ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2026

The MakeWaves Monthly

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



Superintendents' Message

Gulf Shores City Schools continues to make waves through student achievement, family engagement, and meaningful community connections! We remain committed to the importance of regular school attendance and encourage parents to stay actively involved in their child's learning and academic progress. During the week of October 26–30, our schools proudly celebrated **Red Ribbon Week**, reinforcing the importance of making healthy, positive choices. Our **Tuesday Talks** sessions have been successful, creating a welcoming space for parents to connect, engage, and learn more about topics that matter to our school community. If you missed out, we hope you'll join us for an upcoming conversation! **Our Gulf Shores Dolphins are making waves on the football field, too!** The GSHS football team has delivered an outstanding, undefeated regular season, finishing with an incredible **10–0 record and earning the Region 1 Champs!** This remarkable accomplishment reflects the hard work, determination, teamwork, and dedication of our student-athletes and coaches. We couldn't be prouder of our Dolphins and look forward to cheering them on as they continue their postseason journey!At GSCS, learning extends far beyond the classroom! We are incredibly proud of our students and teachers for their outstanding accomplishments and active participation in opportunities both on and off campus. Living in Gulf Shores offers our students and faculty an extraordinary outdoor classroom, and they are making the most of it! From biking and kayaking to sailing, exploring the Ecotourism Center, and participating in beach cleanups, our students are discovering new experiences, building skills, and making a difference in the community we call home. **Ready to see the difference for yourself?** Join us for our next **Tuesday Tour at Gulf Shores Virtual Academy on Tuesday, November 17!** Come explore our schools, meet our leadership team, and see firsthand how GSCS is creating innovative learning experiences for every student. Thank you to our families and community partners for your continued support. Together, we are building a stronger school community and creating opportunities for every Dolphin to thrive!

Dr. Matt Akin, Superintendent.

Dr. Stephanie Harrison, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction & Innovation



Health & Wellness



Athletics



Arts Education



Teaching & Learning

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL

VIRTUAL ACADEMY

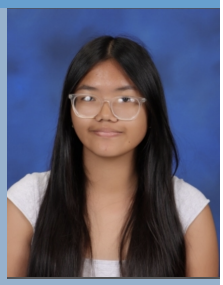
Meet Our Student WaveMakers of the Month



Elementary School
Cole Ybarra
Grade: 4th Grade
Area of Recognition: Leadership, Compassion
I'm a WaveMaker because…
Cole is a true WaveMaker because he leads with kindness and puts compassion into action. During our Harvest Festival, a young child went missing and was found at the top of an inflatable slide. When adults were unable to reach him, Cole immediately stepped in. He climbed to the top, held the child securely, and slid down with him, helping us safely reunite him with his mother. Cole's quick thinking, courage, and compassion reflect his caring heart. His willingness to help others, joyful personality, and love for making people smile make our school a better place!
~Nominated by Jennifer Cunningham~



Middle School
Lia Dunbar
Grade: 8th Grade
Area of Recognition: Character, Responsibility, School Spirit
I'm a WaveMaker because…
Lia is a phenomenal student, athlete, peer, and leader. As an eighth-grade Cheer Captain, she leads with respect, integrity, enthusiasm, and maturity. She balances cheer and Marching Band practices, taking the field Thursday and Friday nights while maintaining excellent grades. Her teachers love having her in class, and her kindness and joyful spirit brighten our school. Lia's unmistakable laugh is contagious, bringing smiles to everyone around her. She exemplifies what it means to be a Dolphin, and we can't wait to see how she continues to shine. Lia is truly a WaveMaker!
~Nominated by Ashlyn Etheredge~



High School
Ana Vo
Grade: 12th Grade
Area of Recognition: Leadership
I'm a WaveMaker because...
Ana Vo, a senior and our Key Club President, leads with initiative, enthusiasm, and a commitment to serving others. She dedicated her own time to creating an outstanding Club Day display, added all 72 prospective members to Canvas, and began posting announcements to keep everyone informed. Ana also independently researched Key Club International resources to better understand her responsibilities and serve members effectively. She takes ownership, seeks solutions, and strengthens our school community through her actions. Ana already exemplifies what it means to be a WaveMaker, and I look forward to seeing her impact grow throughout the year.
~Nominated by Sandy Dempsey~

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

Meet Our Staff WaveMakers of the Month



Elementary School
Valerie Caldwell
Physical Education Teacher
I'm a WaveMaker because…
After nearly 30 years teaching physical education at Gulf Shores Middle School, Coach Caldwell has brought her energy, experience, and positivity to Gulf Shores Elementary School. She has embraced the transition, helping younger students develop fundamental motor skills, cooperation, and a love of movement. Her enthusiasm shows students that being active can be fun, regardless of their athletic ability. Coach Caldwell goes above and beyond to make every child feel included, supported, and encouraged. She also generously shares her guidance with students and fellow teachers. Her dedication and positive impact on our school community make her a truly deserving WaveMaker honoree.
~Nominated by Sara Shaw~



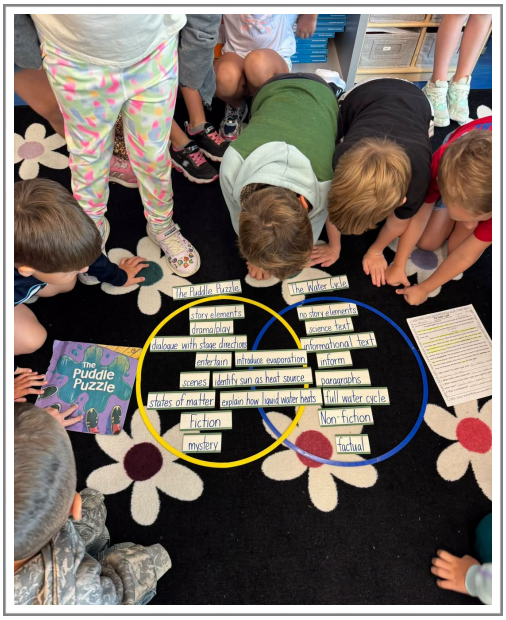
Middle School
Amberlee Christian
Social Studies Teacher
I'm a WaveMaker because…
Amberlee makes Gulf Shores Middle School welcoming for students and staff. She teaches two grade levels, including Honors, and brings history to life through maps, texts, and thoughtful discussions. Though a newer teacher, she leads her department, mentors and supports colleagues, and manages the yearbook, so students feel seen and included. She also chaperones field trips and helps at school events. Even with so many responsibilities, Amberlee brings a calm, steady presence and a willingness to serve. Her kindness and creativity help students learn and strengthen our school community. She is a deserving WaveMaker.
~Nominated by Cinthia Moore, Anthony Schaff and Rachel Osborn~

High School
GSCS Maintenance
Justin Stewart, Greg Canham, Phillip Jarrell , Scot Moren, Marcella Miles, Danny Norton, Joe Lichaa
Grounds Team
Scott Chambley , Robert Kidd, Ken Ard, Virgil Simpson
I'm a WaveMaker because…
I am honored to nominate the Gulf Shores City Schools Maintenance and Grounds Team for our October WaveMaker Award. Every day, they help keep our schools safe, welcoming, and ready for learning. Much of their work happens behind the scenes, but its impact is felt across our campuses. They respond quickly to maintenance needs, care for our facilities and grounds, and meet challenges with a positive attitude. Their teamwork, professionalism, and pride in their work make a difference for students and staff alike. The Maintenance and Grounds Team represents the very best of Gulf Shores City Schools and is truly deserving of this award.
~Nominated by Dr. Tim Webb~

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

Elementary School

Mrs. Wilson's 2nd grade class put on their critical thinking caps to compare their story of the week, The Puddle Puzzle, with a nonfiction passage about the water cycle.



Middle School

Happy Halloween from the GSMS Art students!



High School

Officials Scrimmage 26 has begun! Girls Basketball are getting ready to open the season at The Tank at GSHS!





Virtual Academy

The first of many amazing archeology lessons happened today for our virtual students. We learned about the ancient Native American canoe canal and the skills that archeologists used to identify it. Thank you, Mrs. Pennington!



Health & Wellness

Fresh Air & Friends Everywhere!
A little chill in the morning air couldn't slow down our Walking School Bus crew!
From spinning on the merry-go-round to swinging sky-high and sharing giggles with friends, our Dolphins know how to make the most of a beautiful fall morning!
Don't miss out on the fun! Grab a friend, bundle up, and join our Walking School Bus crew! There's always room for one more Dolphin!





Athletics

Congratulations to Evelyn Lamar on winning the Jimmy Green Mobile Metro Championship!



Arts Education

Twenty-five of Mrs. Barnett's Middle & High School choir students auditioned for the Alabama All-State Choirs today in Mobile. The competitive audition included performing selections from seven challenging choral works and sightreading new music. The top choral students from across the state will be selected from these auditions to participate in the All-State Honor Choir Festival at Samford University in March 2027. We are proud of their hard work and dedication!



Teaching & Learning

Pumpkinectomy 2026! Our PCT students teamed up with Dolphins Smile for our annual cross-curricular Pumpkinectomy! We transformed our new BioMed Suite into 7 ORs, complete with surgeons, pre-op, circulators, anesthesia/CRNAs, surgical techs, and post-op teams.From Halloween music to lots of smiles, students got hands-on experience exploring the teamwork and many roles that make a surgical procedure possible. Not to mention practicing our communication skills Learning healthcare roles doesn't have to be scary!







Red Ribbon Week Food Drive Update! at GSES
Our Red Ribbon Leader, Sadie Young, has been collecting your donations, and we currently have a total of 333 canned goods and non-perishable food items!



GSES Pre-K Teachers at Alabama Early Childhood Education Conference
A wonderful few days of learning, sharing ideas, and growing together with teachers and Coaches from all over the state! There's nothing better than coming together as educators to learn new strategies, share our experiences, and find fresh ways to make a difference in the lives of our littlest learners. We may be out of the classroom for a few days, but we're still working hard to become the best teachers we can be for our Pre-K families!



Mrs. Green's class at GSVA celebrated Halloween with a costume contest and a game of Fall bingo!



Mrs. Helms' class at GSES enjoyed Noah's dad visiting to share about his role as Director of Golf at Peninsula. We learned how to grip a club and we also got to practice chipping! We just might have some future Dolphin Golf team members!







The 5th grade students at GSES afterschool program got to climb our Lookout Adventure Course and challenge themselves on our obstacles!



Mrs. Loper's class at GSES completed our science experiment on germs. Check out our germy bread after 10 days!



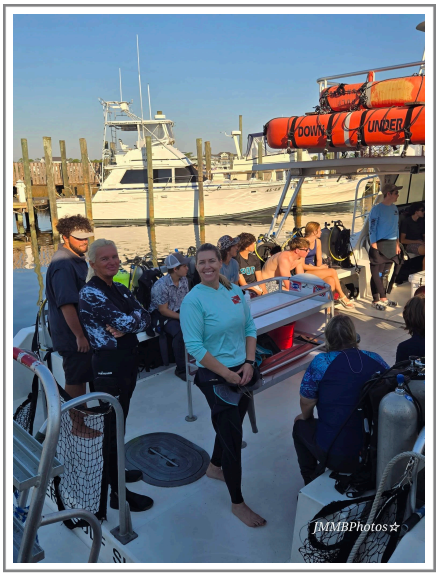


The students from **Gulf Shores High School Place-Based Science** class had their first boat dive on **The Dive Boat Down Under** as newly certified Open Water Divers and certified Peak Performance Bouyancy Divers on Thursday with teachers and Divemasters, Caroline Hamilton and **Krista Marcum Fleming**, Dive Master, **Anna C Alley** and Instructor **Jeff Robinson**!
Special thanks to additional Divemasters **Shane Anderson** and **Hunter Eslava**, and Captain Kevin Keenan as crew for ensuring the safety of these new, young divers as they embarked on their awesome adventure and journey into the Gulf Shores diving community!
We are so proud of these young ladies and gentlemen!









Congratulations on an AMAZING competition! The Students performed GREAT and are coming home with the following awards:
- All Superior Ratings
- Best in Class Color Guard
- Best in Class Percussion
- Best in Class Band
- 1st Overall Color Guard
- 2nd Place Overall (out of 30+ bands)!



Mrs. Cunningham's 4th grade class enjoyed a walking field trip to the Christian Service Center, with some of our wonderful parents joining us! Students donated their artwork from 4th grade's Art From the Heart service project and toured the center to learn how they serve our community, including through Meals on Wheels, where their artwork will be donated. We are so proud of our students for sharing their creativity and spreading kindness!

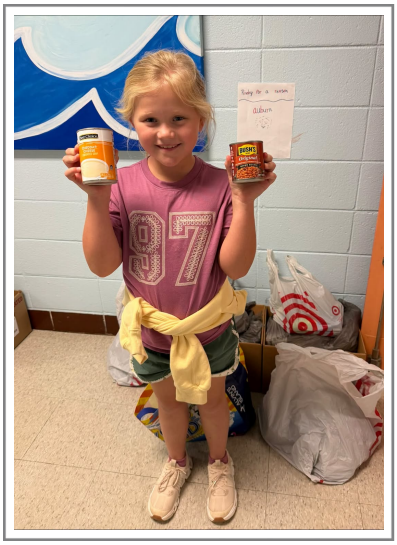








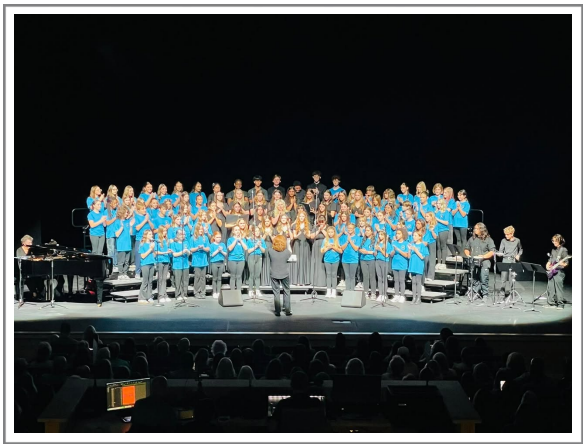
Emery donated over 100 canned goods for Auburn for the canned-food drive at GSES!



Gulf Shores Middle & High School Sound Waves Choirs had a great inaugural concert at the brand new High School's Theater. Thanks to the many teachers, staff, students, friends, family, and community members who joined us! It was a great night to be a Dolphin!







IT IS NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH!

Running an entire building full of energetic kids, busy teachers, and endless daily curveballs is no small job and you all make it look effortless.

We see the hard work, the early mornings, and the care behind everything you do. Our school wouldn't be the same without our outstanding Admin team at Gulf Shores Elementary School!



Mrs. Creel, Principal



Mrs. Grogan, AP

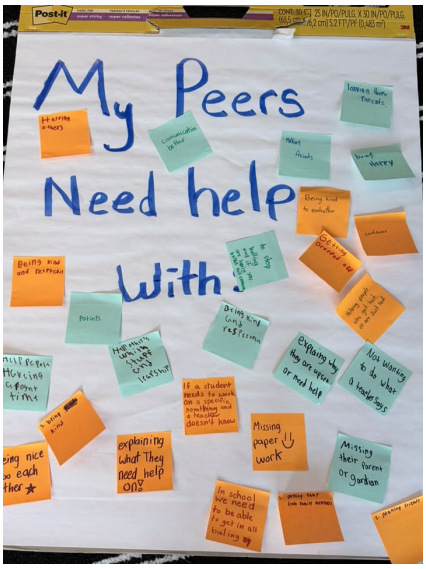


Mrs. Klatt, AP



Mrs. Sparkman, AP

GULF SHORES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Some of our Peer Helpers completed their training on Friday. They learned the importance of connecting with their Peers. They practiced active listening skills and learned what it is to have empathy for others. They are ready to do great things!









Get ready to **EAT THE HARVEST**, Dolphins! **November 2–6**, we're filling our plates with color! Each day of the week features a new fruit or veggie color; plus, all the good things it does for our bodies:

MON | **RED** for heart health: roasted tomatoes, red apples, strawberries & red grapes
TUE | **ORANGE** for eyes & skin: honey glazed carrots, local satsumas & cantaloupe
WED | **YELLOW** for an energy boost: squash casserole, bananas & pineapple
THU | **GREEN** for vitamins & minerals: garlic parmesan green beans, green grapes, kiwi & pears
FRI | **BLUE** & **PURPLE** for brain power: coleslaw, blueberries & purple grapes

Here's how to join the fun: PACK IT, PICK IT at lunch, or WEAR IT! Show your color each day for a chance at a prize. Prizes will vary by school.
Let's see how many colors our Dolphins can eat in one week!

GULF SHORES CITY SCHOOLS PRESENTS

EAT THE HARVEST

NOVEMBER 2–6

Fill your plate with color. A new fruit or veggie color every day of the week.

MON RED	TUE ORANGE	WED YELLOW	THU GREEN	FRI BLUE & PURPLE
Heart health	**Eyes & skin**	**Energy boost**	**Vitamins & minerals**	**Brain power**
Roasted tomatoes Red apples Strawberries Red grapes	Honey glazed carrots Local satsumas Cantaloupe	Squash casserole Bananas Pineapple	Garlic parmesan green beans Green grapes Kiwi Pears	Cole slaw Blueberries Purple grapes

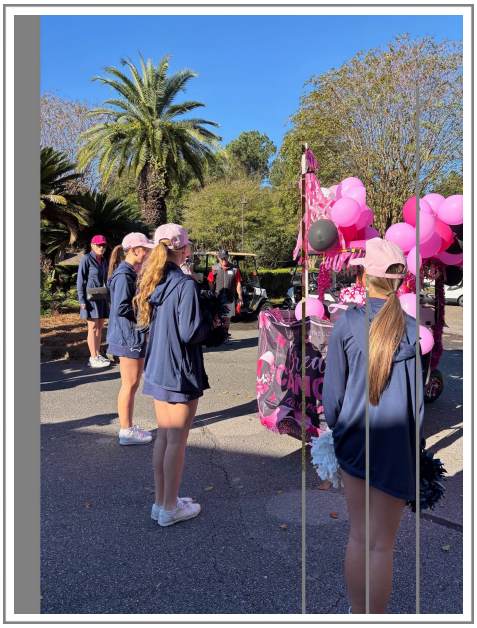
Pack it, pick it at lunch, wear it. Prizes will vary based upon school.

GULF SHORES CITY SCHOOLS


CHEERING
for a CURE!
Some of our GSHS Cheerleaders traded game day for a great cause as they showed their support at a local Breast Cancer Awareness Walk!
We are so proud of our Dolphins for showing up, spreading awareness, and supporting a cause that touches so many lives. It's about more than cheering on the sidelines—it's about making a difference in our community!
Making waves for a cure!







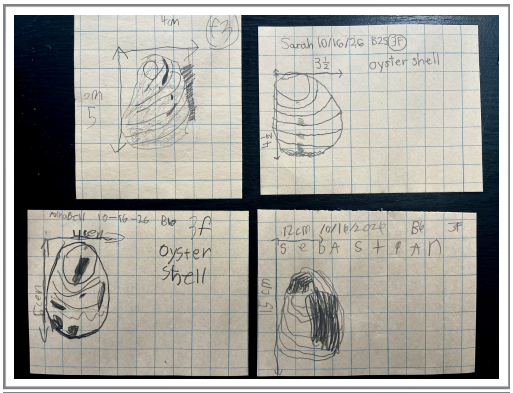



OCTOBER
Breast
CANCER
awareness
MONTH





Unearthing the Past, Inspiring the Future!
As our first rotation of Archaeology classes at GSES winds down, let's dig into what our young archaeologists have discovered so far!
Did you know that Gulf Shores has a remarkable history dating back long before European contact?
Approximately 1,400 years ago, during the Woodland period, Indigenous peoples engineered and constructed an extraordinary canal connecting Little Lagoon to Oyster Bay. Today, the Gulf Shores Indian Canal is recognized as the oldest known Native American canal discovered in the United States!
Through the science of archaeology, we have uncovered evidence of this remarkable engineering achievement and gained a deeper understanding of the ingenuity, knowledge, and adaptability of the people who called our coastal community home long before us.
Our students are learning that archaeology is much more than digging for artifacts. It's about asking questions, examining evidence, making observations, and interpreting clues to tell the stories of the past.
Along the way, they're strengthening essential future-focused skills: critical thinking, collaboration, observation, communication, and interpretation.
And perhaps the most exciting discovery of all? History isn't just found in textbooks. It's right beneath our feet!
Who knows? One day, one of our young archaeologists may uncover another piece of Gulf Shores' remarkable story!
Learning from the past. Thinking about the future. Making Waves through discovery!









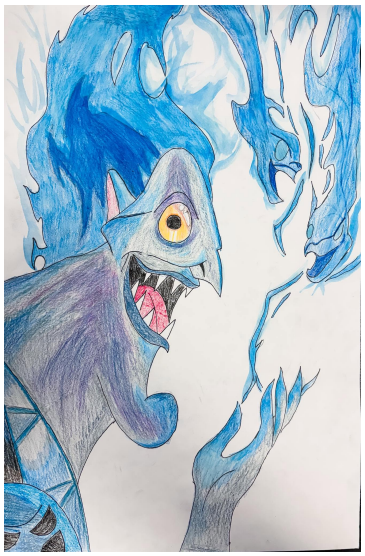




1st graders are Making Waves of Kindness by sending donations to families affected by the recent Hurricanes in Florida.



It's officially SPOOKY SEASON in the art room!
Students at GSMS have been drawing and painting some wonderfully wicked villains, and of course, getting into the Halloween spirit without a little inspiration!
So, Mrs. Michaelson transformed into Maleficent herself, turned on the villain music, and let the creativity (and a little mischief) begin! Because what's Halloween without a little magic, a little drama, and a few villains up to no good?
BUT BEWARE… you never know who might be lurking in the library!
Our student-created villains have made their way to the library just in time for Halloween! Stop by if you dare… because there's a villain in every story!













A huge thank you to Dr. Glenzer with The Orthopaedic Group and Keith Holcombe with Arthrex for spending time with our Health Science Academy students at GSHS.
Our students had the incredible opportunity to learn about a variety of careers in the medical field and get hands-on experience with the devices and equipment used to perform different upper extremity surgical procedures.
Experiences like these bring learning to life and give our students a glimpse into the many possibilities that await them in the world of healthcare.
We are so grateful for professionals who are willing to share their time, knowledge, and passion with the next generation of healthcare workers. Your willingness to invest in our students, answer their questions, and provide meaningful, real-world learning experiences makes a lasting impact!
Thank you for helping us inspire, educate, and empower the future of healthcare!







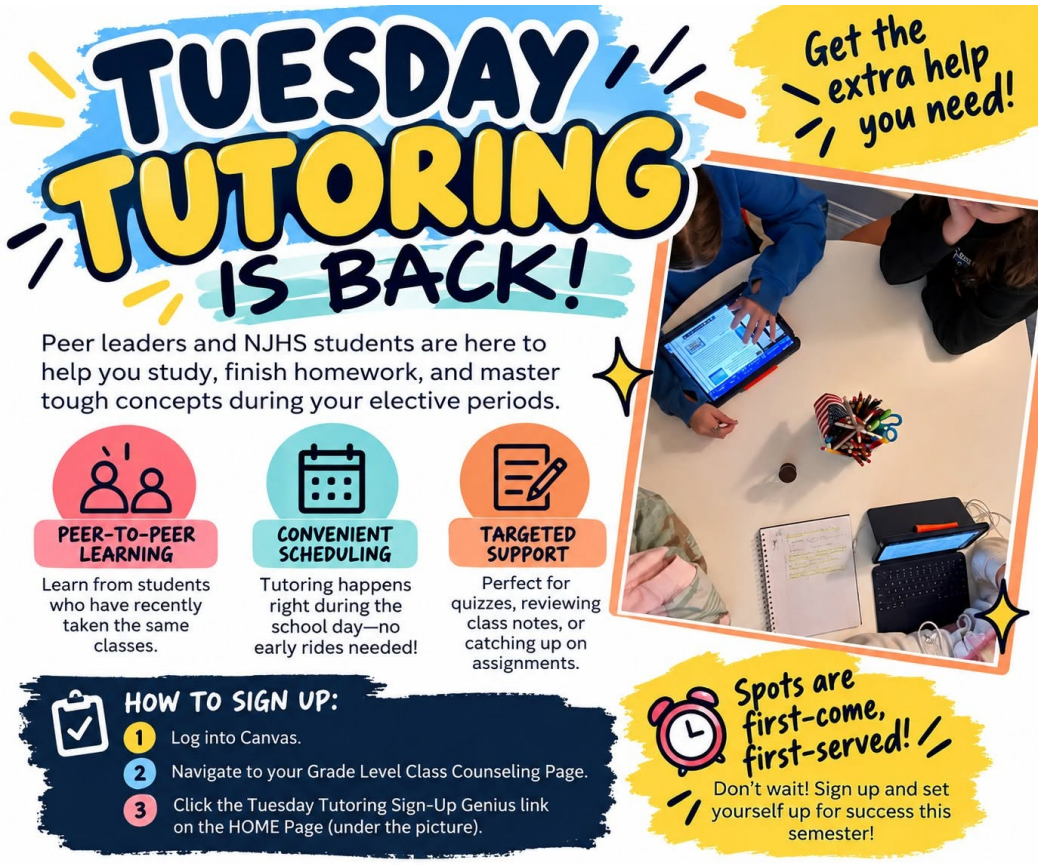






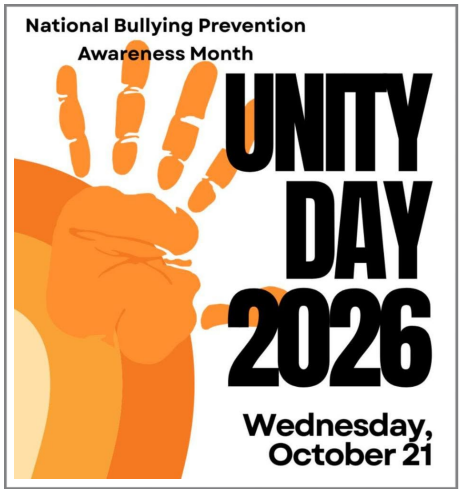


Tuesday Tutoring is Back at GSMS!
Need a little extra help? Our NJHS students are ready to help classmates with homework, studying, and challenging concepts during the school day! Students can sign up through their Grade Level Counseling Canvas page. Spots are first-come, first-served!







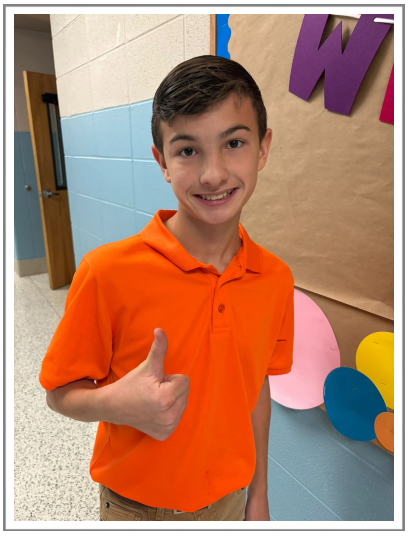






UNITY DAY AT GSMS!

Today, our Gulf Shores Middle School Dolphins celebrated national Unity Day by wearing ORANGE to stand together for kindness, inclusion, and unity!
When we wear orange, we send a powerful message that everyone belongs, everyone matters, and we are stronger together. Our differences make us unique, but our kindness and respect for one another unite us as one Dolphin family!
ONE SCHOOL. ONE FAMILY.









THE GREAT PUMPKIN PENNY DROP at GSES!
We are excited to announce a fun, schoolwide project that brings together our entire elementary school for a wonderful cause!
This year, we are hosting The Great Pumpkin Penny Drop to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House in honor of the Pearse family.
Each grade-level has created ONE GIANT pumpkin to display in our schoolwide pumpkin patch!
LET THE PENNY DROP BEGIN!
From October 28 – November 6th, students can vote for their favorite grade-level pumpkin by dropping pennies, coins, or other spare change into the collection bucket beside it!
The grade level that raises the most money will be crowned our Great Pumpkin Penny Drop Champion on November 9!
The Best Part?
Every penny collected will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House in honor of the Pearce family.
This is more than just a friendly competition. It's an opportunity for our entire school to come together, show kindness, support a special cause, and teach our students that even the smallest acts of giving can make a BIG difference!
So start gathering that spare change, and let's see which grade level can make the biggest impact!











Rockin' & rollin' through 50 days of K!

We danced til we dropped, counted to 50 more times than we can remember, made root beer floats, tried to blow bubbles with bubblegum, and danced some more. We are 50 days smarter!





A huge congratulations to our talented GSMS art students who placed in the Wheeles Realty My Dream Home Poster Contest! From unique architectural styles and beautiful landscaping, our students put their artistic skills to work to bring their dream homes to life!
A special thank you to Wheeles Realty and the contest sponsors for providing this wonderful opportunity for our students to share their creativity and for supporting young artists in our community.







Peer Helpers at GSES worked on Red Ribbon posters to remind students of dress up days and the annual Alabama/ Auburn canned food drive.

















Mrs. Taylor's class at GSES loved reading Pumpkin Jack! We carved our own and cant wait to watch what happens next!







The Student Lighthouse Team and K-Kids enjoyed visiting Live Oak Village to trick-or-treat this week. Seeing the smiles on the residents' faces was the best part! We can't wait to see them again in December.





And the winner is… with a come-from-behind victory… AUBURN BY 19! Congratulations to all of our Auburn fans! You brought in the most donations and claimed the win! A HUGE thank you to everyone who participated in our food drive. Because of your generosity, we collected over 770 items! Every single donation will make a difference for someone in our community. We are so grateful for everyone's kindness, generosity, and school spirit! Thank you for making this food drive such a success!

Gulf Shores baseball's annual 'Halloween Game' with fans and players alike dressing up in costumes for a festive evening: "The Boo Crew" ended up taking down "The Scream Team" by a score of 4-3.









Ghouls, Boos & Sugar Skulls, Too!
Our Walking School Bus ghouls and boos (girls and boys) got into the spooky spirit this morning, creating colorful Sugar Skull masks as we approach Halloween and ¡Feliz Día de Muertos! (Happy Day of the Dead!)
With a little creativity, lots of color, and plenty of giggles, our Dolphins celebrated the season while learning about a beautiful Mexican tradition that honors and remembers loved ones who have passed.



Mrs. McFarland and Ms. Hadicke's Pre-K celebrated Halloween by creating funky hydro-dipped pumpkins.



Kindergarten book character pumpkin parade was a blast! (Mrs. Blevins' Class)



Happy "Senior Night" to the **Gulf Shores City Schools** Dolphin football players, cheerleaders, and band members! Thank you, Seniors, for the memories, dedication, and school spirit!



Happy Halloween from the GSMS Art students!













Second grade Eco Center field trip in After School Care!

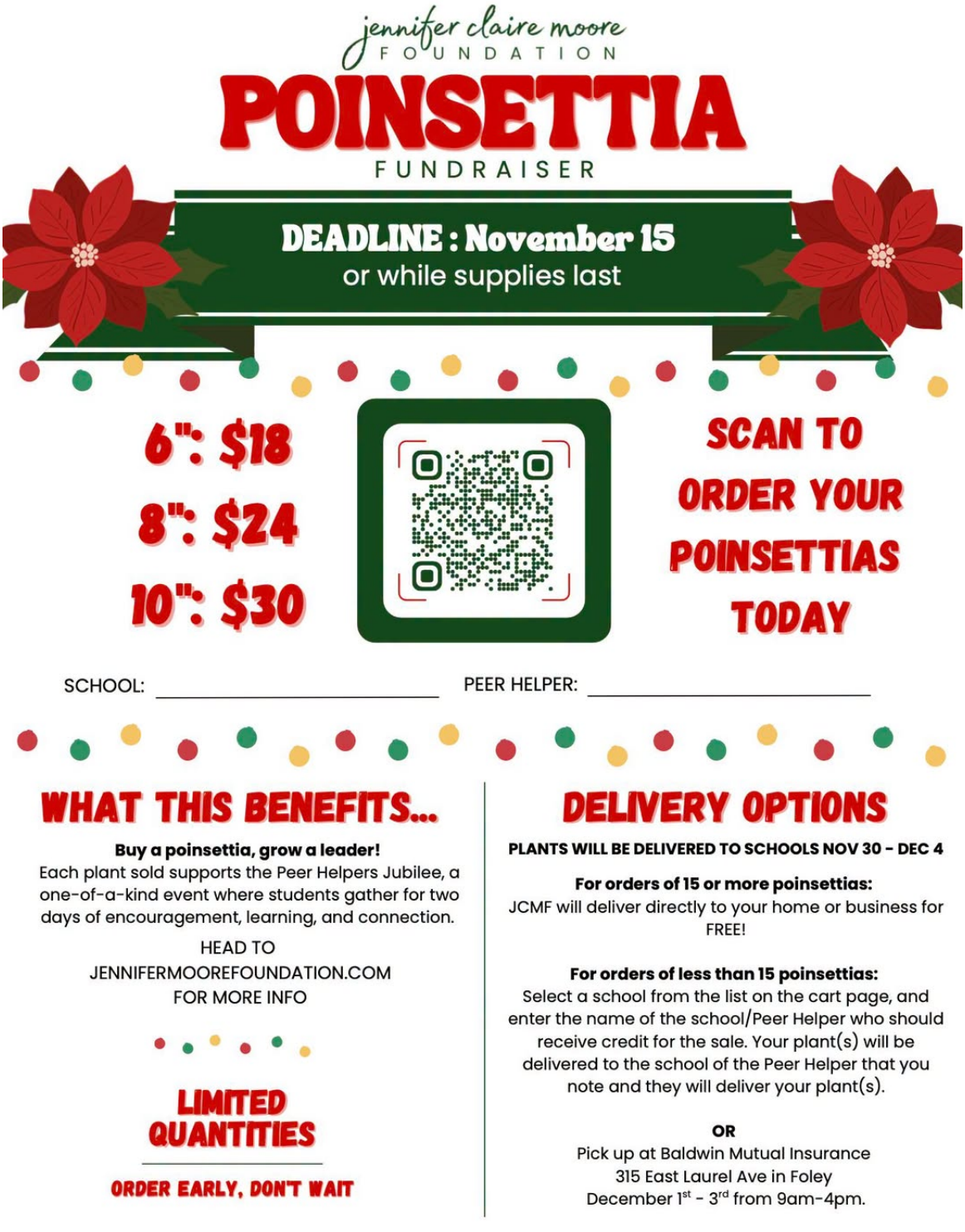








The Peer Helpers at GSES are excited to kick off our Poinsettia Sale! This fundraiser will help support Peer Helper activities and projects throughout the school year across Baldwin County.
Beautiful poinsettias are available for purchase and make wonderful holiday decorations or gifts for family, friends, neighbors, secret pals, and coworkers. We would greatly appreciate your support by purchasing a plant and/or sharing this opportunity with others.
Thank you for supporting our Peer Helpers and helping us continue to make a positive impact in our school community. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Rogula at lrogula@gsboe.org.




GULF SHORES
WRESTLING
2026 – 2027 SEASON
SCHEDULE DROP
2026 AHSAA STATE DUALS RUNNER-UP
NOVEMBER
6th Hurricane Kickoff @ Alma Bryant (JH 7th–9th)
13th & 14th Gulf Shores Kickoff (JH/JV/Girls)
17th ★Home Tri w/ Elberta & Fairhope
20th & 21st Gulf Coast Clash @ Mobile Conv. Ctr (V, Sel. JV/Girls)
21st Gulf Coast Clash @ Mobile Conv. Ctr (JH 7th–9th)
DECEMBER
1st ★Home Tri w/ Daphne & Gulf Breeze (ALL)
4th & 5th Ed Franks Invitational @ Gardendale (Varsity)
5th Murder Creek Melee @ W.S. Neal (Girls)
5th Toro Takedown @ Spanish Fort (JH/JV)
11th Arab Girls Tournament (Girls)
11th Tri @ Southside, Gadsden (Varsity)
12th Arab Dungeon Duals (Varsity)
12th Snow Road Showdown @ MGM (JH/JV)
15th Tri @ Bayshore (Select JV & Varsity)
17th Tri @ Helena (Varsity)
18th & 19th Pelham Invitational (Varsity)
18th & 19th Bear Brawl @ Robertsdale (JH/JV/Girls)
22nd Robertsdale Duals (Sel. JV & Varsity)
29th ★Gulf Shores Scuffle @ GSHS (JH/Girls)
29th & 30th ★Gulf Shores Scuffle @ GSHS (V & JV)
JANUARY
2nd Mako Mahem @ Orange Beach (JV)
8th & 9th ★Baldwin County Championships @ GSHS (ALL)
12th ★Home Tri w/ Robertsdale & Baker (ALL)
SENIOR NIGHT
15th ★5A Region 1 Duals @ GSHS
16th Ryan Blackwell Invitational @ Gulf Breeze, FL (Girls)
16th Warrior Wrath @ Elberta (JH/JV)
22nd/23rd State Dual Playoffs @ TBA (Varsity)
23rd Battle for Brookwood @ Brookwood (Varsity) *
23rd Toro Tussle @ Spanish Fort (JH/JV)
29th AHSAA 5A State Duals Final 4 @ CrossPlex, Birmingham
FEBRUARY
6th ★Gulf Coast JV Championships @ GSHS (JV)
6th & 7th AHSAA 5A/6A South Super Sectionals @ Garrett Coliseum, Montgomery
12th–14th AHSAA 5A/6A State Tournament @ Von Braun Center, Huntsville
* Pending Dual Playoff
★ = HOME MATCH – come pack the gym!
#ITWEME · #TRUSTTHEPROCESS · #POD
HOME MATCHES @ GSHS GYM
21656 Coastal Gateway Blvd
Gulf Shores, AL 36542
IT WE ME

Archaeology Lab: Round 2 — Sorting Through the Past!
Our second round of Archaeology Lab classes is underway, and our littlest archaeologists in PreK–1st grade are discovering that not everything archaeologists study is an artifact!
We kicked off our lesson with The First Strawberries: A Cherokee Story, retold by Joseph Bruchac, introducing students to Cherokee storytelling traditions and the relationship between people and the natural world.
Then it was time to think like archaeologists!
Working collaboratively, students examined and sorted objects such as nuts, sticks, shells, rocks, pottery sherds, teeth, and bones into three categories:
Artifacts — Objects made or modified by people, like pottery.
Ecofacts — Remains of once-living things, such as shells, nuts, and bones, that help us understand how people lived.
Natural Objects — Things that were never living, such as rocks.
But here's where the real thinking begins!
Could a natural object become an artifact if someone used or modified it as a tool?
Through careful observation, classification, collaboration, and critical thinking, our young archaeologists are learning that every object has a story, but it takes evidence to understand what that story might be!
Little hands. Curious minds. BIG discoveries!







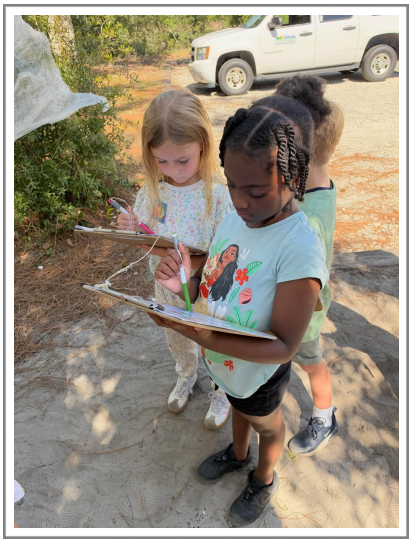


A great day of learning at the State Park for Mrs. Helms' class at GSES!











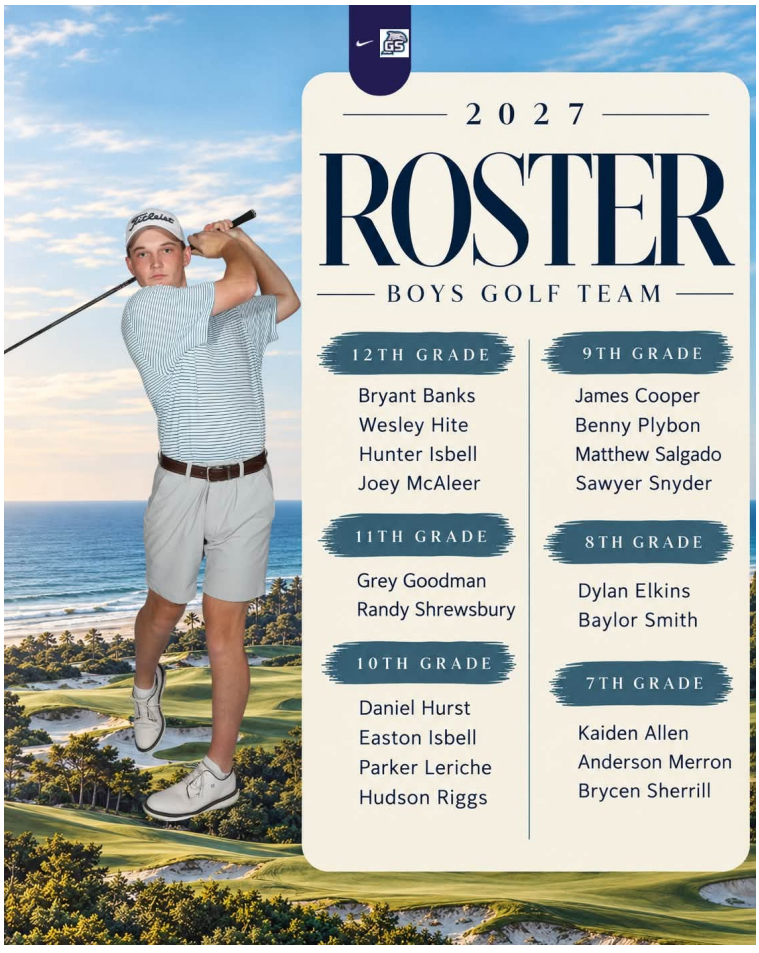


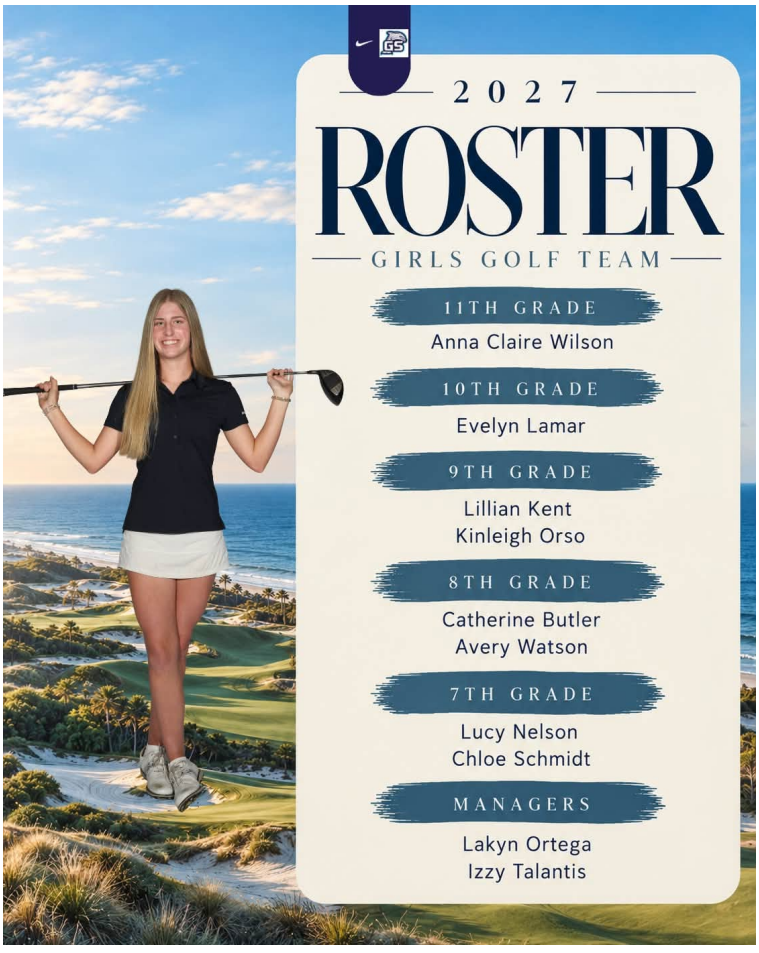


HOLY BONES! I've been part of the BEST school system for ONE WHOLE YEAR!
I've been wagging tails, spreading pawsitivity, and making waves one paw at a time!
A BIG ol' WOOF of thanks to Mayor Robert Craft and Trudy Craft for helping make my dream a reality! You've made this pup's tail wag extra hard!
This is truly the most PAW-SOME place to be!



Congratulations to the following Golfers on making the 2027 Gulf Shores Golf Program!



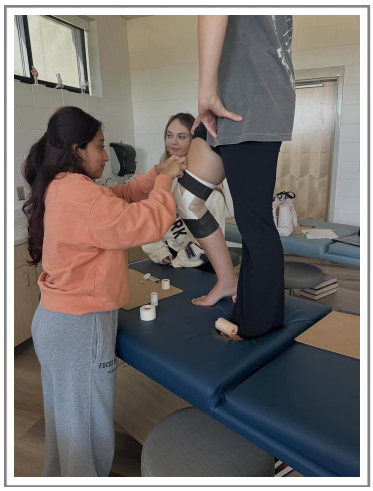


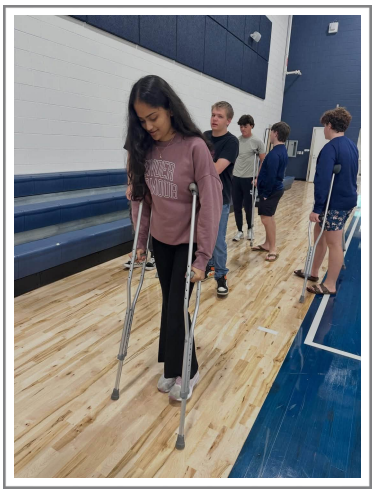
A big thank you to **Gulf Shores City Schools** and **Gulf Shores City Schools Athletics** for recognizing our Gulf Shores Youth Recreation football players on the field during Friday night's football game!
Several of our youth recreation cheerleaders, along with other youth within our community, also had the opportunity to participate in a cheer clinic with Gulf Shores High School Cheer.
We appreciate the opportunity for our young athletes to be part of these experiences, and we love seeing our recreation programs and schools come together to support our youth!





Life lately in Sports Med & Health Science!
From foot & ankle goniometry and taping to knee taping, goniometry, and palpations, we've been getting hands-on and putting our knowledge to the test!
We've also explored anatomical and directional terms through our Twinkie dissection, practiced crutch fitting and walking checkoffs, and worked through shock scenario simulations.
Plus, throwback to an awesome day spent with Arthrex device sales rep Keith Holcombe & Dr. Glenzer with The Ortho Group learning how to "perform" surgeries and getting hands-on with medical devices!
Learning, practicing, and growing one checkoff at a time! So grateful for these experiences and all the opportunities to learn more about the world of sports medicine and healthcare.









Be A Hero!

Heroes Work Together!

Heroes Wear Blue!

Make Waves for a Drug-Free Future!

Your Future is Bright!





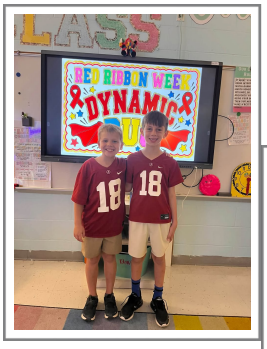
















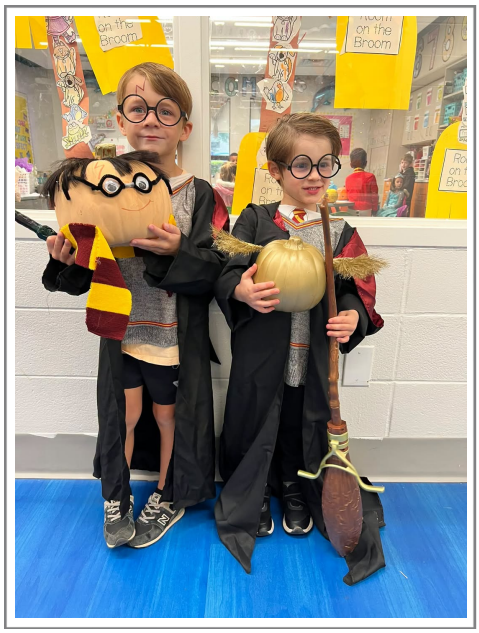









ALOHA
anti = against


on the Broom




One CLASS One TEAM
HORIZONTAL
MAKE WAVES
FOR A

Second grade Eco Center field trip in After School Care.







Making an impact, one step at a time!
Three of our GSHS HOSA members volunteered at the Baldwin Heart Walk at OWA, supporting an event dedicated to raising awareness and funds in the fight against heart disease and stroke—the #1 cause of death in Alabama and the U.S.
Our students had the opportunity to serve alongside community partners and witness the incredible impact of the American Heart Association's work, including lifesaving CPR education, rapid AED response, research, and advances such as the development of stents.
With 62,000 Alabamians trained in CPR this year and more than $165,000 raised through today's Heart Walk efforts, our students were reminded that every volunteer, every dollar, and every lifesaving skill can make a difference.
We are proud of these students for showing up, serving their community, and helping beyond the classroom!





Drum rolls and xylophone tunes make for so much fun in Mr. Pearcey's music class at GSES!



GSMS Veterans Day Assembly Information! Please follow the QR code to RSVP!



Kindergarten afterschool students at GSES were artists!! They are working on a collaborative art piece by painting the background. Stay tuned for the finished piece.
PreK afterschool students at GSES were garden investigators learning about compost and looking for bugs in all of our colorful flowers and garden beds.









Our middle school robotics teams are full of hardworking, genuine, conscientious, intelligent, fun, and passionate children! Coaches J.Salvant, H.McKinney, J.McClung and R.McClung love coaching these teams







The Gulf Shores and Orange Beach Rotary Club presents a check and educational supplies to the Gulf Shores Schools Kids Hope Mentoring Program. From left to right: Tanya Oubre, Bridget Felder, Robert Monk



Eli Malone is headed to the Alabama–Mississippi All-Star Game! Earned the opportunity to represent Gulf Shores and compete alongside some of the best. Proud to see a TTP athlete get this recognition. Keep raising the standard, Eli!



Our GSMS Sustainability Club enjoyed a beautiful afternoon kayaking at Mo's Landing! It was a great opportunity for students to get outside, explore our local environment, and enjoy time together!







We want to give a special shoutout to our Gulf Shores City Schools Special Education teachers who have been such an important part of our Adaptive Soccer program this year!
Thank you for giving your time, encouragement and support to our athletes and for helping create a positive, welcoming experience for everyone on the field.
We are grateful for your partnership and for the difference you make for our athletes and families. Thank you for being part of our team!



200th Win for Coach Hud! Congratulations!







Birthdays are more fun when you get to celebrate at school with your friends!









Lions, and tigers, and bears oh my!
Mrs. Todd's and Mrs. Fralick's classes joined the middle and high school MD classes at the zoo. Wonderful weather, wonderful friends, a wonderful time!



Congratulations to the 89 GSMS students who were represented in the Baldwin County Fair! Together, our talented students brought home an incredible 109 ribbons!





HAPPY CUSTODIAN APPRECIATION DAY!

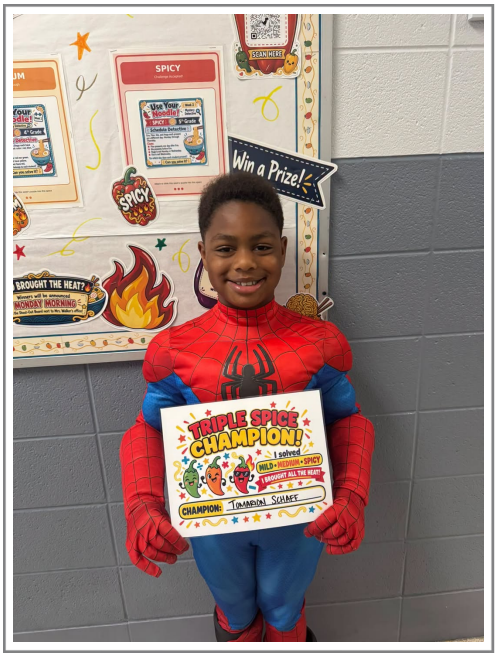
Shout-out to our amazing custodians who keep our elementary school clean, safe, welcoming, and ready for our students every day!
Their hard work often happens behind the scenes, but the difference they make is seen and appreciated by our entire school family.
Thank you for everything you do! We are so grateful for you!



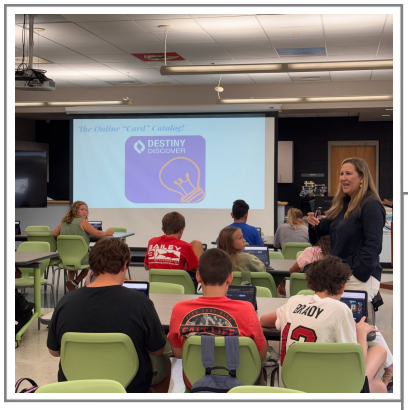
We have our FIRST Triple Spice Champion!
Congratulations to Tomarion Schaff for being the FIRST student to correctly solve all THREE weekly Use Your Noodle logic puzzles—Mild, Medium, AND Spicy—in the same week!
Tomarion definitely brought the brainpower and brought the heat! Way to go!

A portion of our Student Lighthouse Team is practicing for the upcoming Tuesday Tour at GSES.



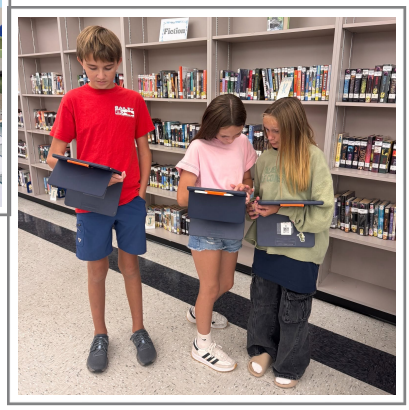


Media Center at GSMS opened to welcome ELA classes with a Media Center 101 Scavenger Hunt and book check outs. Ask your student about what they are reading!



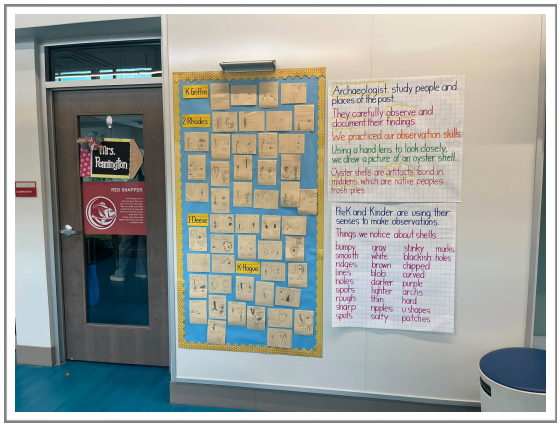






Archaeology Enrichment at GSES with Mrs. Pennington is exciting and fun!





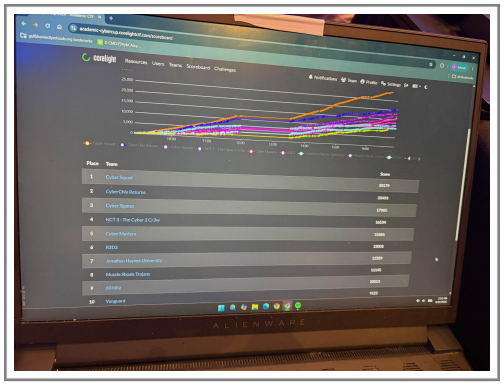
Thank you to our great Gulf Shores mayor, Robert Craft, for stopping by practice to encourage the team as we prepare for this week's home game!



Gulf Shores High School Cybersecurity Team Places 3rd at National Cyber Summit, Wins $750
The Gulf Shores High School cybersecurity team turned in a standout performance at this year's National Cyber Summit's Cyber Cup competition, finishing 3rd overall — behind only two college teams — and earning $750 in prize money.
Team members Sonny Dove, Kai Shults, Rory Davis, and Ian Davis represented Gulf Shores High School against a field that included collegiate competitors, showcasing the strength of the school's growing cybersecurity program.
A second Gulf Shores team also competed for their first time, with students Ayaan Patel, Cody Caldwell, Denys Monchanov, and Casey Wates finishing 10th out of 16 teams — outperforming several college-level competitors in the process.





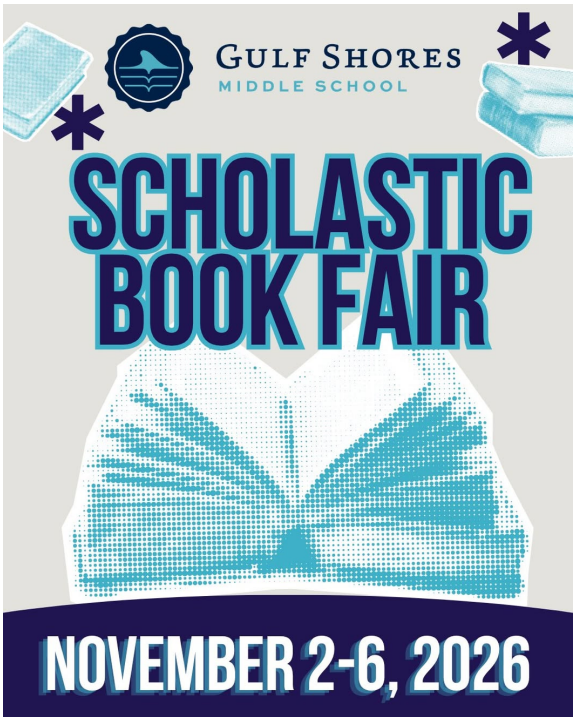


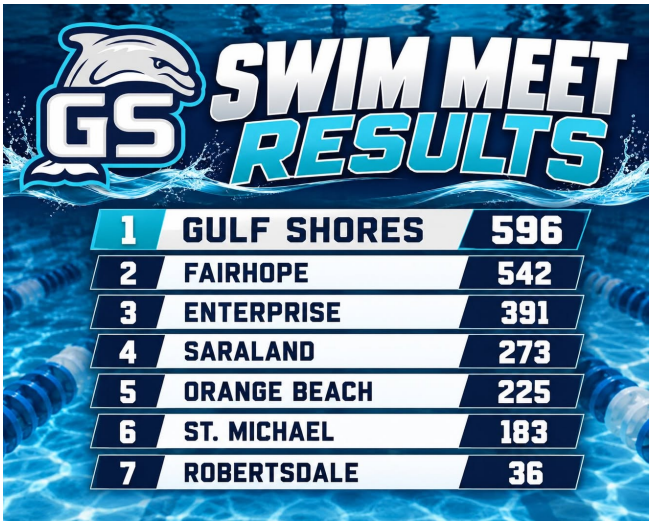


What a great day for our Student Ambassadors!
We had the pleasure of welcoming John "Tater" Harris to Gulf Shores High School to speak with our Student Ambassadors. He shared his experiences and insights on entrepreneurship, economics, local government and politics, and—most importantly—the value of giving back and staying involved in your community.
We love giving our students opportunities to connect with local leaders and learn firsthand about the many ways they can make an impact right here at home.
A special shoutout to Student Ambassador Katelyn Hamilton, who gave Mr. Harris an impressive tour of our new school and represented GSHS so well!
Thank you, Mr. Harris, for investing your time in our students and sharing your perspective with the next generation of community leaders!
Our Dolphins are learning to lead, serve, and **#MakeWaves**!



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





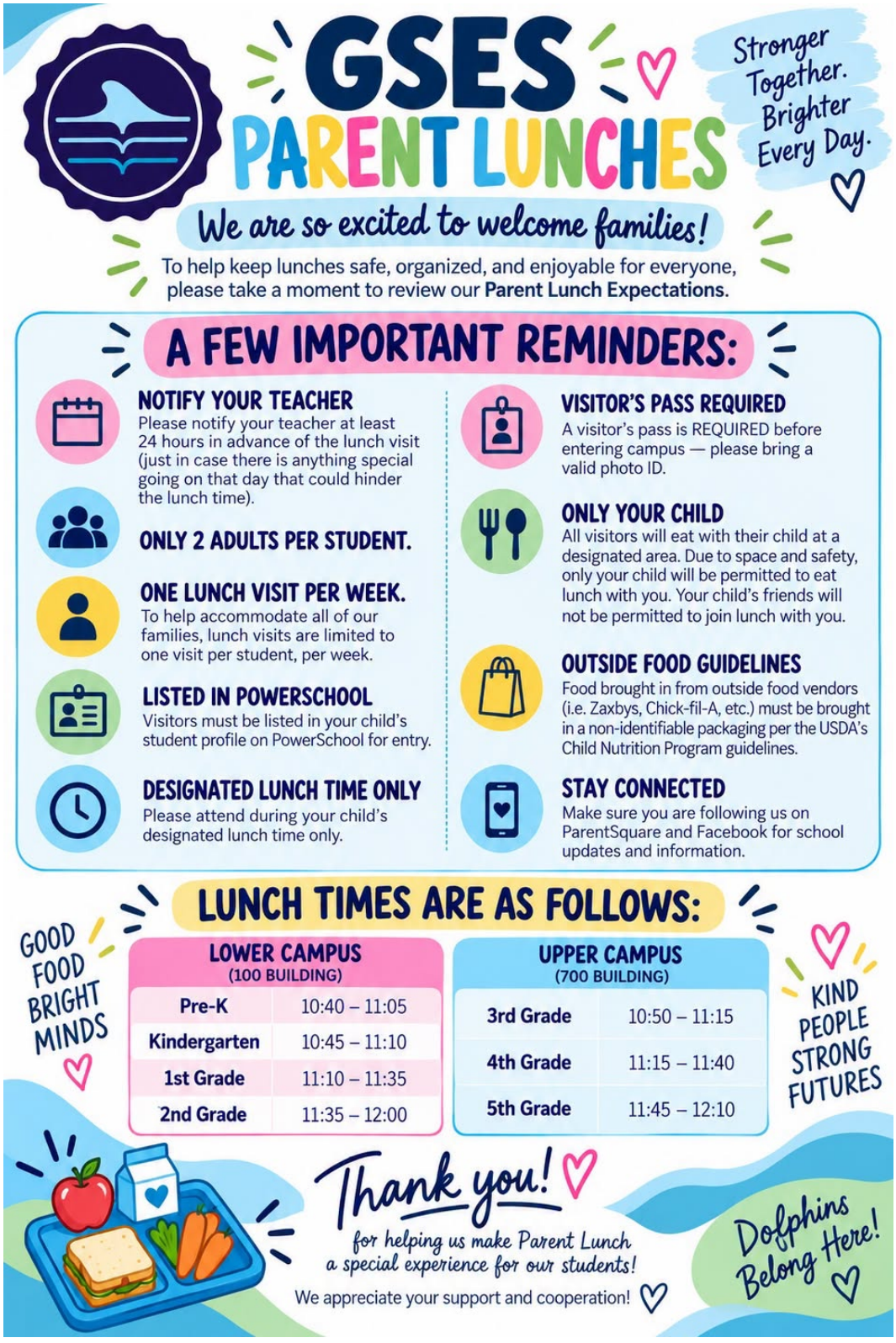




Please SAVE THE DATE – March 30th for our first ever Gulf Coast Career Fair in partnership with Orange Beach City Schools!! Register Here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdZj-d5j6Ibt8r1BkmrJVW5Nn2KdHRd-yu_OV4VqluoIvnd8w/viewform



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.





10/2-6 GSCS: Eat The Harvest Week
10/2-6 GSMS: Scholastic Book Fair
10/3 GSCS: Flu Vaccine Clinic
10/3 GSHS: Theatre Competition Performance
10/3 GSMS: Shrimpy's Food/Golf Spirit Night
10/4 GSMS: PTO Meeting
10/4 GSES: FCA Meeting
10/5 GSMS: NAS Stem Field Trip
10/6 GSMS: Veterans Day Assembly
10/10 GSHS: Apple Distinguished Schools Showcase
10/11 GSCS: Veterans Day - No School
10/12 GSHS: Blood Drive
10/12 BOE: Combo Meeting: Work Session & Regular Meeting
10/13 GSCS: Make Waves of Kindness Day
10/17 GSCS: Tuesday Tour at GSVA
10/20 GSMS: Parent Lunch with Student
10/23-27 GSCS: Thanksgiving Break - No School

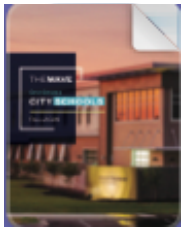
GSCS Board Meetings on Demand: Missed the meeting? Catch the replay **Meetings on Demand**

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