

GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Have You "Herd"?



School Nutrition Advocates For Critical Funding



L to R: Emily House, Gov. Nathan Deal and Penny Fowler

GCSS Director of School Nutrition Penny Fowler and School Nutrition Coordinator Emily House recently attended the 2017 GSNA (Georgia School Nutrition Association) Legislative Advocacy Conference in Atlanta.

GSNA supports education reform efforts currently underway led by Governor Nathan Deal and other state leaders and has requested that critical state funding for school nutrition be continued in order to maintain quality school nutrition programs. The association advocates for maintaining funding of health insurance benefits for all school nutrition employees and for increasing funding for the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) from the current \$14.75 to \$15.25 per year of service.

Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. House had the opportunity to meet with Governor Deal as well as local state representative, Matt Dubnik, who serves Hall County. Mrs. Fowler stated that this was their first time advocating on behalf of the School Nutrition program and its employees. She affirms that the event was a huge success and plans to attend again next year.



**GAINESVILLE
CITY SCHOOLS**

A Georgia Charter System

Wanda Creel, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Board Members

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

Important Dates

March 10

Teacher Planning
(Weather Make-up)

March 13

4th Grading Period Begins

March 14

College Aspirations Are Within "Reach"



GMS students experience college life at UGA

So far this school year, the University of Georgia was the second college visited by the Gainesville Middle School REACH scholars and 6th, 7th and 8th grade peer tutors' helpers.

Students were provided opportunities to obtain a range of facts about the college life of students on campus. The University of Georgia Arch Society facilitator's tour guides were very instrumental in sharing the importance of maintaining good grades and getting involved in extracurricular activities. Students experienced the ringing of the chapel bell, learned about the original University mascot, rode the campus bus, and ate on campus. They learned that historically the ringing of the chapel bell was utilized as a class change bell for the entire campus, and that UGA's first mascot was a goat and was later changed to a bulldog based on a reporter's analogy of the team's style of play in a particular football game.

The students asked key questions about their selected majors and learned that the average student who attends the University of Georgia has a 4.1 grade point average. The students took a college survey and learning style assessment and then shared one thing they learned during the visit. One seventh grader wrote, "Even if people don't have a perfect GPA...you can still get in, but you have to have a lot of confidence and know how to communicate and express yourself well." Many of the students wrote thank you cards to express their appreciation for the awesome college experience. The tour enabled them to realize that with good grades and determination they can also be students at UGA someday or at any college that they aspire to attend.

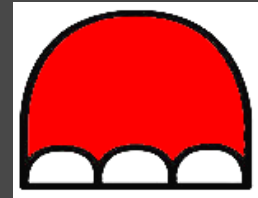
March 20

BOE Meeting

April 3 - 7

Spring Break Holidays


Upcoming Events



[EVENT CALENDAR](#)

[ELEPHANT TRACKS NEWS](#)

Help us share our story

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

Points of Pride



[District & School Achievements](#)

[GCSS Data Facts](#)

Alumni News



[125th Anniversary Slideshow](#)

GHS Literary Team Advances To State



GHS Literary team with Pam Ware and Julia Hamilton

Congratulations to the GHS Literary team for its remarkable achievement as the Region Champion in the Region 8 6A Literary Competition held on Saturday, March 4th. The team earned a total of 72 points. Individual team members captured seven first place awards, advancing to the GHSA State 6A Literary Championship scheduled on March 18th at Houston County High School in Warner Robins, Georgia. Students finishing in first place included Sophia Casey in Personal Essay, Pratyusha Karnati in Rhetorical Essay, Ramiro Salinas in Humorous Interpretation, Izzy Pate in Dramatic Interpretation, Ramiro Salinas and Izzy Pate in Duo Interpretation, Jameson Murray in Boys Solo and Jameson Murray, Ras Boone, Gus Kaufman and Herve Aklotsoe in Boys Quartet.

Several students also placed second in the region meet: David Davenport in Argumentative Essay and Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking, Boone Alexander in International Extemporaneous Speaking, and Stephanie Ortez, Cayla Adams, Yuriana Moran in Girls Trio. Stephanie Ortez also had a strong third place finish in Girls Solo. The team was led by Mrs. Pam Ware, literary coordinator, and Mrs. Julia Hamilton, musical coordinator.

The school district is proud of the outstanding accomplishments of all of the team members and recognizes the many hours of preparation that went into achieving these remarkable results. We wish the students the best of luck at state, and we are certain that they will represent GCSS well!

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

Gainesville
Exploration Academy

New Holland
Knowledge Academy

www.gcssk12.net

Book Characters Come To Life



Students and teachers dress up as various characters

On March 2nd, schools across the nation celebrated Read Across America Day which was also Dr. Seuss's birthday. All GCSS elementary schools honored Dr. Seuss's birthday with students and teachers dressing up as their favorite Dr. Seuss book characters. Enota students were excited to see the Lorax standing in the lunch line next to the Cat in the Hat, and they were really excited to have a visit from the Grinch. New Holland celebrated with themed days throughout the week such as Twin Day, Dress for Success Day and Wacky Socks Day. Centennial, Enota, Fair Street, and Gainesville Exploration students also participated in fun activities to celebrate the special event. Guest readers visited schools and volunteered their time by reading to students. Enota children were excited to meet members of the Gainesville High School football team. Students had a great time celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday, but they had just as much fun reading their favorite books!

To view the video of Centennial Arts Academy's celebration, please click [here](#).



Support Our REACH Scholars



2016 REACH Georgia Scholars

Gainesville City School System encourages the community to support our REACH Georgia Scholars program by making a financial contribution to provide an opportunity for select GCSS students to pursue a college education. REACH Georgia is a needs-based scholarship program that pairs middle school students (Scholars) with mentors, coaches and additional resources to prepare them for college and careers. REACH Scholars who successfully complete the program and graduate from high school earn a \$10,000 scholarship paid over four years at a Georgia college or technical college of their choice. 100% of all donations collected will contribute toward REACH scholarships. To download a pledge form, please click [here](#). For additional information regarding the REACH program, please click [here](#).

GHS Honorary Diploma Nominations



2016 HD Graduates: Jackie Wallace, Dr. Bill Coates and Mary Ellen Murray

Gainesville High School is currently accepting nominations for 2017 Honorary Diploma nominations. This honor is bestowed to individuals who are part of the GHS community but who are not GHS graduates and whose achievements and strong support of GHS traditions are reflective of the true Red Elephant pride and spirit. Nominations are due by April 15th and should be submitted to GHS principal Tom Smith via email at tom.smith@gcssk12.net or via mail at 830 Century Place, Gainesville, Georgia, 30501. Please click [here](#) for additional information.

Gainesville City Board Work Session March 6, 2017

The Gainesville City Board of Education Work Session was held on Monday, March 6th at the School Board Office. Board Chair Brett Mercer welcomed and recognized Leadership Hall guests in attendance. The Board reviewed and approved agenda items as submitted by district personnel.

To view the agenda and reports, please click the links below.

- [Board Agenda](#)
- [Overnight Field Trips](#)
- [Facility Requests](#)
- [GHS Instructional Update](#)
- [Research Approvals](#)
- [Personnel Report](#)
- [Playground Equipment - Mundy Mill Academy](#)
- [Technology - Gainesville High School](#)

- [New Server For Online Assessments](#)

Your Opinion Matters To Us



Parents and guardians of GCSS students are strongly encouraged to complete the online AdvancED parent survey to share opinions to help target areas of improvement for the school system. The survey can be accessed on the district website (www.gcssk12.net) or by clicking [here](#). Please be assured that responses will be anonymous, and parental input is greatly appreciated. For additional information or if there are any questions, please contact Priscilla Collins at priscilla.collins@gcssk12.net or 770-536-5275.

#Cheersto125years

Advancing A Tradition of Excellence! #OneGainesville #RoadtoGraduation



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

GCSS Mobile App

GCSS is proud to announce its very own mobile app!

GCSS is now live!

Here are some amazing features to look forward to and things you can do with the GCSS app:

Notifications
Make sure you select "Yes" to receive Push Notifications so you can receive all breaking school news. These notifications will be used to provide information on early/late start and school closings.

Calendar
The school wide calendar of events and athletic events at the tip of your finger! Add the events that you are interested in to your native phone calendar so you never miss them!

Download the GCSS Mobile App through **App Store**, **Google Play**, or **Window Store** to access the latest information while on the go! Features such as Calendar of Events, Directions, Faculty and Staff Directory, Emergency and District Alerts, Helpful Links, and Current News can be accessed through our mobile application. **"Go Mobile"** with GCSS!

