Bay Buddies program and how they can help protect and care for our coastal environment.
With this weekend's Coastal Cleanup just ahead, it was the perfect opportunity to talk about stewardship and the important role each of us plays in keeping our beaches and waterways clean.
A big THANK YOU to the Alabama Coastal Foundation and Share the Beach for inspiring our students to be good stewards of the place we call home!



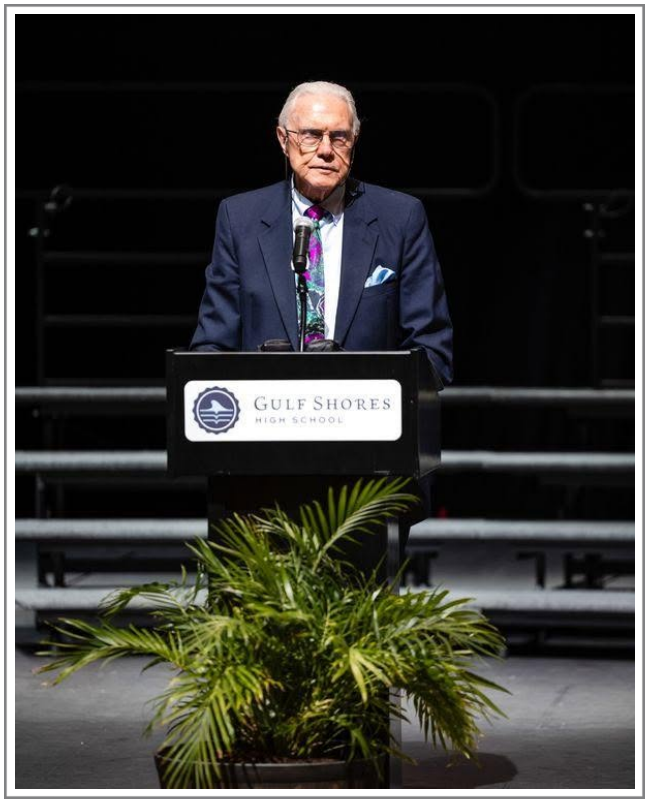




Celebrating a New Chapter for Gulf Shores Students
Dr. E. Gaylon McCollough joined community leaders at the ribbon-cutting for the new, state-of-the-art Gulf Shores High School – a 287,000-square-foot, $150 million campus built to serve the next generation of Dolphins.
Dr. McCollough and his wife, Susan, were proud to support three spaces within the new school:

Susan Nomberg McCollough Fine Arts Center
Susan and Gaylon McCollough Performing Arts & Sports Concourse
Dr. E. Gaylon McCollough Health Professions Center – a dedicated learning space equipping students with hands-on training for careers in healthcare

As a long-standing member of this community, Dr. McCollough believes investing in the next generation is one of the most meaningful ways to give back. Congratulations to Gulf Shores City Schools on this incredible milestone!









We're so proud of our Gulf Shores City Schools teachers who are presenting at the University of Mobile today after earning the title of STEM Catalysts through Modiv EDU! Way to represent GSCD and continue bringing meaningful STEM experiences to our students.



GSHS's Varsity Scholars' Bowl team competed in the University of Mobile's "Brain Battle" Tournament where they competed against top teams from across Mobile & Baldwin counties. Our team came in 2nd in total points & are bringing home the runner up trophy.
Congrats to Isis Eberly, Ana Vo, Graham Archer, Amelie Walker, Hampton Howard & Corbin Holdsworth on an amazing performance!







Gulf Shores Virtual students had a great day at Coastal Cleanup!









STOP THE BLEED: LIFESAVING SKILLS IN ACTION!

An incredible day of hands-on learning in Mrs. Murphy's Health Science classes! We welcomed Dr. Carman Godfrey and Mrs. Delanie Quinnelly, RN, from Coastal Alabama Community College Simulation, who visited to certify students in Stop the Bleed!

Our students learned that in an emergency, YOU can be the help until professional help arrives. They practiced the ABCs of Bleeding Control:

A – Alert 911: Call 911! In Alabama, you can also text 911 if you are unable to make a phone call.

B – Bleeding: Recognize life-threatening bleeding and know what to look for.

C – Compress: Apply direct pressure, pack a wound when appropriate, hold pressure for 5 minutes, and apply a Tourniquet when needed.

Students were also introduced to the What3Words app, a powerful tool that can help emergency responders locate you by providing a precise location when every second counts.

These are lifesaving skills that our students can carry with them for the rest of their lives.

A HUGE thank-you for sharing your expertise, time, and passion with our students! We are so grateful for this partnership with Coastal Alabama Community College Simulation and the opportunity to give our students real-world skills that truly matter.

Be prepared. Be confident. Be the help.

















Our Tuesday Talk gathered parents, caregivers, and staff for a practical, encouraging conversation on supporting students through anxiety. Our Mental Health Services Coordinator along with our guest speaker Leslie Herhold, LICSW as well as our school based mental health therapist, Kera Chambliss, MSW, shared simple tools families can use right away, from daily routines to creative grounding strategies. Participants exchanged ideas and reminded us how wellness grows through shared learning. Join us for the next Tuesday Talk at the Wave Center for Learning on October 13.









Congrats Elijah Malone for being named Bryant Bank and Ben's 10 Player of the Week this past week with the Dolphins 34-24 win over Saraland!





Any Boy or Girl grades 6th-12th interested in joining the Gulf Shores Wrestling team, please scan the QR code or click the link to sign up.
https://docs.google.com/.../10.../edit...
There is a mandatory parent meeting Monday, September 21st at 6pm in the large athletics meeting room at the New Gulf Shores High School. Questions, please contact Coach Shaw, bshaw@gsboe.org.



Mrs. Goss' class at GSES loves playing silent ball for brain breaks! Joe was showing off all his skills today!



Congratulations to our newest Teacher at Sea! TAS '26 Krista Fleming, a high school science teacher from Gulf Shores, Alabama, set sail over the weekend from Pascagoula, Mississippi, aboard **NOAA Ship Oregon II**. She's joining NOAA scientists for the next leg of the shark/snapper bottom longline survey in the western Gulf.

"As a teacher, I have the unique opportunity to take what I learn from this research expedition and bring it directly back to my students," Krista writes in her introductory blog post. "I want them to hear about the long days, the data collection, the unexpected discoveries, the questions scientists still don't have answers to, and the teamwork required to conduct research at sea...

"I often tell my students that Gulf Shores is our classroom. For this trip, I get to take that classroom a little farther offshore—where the Gulf itself becomes our floating laboratory. Instead of learning about the ocean from the shore, we'll be immersed in it, observing, exploring, and learning firsthand from the waters that are right outside our classroom door."



Follow along on Krista's adventure here: **https://noaateacheratsea.blog/author/kristafleming84/**

Photos: (1) TAS '26 Krista Fleming on the dock in Pascagoula with NOAA Ship Oregon II; (2) Krista on deck.



Learning History in a BIG way! Our 6th graders at GSMS created life-size figures from the Renaissance and Age of Exploration while exploring the people, ideas, discoveries, and creativity that shaped these important periods in history!







A big THANK YOU to Mrs. McClung for spending time with our GSMS students in the library and teaching us about the importance of breathing, relaxation, and paying attention to our bodies.
Our students had a wonderful time practicing stretches and breathing exercises while learning healthy ways to manage stress and feel more relaxed. We also talked about the importance of getting enough sleep, taking time to relax, and listening to what our bodies need.



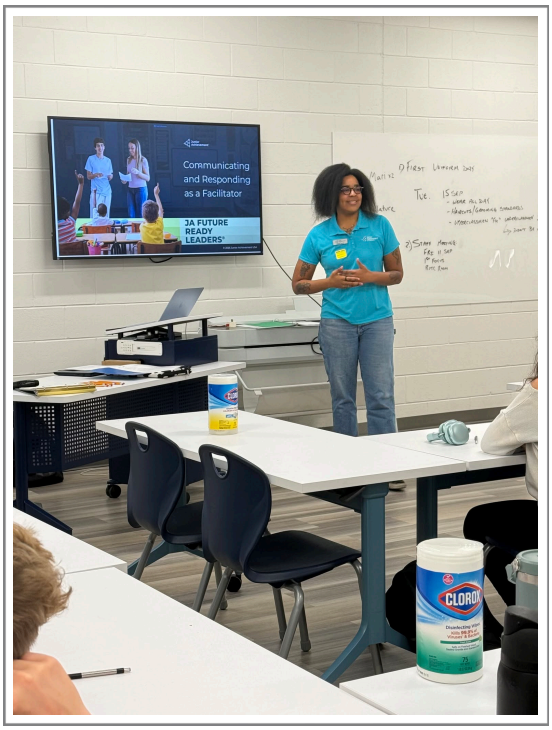


We wanted to give Mikato's Restaurant a HUGE Thank You for preparing Chicken Fried Rice for all of our First Graders at GSES!!! It was sooo Delicious- Thank You sooo much Mikato's!!!



GSHS NJROTC - Building Character, Communication, and Tomorrow's Leaders!
Today at Gulf Shores High School, our Cadets took part in a train-the-trainer session led by Ms. Jazmin Norris from Junior Achievement of Alabama as we launched JA Future Ready Leaders®!
Through this first-of-its-kind initiative at Gulf Shores City Schools, our Cadets are learning that leadership isn't just a title—it's about character, clear communication, and thoughtful decision-making in real-world scenarios.
After mastering these skills, our Cadets will be prepared to step into elementary classrooms to facilitate Junior Achievement lessons for Gulf Shores Elementary students, with plans to expand and train young students at other local schools across our community.
This exciting partnership reflects our commitment to bringing top-tier state and national resources directly to GSHS NJROTC – delivering hands-on instruction, work readiness, and authentic leadership training right here in our new state of the art facility.
We are so proud of these Cadets for stepping up to lead with confidence and inspire the next generation!









Our first Junior City Council meeting of the year was the place to be!
Students got a hands-on introduction to how City Council meetings work and learned about each of our Council members. We wrapped things up with a fun round of trivia to test out their new knowledge.
These outstanding students will be officially sworn in and announced at the City Council meeting this upcoming Monday, September 14.
Following the meeting, they'll join our Council members for a meet and greet. Exciting start to a great year ahead!





















We're excited to introduce the newly sworn-in members of the Gulf Shores Junior City Council!

After being officially sworn in at Monday's City Council meeting, the students enjoyed a meet-and-greet with Mayor Craft, Council members, and a number of our City department heads. It was a wonderful opportunity for these bright young leaders to connect directly with the people shaping our community.
A huge thank you to FOAM Coffee for hosting us and providing space for everyone to come together!



Meet the 2026 - 2027 Junior City Council:



Ellyauna Adams
Graham Archer
Antonella Castro
Addison Cosci
Eli Gilbert
Liliana Grandy
Jud Harris
Giuliana Kammers
Evelyn Lamar
Jameson Leaman-Ferguson
Autumn Milliken
Georgia Phillips
Sydney Prantl
Hudson Riggs
Emily Tellez Romero
Abigail Rowland
Clayton Smith
Haven Spruiell
Rivers Watley



We're proud of each of these students and can't wait to see the impact they'll make this year!





What a great day of college and career exploration for our Gulf Shores High School students!
50 of our juniors and seniors hit the road for a full day of exploring postsecondary opportunities. We started at Southern Union State Community College, where students learned about the many programs available and the Path to the Plains program, which provides students with a pathway to begin at Southern Union and transition to Auburn University. From there, we headed to Auburn University for an inside look at several different academic and career pathways. Students had the opportunity to explore Engineering, Forestry & Wildlife Sciences, and the Auburn Medical Center, while also getting a feel for campus life and what it means to be an Auburn student.
A full day, lots of walking, lots of learning, and hopefully a few students who came home a little more excited about their future!



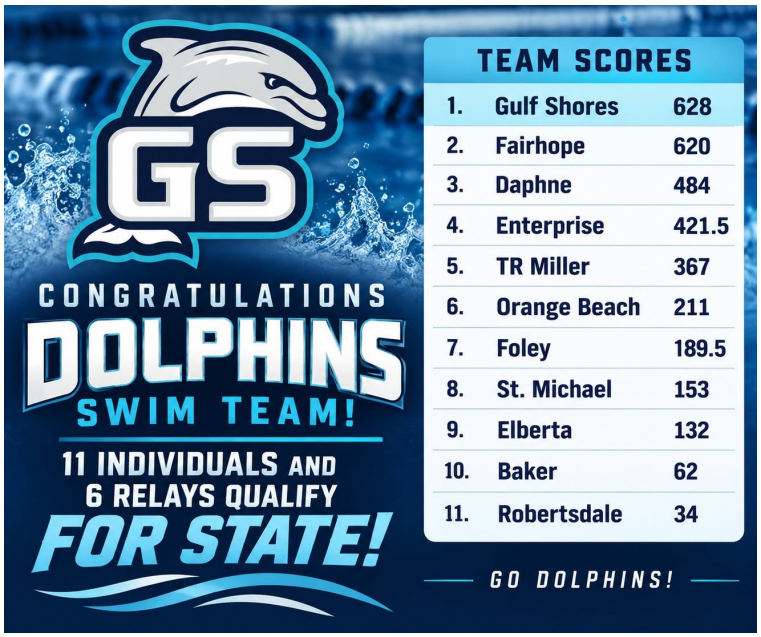






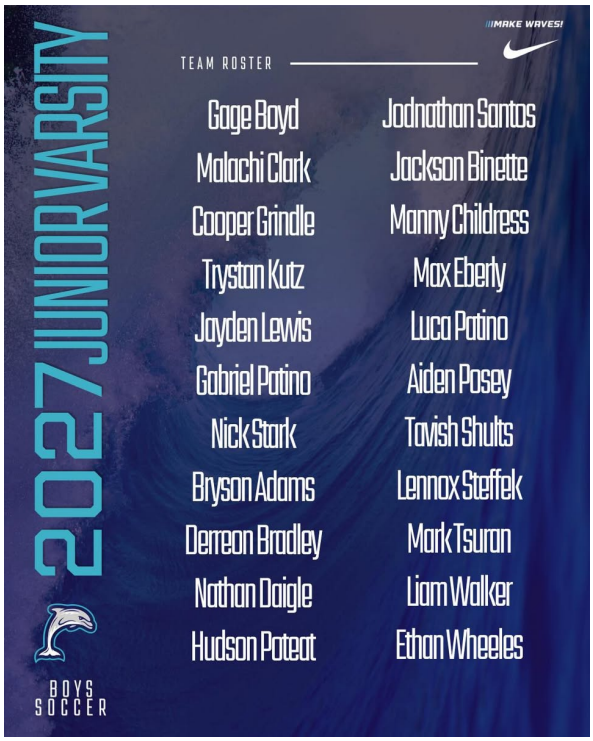





CONGRATULATIONS
DOLPHINS
SWIM TEAM!
11 INDIVIDUALS AND
6 RELAYS QUALIFY
FOR STATE!
TEAM SCORES
1. Gulf Shores 628
2. Fairhope 620
3. Daphne 484
4. Enterprise 421.5
5. TR Miller 367
6. Orange Beach 211
7. Foley 189.5
8. St. Michael 153
9. Elberta 132
10. Baker 62
11. Robertsdale 34
GO DOLPHINS!


2027 VARSITY
BOYS SOCCER
TEAM ROSTER
Will Anthony
Jericho DeWeese
Connor Dotson
Ian Lopez
Rodrigo Martinez
Jack Nelson
Cash Calvert
Liam Jones
John Ledo
Gaston Llanes
Lee Marshall
Geer McKee
Jayden Nguyen
Nehemia Nicholas
Dylan Oldham
Rylan Roymer
Lachlan Steffek
Thomas Norton
Evan Rivera
Brayson Fields
Santiago Gomez
Daniel Mihaluta
Noah Nicholas


Early Bird Registration
Ends December 31, 2026!
DOLPHIN
DASH 5K
& Fun Run
February 20, 2027
SCAN HERE TO REGISTER NOW!
5K
Walk, Run, or Trot
Your Way into
Supporting Our
School!


2027 JUNIOR VARSITY
BOYS SOCCER
TEAM ROSTER
Gage Boyd
Malachi Clark
Cooper Grindle
Tryston Kutz
Jayden Lewis
Gabriel Patino
Nick Stark
Bryson Adams
Derreon Bradley
Nathan Daigle
Hudson Poteat
Jodnathan Santos
Jackson Binette
Manny Childress
Max Eberly
Luca Patino
Aiden Posey
Tavish Shults
Lennox Steffek
Mark Tsuran
Liam Walker
Ethan Wheeles

AUDITIONS ARE COMING!
THE LIGHTNING THIEF: THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL
Make Waves Theatre is excited to announce auditions for our Spring Musical – The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical! This will be our first musical in the new Performing Arts Center, and we want to see as many students as possible audition!
Gulf Shores Middle School AUDITIONS
October 1 & 2
Students currently enrolled in Theatre or Choir will audition during their class period. No SignUpGenius registration is needed.
October 5, 6 & 7
Students not currently in Theatre or Choir will audition during 1st, 2nd, or 3rd period. Students should reserve a time slot through SignUpGenius.
Middle School Sign-Up:
https://www.signupgenius.com/.../10C0A4FA4A92BABFDC34...
Gulf Shores High School AUDITIONS
October 5, 6, 7, 13 & 14
Auditions will take place during Focus.
Students must reserve an audition time through SignUpGenius.
High School Sign-Up:
https://www.signupgenius.com/.../10C0A4FA4A92BABFDC34...
WHAT TO PREPARE
Students should prepare 60–90 seconds of a Pop/Rock-style musical theatre song.
Your song does NOT have to come from The Lightning Thief. We have attached a list of suggested audition songs, but students are welcome to choose another appropriate song that fits their voice and personality.
Mr. Landrum will provide a speaker, so students should have their song memorized and know exactly where they want to start and stop their karaoke track- YouTube has just about every karaoke track you can think of.
Most importantly: DON'T JUST SING – PERFORM!
We want to see you act through the song, make a connection to the character, and show us who you are as a performer.
Audition flyers and song recommendations are attached to this post.
Parents and teachers – please encourage your students to audition! Whether they are experienced performers or have never been onstage before, this is a great opportunity to be part of something exciting as we usher in a NEW ERA in our brand new Performing Arts Center!
Questions? Contact Mr. Landrum through ParentSquare, email clandrum@gsboe.org, or comment on this post!





Community Helpers Come to Visit 1st Grade at GSES

Ellie's Mom is the owner of Sarah's Homemade.



Thank you to our Community Helpers from the **City of Gulf Shores** programs!



Thank you to Izzy's grandmother and Zaye's aunt for coming and talking about your careers!!





Beach Safety Chief Phillips visited our class and taught our class about his role in the community.



Ms. McAleer's 4th-grade class got their hands dirty today!
We cleaned up the raised beds in the Upper Elementary Center courtyard and planted tomatoes, broccoli, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, beans, cabbage, lettuce, snapdragons, and flowers to welcome pollinators.
A huge thank-you to Mrs. Guy, GiGi's mom, for bringing all the supplies, helping us get started, and teaching us how to care for our garden. Our class will also work with other classrooms to teach them how to care for it.
This is just the beginning...looking forward to watching our garden and our young gardeners grow.



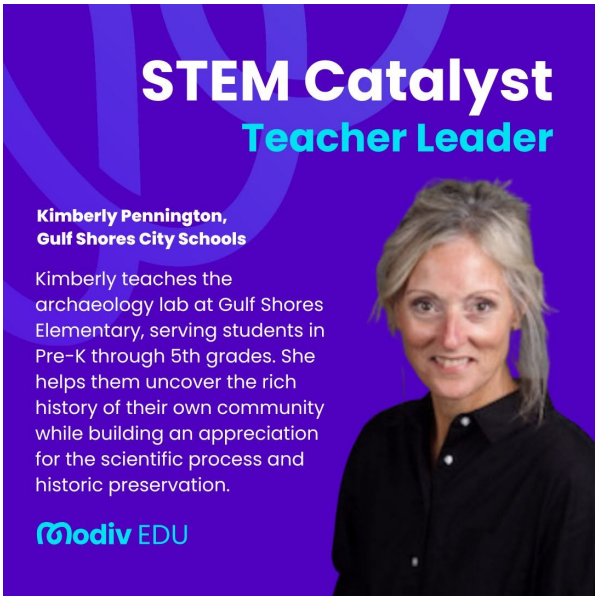


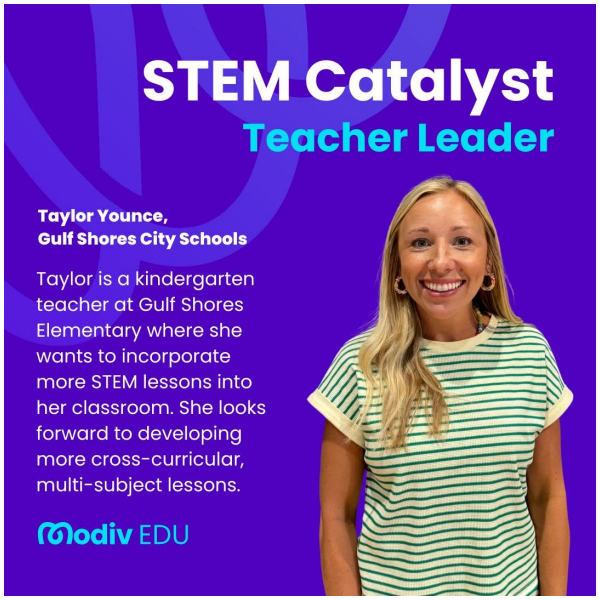


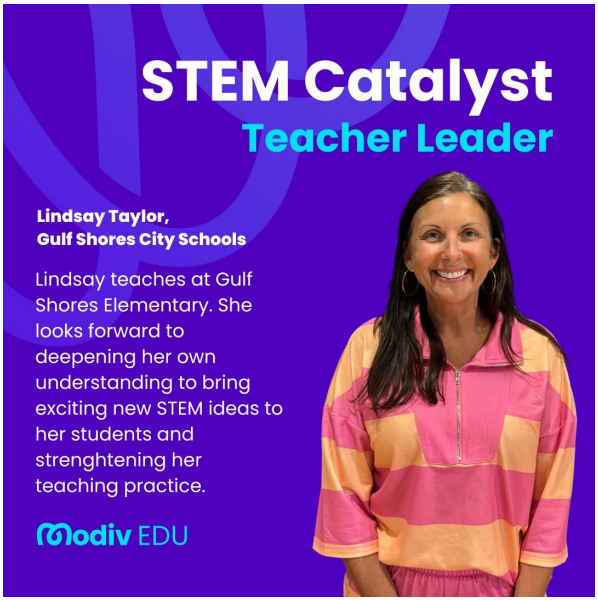


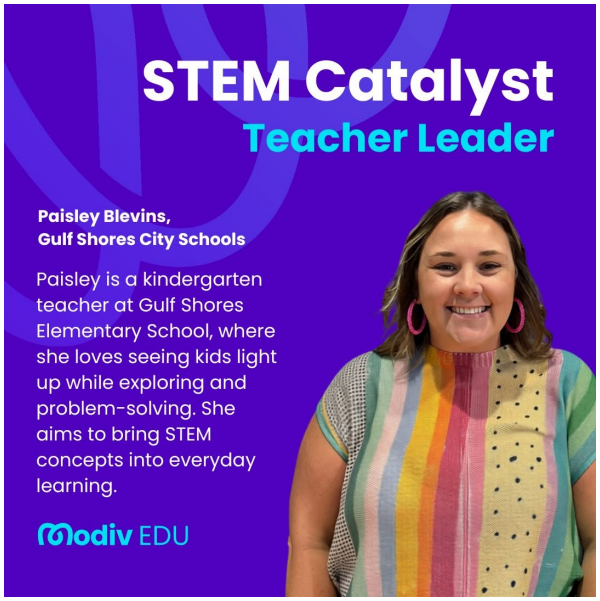


Congratulations to GSES teachers Mrs. Pennington, Ms. Vandevender, Mrs. Blevins and Mrs. Taylor for completing this inaugural STEM Catalyst initiative!







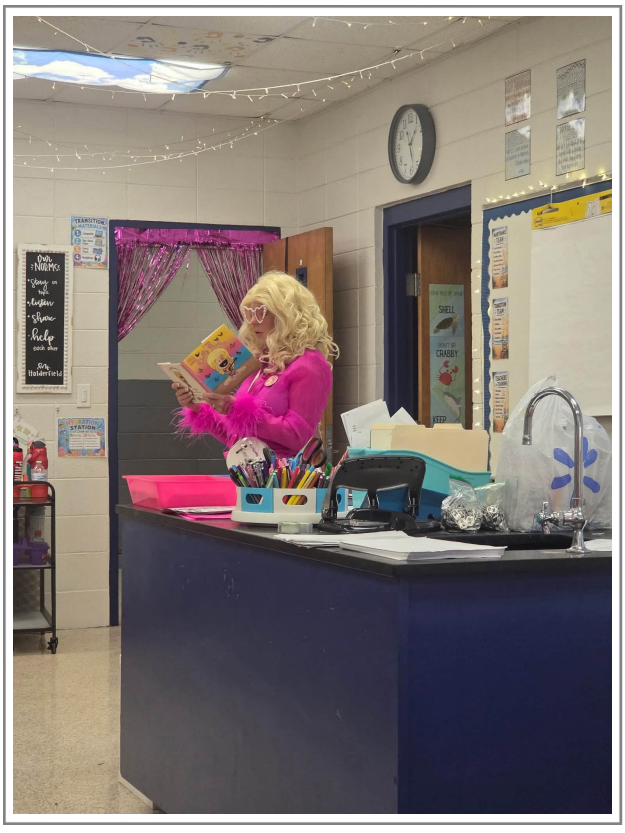




GSHS Navy JROTC had the honor of presenting colors at the Gulf of America Jeep Fest.

Working 9 to 5
… and snacking just fine! Mrs. Phillips's 4th graders at GSES celebrated Dolly Day with a delicious "Cup of Ambition" and plenty of smiles!











Please join us for a Tuesday Tour at Gulf Shores Elementary School October 6th at 9:00am! Sign up at this link! **https://docs.google.com/.../1a0szU0F81KtEBIe9.../viewform...**



Our FCCLA students have been hard at work in the kitchen mixing, scooping, and baking up a batch of homemade cookies for the Elementary Harvest Festival! Every cookie sold goes right back to support our elementary school!







Our Culinary Classes have been busy prepping for the Make Waves Benefit on Saturday, October 3rd. This week it was Plum Ginger Pepper Jelly and Plum Habanero Jelly, made with locally grown serrano and habanero peppers straight from prep to jar. From dehydrating to dicing to canning, our students handle every step – and the result looks incredible. Way to go Chef Jon and team! Purchase tickets for the event that supports student programs, teacher resources, and arts and education initiatives!
Please follow our QR code!





First Grade at GSES learn about Community Helpers!















What an AMAZING Harvest Fest at GSES!
A huge THANK YOU to our incredible PTO for all of the time, planning, and hard work that went into making Harvest Fest such a wonderful night for our families!
Thank you as well to our parents, families, and community for showing up, participating, and supporting our school. We are so grateful for a community that continues to show up for our students!
Every dollar our PTO raises is poured right back into our schools, supporting our teachers, students, and classrooms. When you support PTO events like Harvest Fest, you are directly supporting our kids—and we couldn't be more thankful!



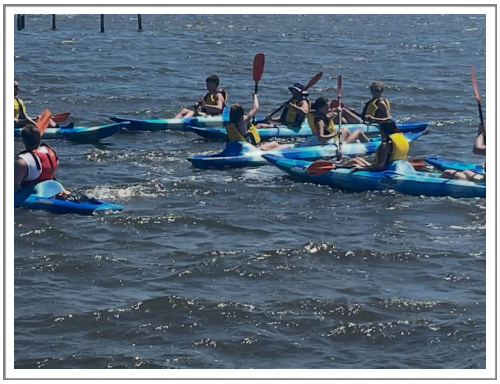
Mrs.Hogue's class loved showing off our letters at ABC Bootcamp!



Please Support Our Dolphins! Order Your New License Plates!



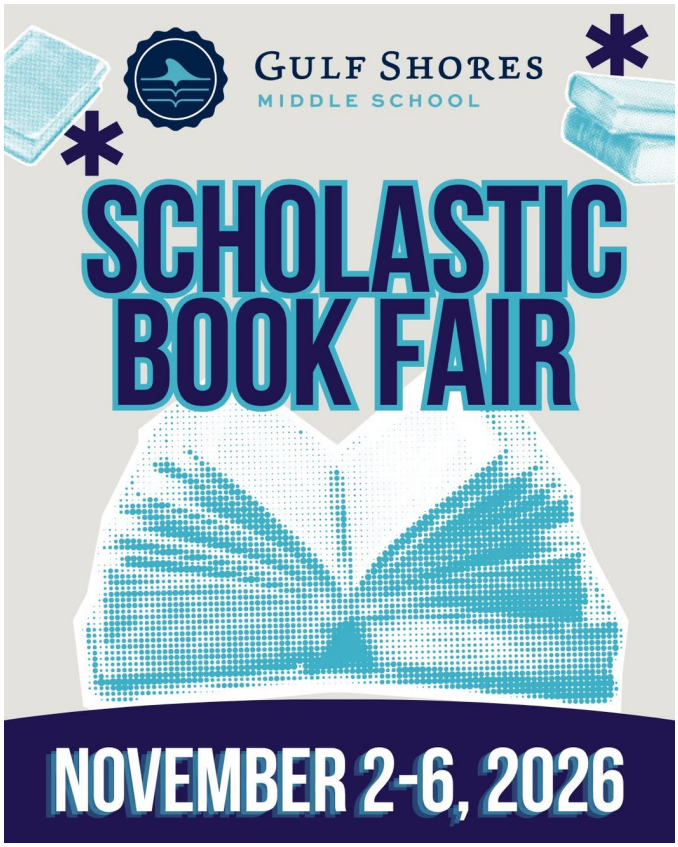
GSHS kayak Little Lagoon + water quality testing with the AWESOME Mr. Dennis Hatfield.








GET READY, GSMS… THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR IS COMING!
New stories. New adventures. New favorites waiting to be discovered!
SAVE THE DATE
November 2–6



Please SAVE THE DATE – March 30th for our first ever Gulf Coast Career Fair in partnership with Orange Beach City Schools!! Register Here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdZj-d5j6Ibt8r1BkmrJVW5Nn2KdHRd-yu_OV4VqluoIvnd8w/viewform



Celebrating the Harvest Moon with our 6th Grade Earth & Space Science students at GSMS!
Over the past few weeks, students explored lunar phases, gravity, tides, and eclipses. In honor of the Harvest Moon, they combined science and art to create these beautiful chalk pastel Harvest Moons!
It was a great way for students to showcase what they learned while adding a little creativity to science!

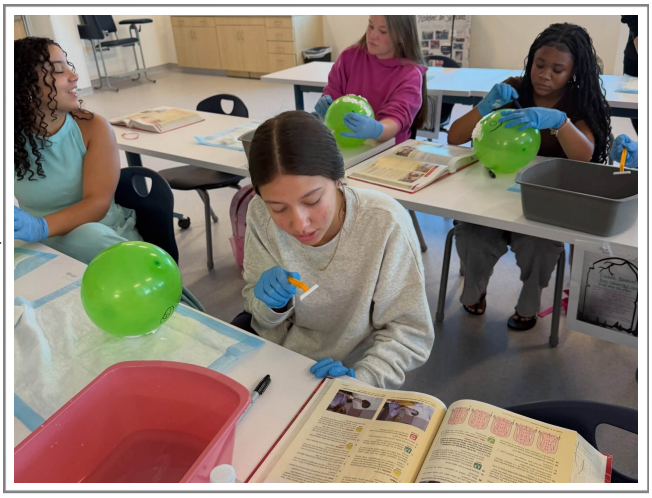






It's more than just a shave! Mrs. Murphy's Health Science PCT students (Patient Care Technicians) at GSHS practiced Basic Patient Care skills "Shaving a Patient." No cuts or pops!
Safety, infection control, comfort, privacy, and patient dignity– because those little details matter BIG when caring for someone.





It was a pleasure to celebrate Carleigh Robinson Monday evening, September 28, 2026, at The Superintendents' Red Ribbon Leadership Program Kick-Off Event for Baldwin County at the First Baptist Church of Robertsdale. At the Kickoff Event, students, parents, and educators learned about the meaning of Red Ribbon Week and why it is such an important prevention program and also received instructions for the community service projects each student will be asked to complete. Mrs. Holmes and Carleigh picked up yard signs to advertise her leadership role in the community and at school. We look forward to working with Carleigh this year during Red Ribbon Week and throughout the year as she completes her projects with the Drug Education Council's theme of "We Celebrate our Hometown Heroes!"





We are proud to announce that Gulf Shores Middle School has been ranked the #1 Best Public Middle School in Baldwin County in the 2027 Niche rankings.

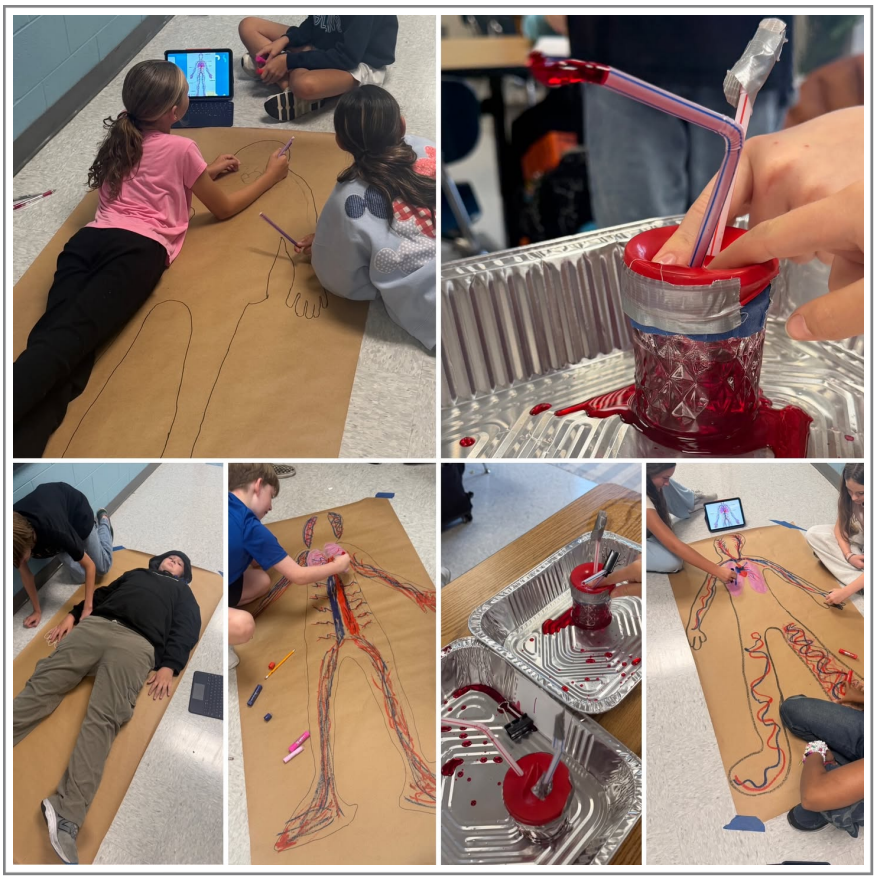
GSMS was also ranked #18 among public middle schools in the state of Alabama, an impressive advancement of 18 positions from last year's state ranking.

This recognition reflects the continued dedication of our teachers, staff, students, families, and community. Each day, our faculty and staff work to provide meaningful learning opportunities, support student growth, and create an environment where every student can succeed.

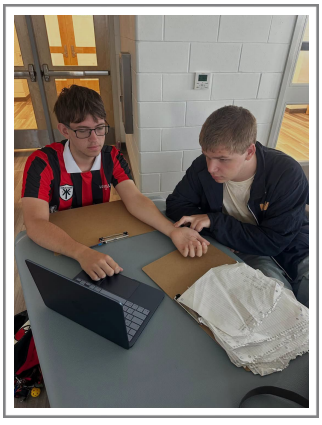
We are incredibly proud of this achievement and grateful to everyone who contributes to the continued success of Gulf Shores Middle School.

Congratulations, Dolphins! We are proud to Make Waves together.

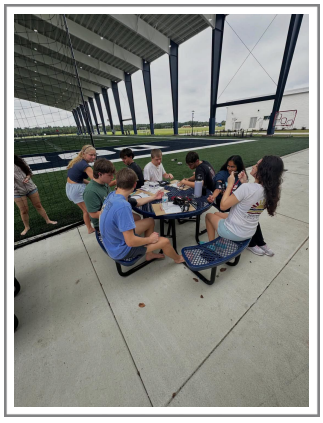
Hands-on learning in Mrs. Coker's 7th Grade Life Science class!
This week, we've been learning all about the circulatory system and how the heart keeps blood moving throughout our bodies. Students put their learning into action by exploring working heart-pump models and creating life-size diagrams of the circulatory system, complete with the heart, lungs, arteries, veins, and capillaries. We love bringing science to LIFE!

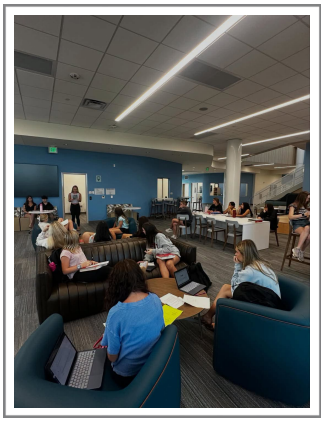


Learning by doing in Sports Medicine & Health Science!
This week, our students completed vital signs practice and got active with a hands-on vital signs lab, comparing resting vs. post-activity vitals. We also practiced hand and wrist palpations and wrapped up our Healthcare History unit in Foundations!
And the learning didn't stop there!
We explored different spaces throughout our new high school to discover how we can utilize them as flexible classroom learning spaces.
Hands-on skills, collaboration, movement, and exploring new possibilities—our future healthcare professionals are getting ready for what's next!









Trade Your Tray arrived at GSCS!

Today at **Gulf Shores Middle School** we swapped 314 disposable lunch trays for durable steel ones – and every student who made the switch helped protect the beaches, wetlands, and waterways that make Gulf Shores home.

Here's how it worked: choose a steel tray at lunch, and that's your entry for prizes– no sign-up needed.

A huge thanks to all of today's prize sponsors including The Factory and Pirate's Island. You helped make this program so much fun!

We also want to recognize the team at GSMS including Mr. Anthony Schaff and classes, the Sustainability Club, who identified this as a solution towards sustainability, the Nutrition & Wellness Committee, CNP staff under the leadership of CNP Coordinator Tanya Hill, the custodial staff, and all administrators.

Small trays. Big impact.















Beautiful weather, big smiles, and a little playground fun! Mrs. Bender's 5th graders took a quick break before p.e., to enjoy the sunshine and capture a group photo. These are the moments that make memories!





Mrs. Fredrickson's 3rd graders are learning the geography of South America.



Some of Mrs. Todd's kids at GSES plus a few extra helpers delivered coffee and treats from Beach Bums Coffee!



Mrs. Helms' class had another Leadership Celebration! Morning recess and snack outside is always fun!




After School Families...
Next week is
Fall Break.
Thursday, October 8th 11:30 am
After School will not be open on Thursday, October 8th, due to early dismissal at 11:30 am.
SCHOOL BUS
School will be closed Friday, October 9th, and Monday, October 12th, for an e-learning day.
e-Learning Day
Thank you!

The Gulf Shores High School Navy JROTC had the unique opportunity to travel to Naval Air Station Pensacola and participate in the Leadership Reaction Course (LRC) - part of the Naval Education and Training Security Assistance Field Activity, a schoolhouse for allied partner nation leaders.

While the course may look like it's all about navigating obstacles, the real focus is on communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and leadership. Our cadets were challenged to work together, communicate effectively, and demonstrate leadership in order to successfully navigate each obstacle.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Petty Officer Scott, who is in charge of the LRC, for providing our cadets with this incredible learning experience. We also greatly appreciate Coach Boyd for driving our group to Pensacola.

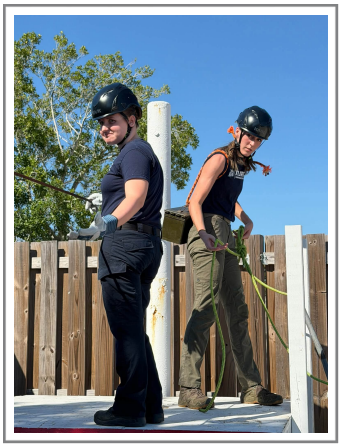
A very special thank you goes to Mrs. Tolbert, our athletic trainer, for bringing five of her students along to serve as safety personnel, observers, and medical representatives. Their support helped ensure our cadets could participate safely and confidently throughout the course.

We are incredibly proud of our cadets for stepping up to the challenge, working together, and putting leadership into action!











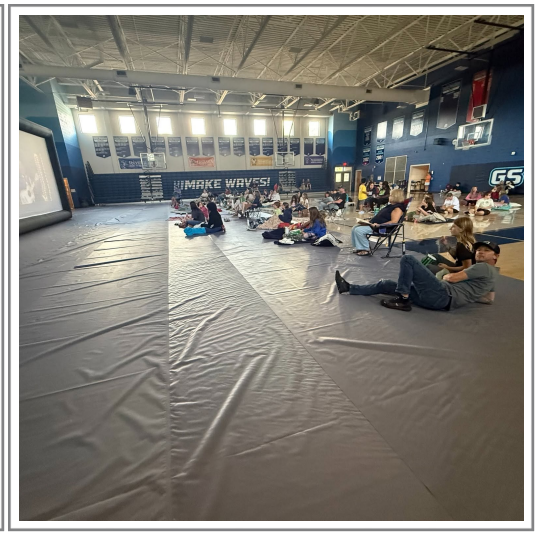






What a great night at GSMS! Thank you to everyone who came out and joined us for our first Movie Night of the school year. We loved seeing our students and families come together for a fun evening!
A huge THANK YOU to House Sollevare and House Amistad for sponsoring the night and helping make it such a success!
The fun isn't over yet! We're already looking forward to our Altraka Movie Night coming in October!







Trade the Tray Day made reusable trays official **GSCS** middle school today! It has been a long and collaborative process to make this day possible.
Proud of our passionate school leaders, teachers and students who helped make this monumental shift in sustainability.
Making waves to protect our environment that we cherish so much here in Gulf Shores!




Archaeology Enrichment is officially underway!

Our first full rotation is in progress, and our young archaeologists are already putting their critical-thinking skills to work!

Grades 2–5 are investigating collections of modern-day artifacts. Using careful observations and evidence, they're working to solve a mystery: Who did these items belong to, and what was this person doing? Just like real archaeologists, students are learning that objects can tell a story—we just have to know how to read the clues!

PreK–1st grade archaeologists are starting with the basics: using their senses to make close observations of human-made and natural objects. They're learning to notice details, describe what they see, and begin distinguishing between observation and inference.

And all of this is building the foundation for what's coming next…

SIMULATED ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGS!

We're learning to observe, question, investigate, think critically, and use evidence—one artifact at a time.









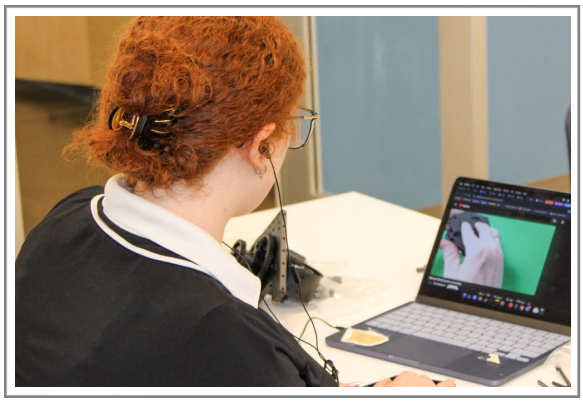




HyperWave Robotics is back at it in our brand-new space, The Innovation and Design Studio! Students grades 6-12 practice Tuesday-Thursday until 5:30pm to prepare for upcoming competitions. It's the beginning of something big, where discovery leads to innovation which leads to FUN! It's a beautiful mess, and we LOVE it!





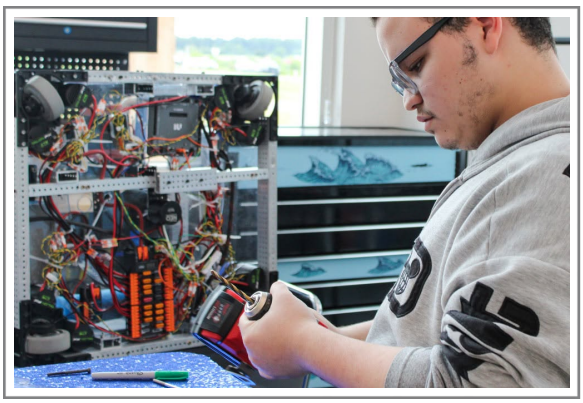












Our Cross Country team at GSMS enjoyed a fun team-building experience at the Gulf Coast Eco Center ropes course! These athletes proved they can beat the heat on the trails AND take on challenges in the trees!











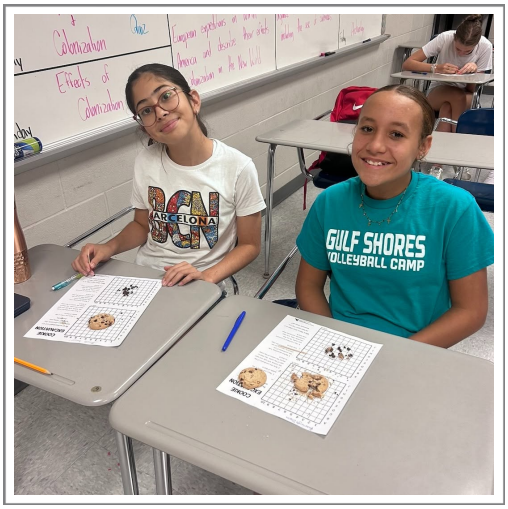


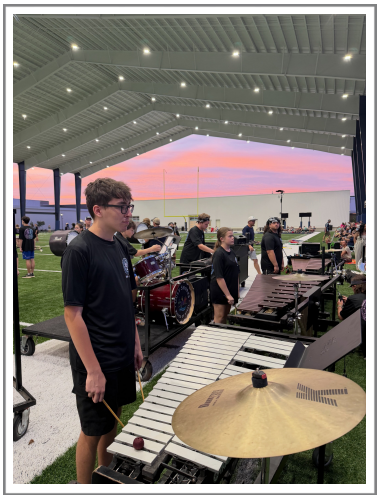


Digging into History! Honors history students at GSMS became archaeologists for the day during a Cookie Dig! Students carefully excavated their "artifacts" while learning how archaeologists use evidence to uncover clues about the past.



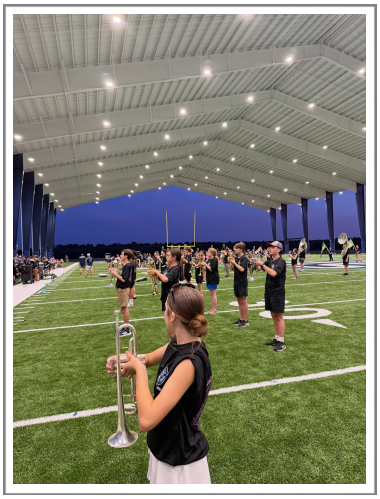






Training together to become something great GSHS!!









Our Culinary students brought creativity to the kitchen as they crafted homemade deviled eggs topped with crispy pancetta, chives, and pickled mustard seeds. The class demonstrated teamwork as students piped, mixed, and perfected each bite-sized creation. We were honored to welcome local professional Chef Maegan Bratton of Cowbell Ice Cream for an inspiring afternoon of hands-on learning and community partnership.





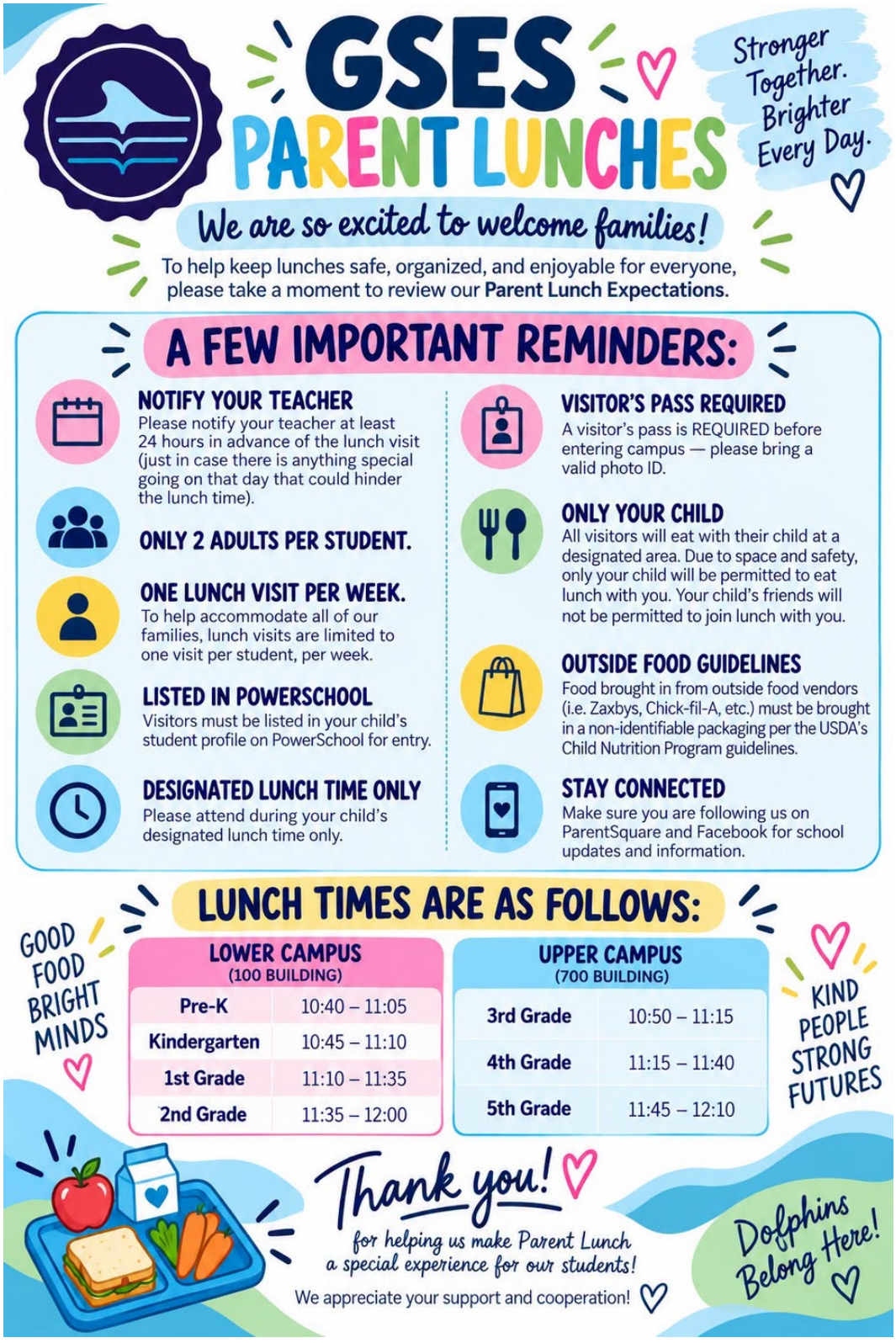








GSES welcomes families for Parent Lunches. To help keep lunches, safe, organized and enjoyable for everyone, please take a moment to review our visitor lunch expectations.







It's TIME!!! Let's Make Waves!! Join us for another unforgettable night with the **Dolphin Foundation for Education & Arts**! New date, new time, new location, same great reason 2026 Make Waves Benefit October 3, 2026!!



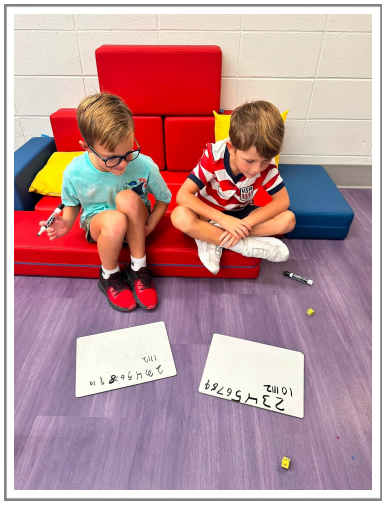
Matching best friends at GSES!





Math Partners make learning fun!!! We have been practicing different Math Strategies for adding. ~Mrs. Helms 1st grade









Support Gulf Shores Athletics by purchasing a BJ's membership!



Join our student ambassadors at GSHS for the Community Supply Drive starting September 8th!!



Save a Little. Make a Big Difference!
Our custodial staff is spear-heading a community drive to save pop tabs to give to the Ronald McDonald House on GSCS Gives Back Day!

They will provide a container in each workroom to collect the tops. Please encourage your kiddos to collect them and bring them to school!





We are so fortunate to have the **Dolphin Athletic Club**! Thank you DAC from the Dolphins WBB program for helping us make our locker room top notch!



Get updated with the GSCS Calendar!



GULF SHORES CITY SCHOOLS

2026-2027 School Calendar
300 East 16th Avenue Gulf Shores, AL 36542
251-968-9873 • 180 Student Days
August 12, 2026 to May 28, 2027

August 2026

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026

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		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30			

October 2026

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30					

December 2026

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2027

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2027

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2027

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2027

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

2026	
August 5-7, 11	Teacher PD/Work Days
August 10	Institute Day
August 12	First Day of School For Students
September 7	Labor Day
October 8	Early Dismissal
October 9	Fall Break
October 12	E-Learning Day
November 11	Veterans Day
November 23-27	Thanksgiving
December 18	Early Dismissal
December 21-31	Winter Break

2027	
January 1,4	Winter Break
January 5	Students Return From Winter Break
January 18	MLK Birthday
February 8-9	Mardi Gras
February 10	E-Learning Day
March 12	Early Dismissal
March 26	Holiday
April 12-16	Spring Break
May 28	Last Day of School/Early Dismissal
May 31	Memorial Day

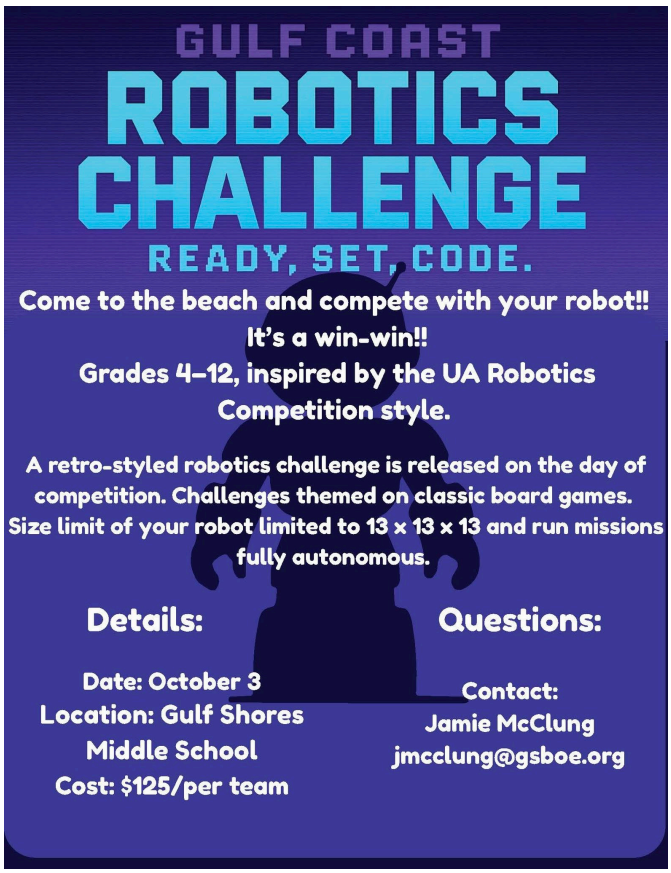
Color Key
Teacher PD/Work Days
Teacher Work Day - Institute Day
School Starts/ Students Return
NO Work - Holiday
Student School Day - Early Dismissal
Student School Day - E-Learning
Last Day of School/Early Dismissal

Quarter Dates	
First Quarter	8/12/2026 - 10/9/2026
Second Quarter	10/12/2026 - 12/18/2026
Third Quarter	1/5/2027 - 3/12/2027
Fourth Quarter	3/15/2027 - 5/28/2027

The Maidens of Mischief believe in supporting locally and investing in our futures. We were honored to make donations to both the Gulf Shores High School Marching Band. and the Gulf Shores High School Swim Team.







KIDS HOPE USA®

Mentors needed:
Do you want to make a difference in a student's life? Can you find the time to help support our wonderful school system by being present for a student one hour one day a week on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons during the school year?
Volunteers are needed to build a one-on-one relationship with a student through our Kids Hope, USA mentoring program. Help us support our students by contacting Sandi Harris in the Administrative Office at 251-968-9873. She will be happy to assist you.



10/1 BOE: Work Session 4:00pm
10/6 GSCS: Tuesday Tour at GSES 9:00am
10/6 GSCS: Sound Waves Choirs Fall Concert 6:00pm
10/7 GSMS: PTO Meeting 7:20am
10/7 GSES: FCA Meeting 7:30am
10/8 GSC:S Early Dismissal (11:30am)
10/8 BOE: Regular Meeting 5:00pm
10/9 GSCS: Fall Break (No School)
10/12 GSCS: E-Learning Day (Students do not attend school)
10/14 GSHS: PreACT & WorkKeys
10/15 GSMS: Fall Picture Day
10/16 Report Card (Available Online)
10/24 GSMS: Marching Band Night
10/26-30 GSCS: Red Ribbon Week
10/27 GSHS: District ACT
10/29 GSHS: PSAT 9 & PSAT NMSQT

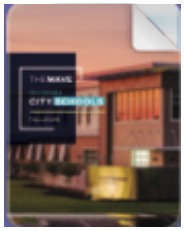
GSCS Board Meetings on Demand: Missed the meeting? Catch the replay **Meetings on Demand**

GSCS Board Meeting Round Up: Too busy to attend school board meetings, but still wanna know more? Check out the episodes of "**Board Shorts**" to stay up-to-date.

Happening at GSCS:

- District
- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- Virtual Academy

Gulf Shores City Schools has a new magazine - The Wave! Extra copies are available in school offices, most city offices, the visitors center, and the Chamber of Commerce! Get your copy today!



Gulf Shores City Schools have a new GSCS Mobile App! Available in IOS and Android Stores, the GSCS mobile app will give you immediate information! Download yours today!

Connect With Us

Matt Akin - Superintendent
Stephanie Harrison - Assistant Superintendent
Sandi Harris - Office Manager
Chad Green - CSFO
Marcelinia Speller - Human Resource Coordinator
Chezley 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
Karen Pearson - District Testing Coordinator
Laura Goulden - Mental Health Coordinator
Whitney Boggus - Chief Technology Officer
Alicia Early - Director of Federal Programs, Compliance, and Strategic Initiatives
Joe McAleer - Social Media

MAKE WAVES!

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