

GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Have You "Herd"?



**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!**

Gainesville City School System will be closed for Winter Break - December 18th - January 2nd. Teacher Planning Day is on January 2nd. Students return to school on January 3rd. We wish you a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Celebrating the Holiday Season Through Music



Students entertain with holiday performances

During the month of December, several of our schools joined in the



**GAINESVILLE
CITY SCHOOLS**

A Georgia Charter System

Jeremy Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Board Members

Brett Mercer, Chair
John Filson, Vice Chair
Delores Diaz
Willie Mitchell
Sammy Smith

Important Dates

December 4-15

HS Milestone Testing

December 15

1st Semester Ends

December 18

Winter Break Begins

holiday excitement, spreading joy and good cheer through musical performances around the community. Students from our elementary, middle, and high schools have entertained audiences of all ages with heartfelt songs and music celebrating the winter season with love, peace, and happiness!

New Holland Rewards Top Readers



Top readers at New Holland earn special prizes

On December 13th, New Holland Academy celebrated its top forty readers from 2nd grade to 5th grade. Each month, the media center rewards students for achieving the highest number of words read for their grade level. For the month of December, the top ten students were rewarded with a free book fair. Students were able to browse the mini book fair and select three books of their choice. After students selected their free books, they received gift bags full of treats such as spy pens, erasers, bookmarks, and headphones.

Since November 27th, the top students have read over 5 million words together. New Holland keeps track of the amount of words each child reads through the Accelerated Reader software. Accelerated Reader allows students to take a knowledge-based test about the book that they read to check their comprehension. If they pass the test, they are given credit for the number of words in the book. Each month, the top readers (students with the highest word count) from each grade level are rewarded with free books, breakfast, or a prize of their choice. New Holland's students are on a mission to read so that they can be rewarded for their achievements!

Two GHS Students Earn National Scholarship

January 2

Teacher Planning
(Weather Make-up)

January 3

2nd Semester Begins

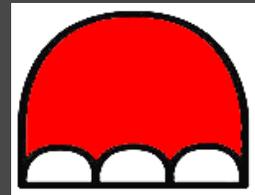
January 9

1st Semester
Report Cards

January 15

ML King Holiday
(Weather Make-up)

Upcoming Events



[EVENT CALENDAR](#)

[ELEPHANT TRACKS NEWS](#)

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Points of Pride



[2017-18 District & School
Achievements](#)



Scholarship recipients Guillermo Beltran and Natasha Enrique

Congratulations to GHS students, Guillermo Beltran and Natasha Enrique, on being selected as recipients of the QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship, a full four-year scholarship worth over \$300,000. QuestBridge is a national scholarship program partnering with highly selective colleges. From a pool of 15,606 applicants from which 5,759 finalists were chosen, there was a total of 918 students who were admitted to a QuestBridge College Partner - with Guillermo and Natasha being the two finalists from Gainesville High School! The scholarship includes tuition, room and board, as well as other expenses. Guillermo will attend Dartmouth College, and Natasha was accepted by the University of Chicago. Cammy Nguyen and Alejandra Luis were also finalists and are still in the running to be selected by a QuestBridge college partner.

GHS school counselor Wendy Savitz states, "Guillermo is a remarkable young man whose dedication to achieving academic and personal excellence is to be commended. Natasha is an outstanding scholar and an amazing leader in our school. Gainesville High School should be very proud!"

The Art of Teaching from the Heart

Alumni News



[125th Anniversary Slideshow](#)

[Class of 2017 Achievements](#)

[Class of 2017 College Acceptances](#)

[View the GCSS Alumni Page](#)

Vision

Our students will think critically, act compassionately, work meaningfully, choose wisely, and live joyfully.

Mission

As *ONE GAINESVILLE*,
we will
INSPIRE,
NURTURE,
CHALLENGE &
PREPARE
our students

Our Schools

Gainesville High

Gainesville Middle

Centennial Arts Academy

Enota MI Academy

Fair Street International
Academy



GHS Faculty on Fire Winner Sarah Claussen

As the Fine Arts Department Chair and Visual Arts Instructor at Gainesville High School, Sarah Claussen strives to offer interesting, self-driven projects that encourage her students to apply their own creative solutions and work style which, according to her, is what makes each project and artist behind it unique. She wants her students to have fun in a positive learning environment where they feel safe to be creative and empowered to share ideas. Mrs. Claussen has a profound love for art and takes great joy in seeing the positive influence art has on individuals. As the Faculty on Fire award winner for Gainesville High School, Mrs. Claussen is a skilled leader who sets high expectations for her students and enjoys helping them find their creative potential.

As a child, art was her choice of expression. Her father was an artist, and he fostered her early interest in art. There were several others who also inspired her along the way. "My art professors and teachers served as some of the most empowering and inspirational [people] in my life," shared Mrs. Claussen. "I knew that I too wanted to share my passion for the arts with others, and I couldn't imagine doing anything else."

As an active artist who showcases her artwork in local galleries, her goal is to encourage her students to develop an artist's habit of mind. "The words of encouragement I offer my students, "Follow your exploration. If you don't explore, you'll never know," she states. "I want my students to know that art allows multiple answers to a single problem."

She describes herself as an artist, mother, and advocate who honors diversity and appreciates a good challenge. She strives to continue to grow as an educator and to facilitate meaningful experiences for her art students. "I hope to advocate and support my department in increasing awareness of our programs both on campus and in the community." By exposing her students to the various elements of art,

she hopes to continue to mold generations of future artists.



**Share your photos & great news @
#OneGainesville**



- **Gainesville City School System - @GCSSK12**
- **Centennial - @GCSS_CAA**
- **Enota - @enotamiacademy**
- **Fair Street - @GCSS_FS**
- **Gainesville Exploration - @GCSS_GEA**
- **Mundy Mill Academy - @GCSS_MMLA**
- **New Holland - @GCSS_NH**
- **Gainesville Middle School - @GCSS_GMS**
- **Gainesville High School - @GCSS_GHS**