

GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Have You "Herd"?



Dedicated To Serving Students With Disabilities



Shannon Lewis Crook with Philip Wright

Congratulations to Mrs. Shannon Lewis Crook, GCSS School Social Worker, as the recipient of the 2017 Philip Wright Award, representing the Gainesville City School System. She along with other award recipients within the northeast Georgia region were recognized at the 16th Annual Philip Wright Awards Ceremony sponsored by North Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) on March 3rd in Cleveland, Georgia.

Mike Enright, GCSS Director of Special Education, stated, "Shannon exemplifies the true "One Gainesville" spirit as she works to support all students with a special emphasis on those who have a disability."

The Philip Wright Award recognizes individuals for their service, commitment and advocacy of children with disabilities. The award honors the legacy created by Mr. Wright, highlighting his commitment to improving educational services for students with disabilities in school districts within the Pioneer RESA region. The award is presented to individuals such as Shannon who work above and beyond the call of duty for students with disabilities



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 20

BOE Meeting

April 3 - 7

Spring Break Holidays

April 10

BOE Work Session

in their school districts.

Congratulations, Shannon! Outstanding Achievement!



April 17

BOE Meeting

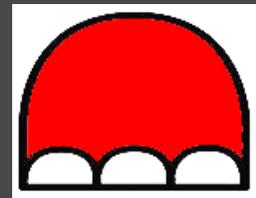
April 17-21

ES & MS Milestone Testing

April 18

Progress Reports

Upcoming Events



[EVENT CALENDAR](#)

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Points of Pride



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Transitioning From High School To High Tech



GHS students visit local industries

Gainesville High School, in collaboration with the High School High Tech organization, has taken students to two different tours during the month of February. The students' first trip was to King's Hawaiian and Lanier Technical College. The second trip was to the Caterpillar Plant in Bogart, Georgia. Students met with counselors and industry specialists to learn more about opportunities and the next steps that they can take after they graduate from high school.

High School-High Tech (HS-HT) is a program offered through the U.S. Department of Labor and the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). The goal of HS - HT is to provide opportunities for students with various types of disabilities to explore post-secondary options, training and employment. Through this partnership, students have access to a broad range of academic and career development

Alumni News

resources and experiences that will enable them to successfully meet the workforce demands of the 21st century. Activities include college and technical school tours, Q&A sessions with admissions personnel and advisors, tours with area businesses, career planning and soft skills development.

Gainesville High School's chapter of HSHT is comprised of 24 students and 3 advisors, and is open to any junior or senior student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Ms. Stacia Dillin, SPED Transition Specialist for grades 6-12, coordinated the program this year in an effort to strengthen transition planning services offered to Gainesville High School students with disabilities.

Educational Support For Students With Special Needs



The Gainesville City School System Department of Special Education provides educational support for students ages 3-21, who meet eligibility guidelines in the following areas: Autism, Deaf, Emotional Behavioral Disorder, Intellectual Disability, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impaired, Significantly Developmentally Delayed, Speech / Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Visual Impairment. The special education team consists of 50 teachers and 34 paraprofessionals who work together with general education teachers and administrators to help build developmentally appropriate learning opportunities for students with exceptionalities in grades PK-12. The primary goal of special education services within our schools is to ensure that students with disabilities are provided access to the general education curriculum in the general education setting to the maximum extent possible, as mandated by The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

An integral part of the school system, the Special Education department is a component of the Office of Academic Affairs and makes every effort to ensure that students have equal access to all



[125th Anniversary
Slideshow](#)

[Class of 2016 Achievements](#)

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.gcsk12.net

aspects of the curriculum. The department continuously meets the Georgia Department of Education's goals in relation to the State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report.

For more information, please contact Mike Enright, Director of Special Education, at 770-536-5275 or mike.enright@gcssk12.net.

Contestants Battle For Coveted Mr. GHS Title



I to r: Jameson Murray, Wilson Roberts, Enrique Vasquez, Sammy Nelson, Gus Kaufman, Diego Ojeda, Ramiro Salinas, Rentavious Buffington, Ras Boone, Dante Wilson

On March 14th, ten young men competed in the annual 2017 Mr. Gainesville High School Contest at the Pam Ware Performing Arts Center. Contestants were judged on their formal attire, talent, and interview. The participants included Dante Wilson, Jameson Murray, Ras Boone, Wilson Roberts, Rentavious Buffington, Enrique Vasquez, Ramiro Salinas, Sammy Nelson, Diego Ojeda, and Gus Kaufman.

Pam Ware, GCSS Drama Director, was very pleased with how well the competition turned out and was proud of the contestants' performances stating, "This was the best Mr. GHS contest we have had in years. The quality of the entertainment was superb."

Wilson Roberts, an eleventh grader, won the Mr. GHS title. Other contest winners included Rentavious Buffington (First Runner-Up), Ramiro Salinas (Second Runner-Up), Gus Kaufman (Third Runner-Up), Dante Wilson (Mr. Congeniality), Gus Kaufman (Interview Winner), Ramiro Salinas (Talent Winner), and Rentavious Buffington (Modeling Winner).

Honoring Our Gainesville City School Board



L to R: Brett Mercer, John Filson, Delores Diaz, Wanda Creel, Willie Mitchell and Sammy Smith

Governor Nathan Deal proclaimed the week of March 13-17th as School Board Appreciation Week in Georgia sponsored by the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA). Across the state, local school boards were recognized for their service and commitment to providing quality education to the children in Georgia schools.

The Gainesville City School System joined the statewide celebration to salute the tremendous efforts of our school board members. The weeklong observance highlights the many contributions of local boards of education. The School Board will be recognized at the regular meeting scheduled on March 20th at the Public Safety Complex.

The board members serving the Gainesville City school district are Ward 1 - Brett Mercer (Board Chair - 3 years of service), Ward 2 - John Filson (Board Vice Chair - 1 year of service), Ward 3 - Willie Mitchell (26 years of service), Ward 4 - Dr. Delores Diaz (7 years of service), and Ward 5 - Sammy Smith (9 years of service).

As constitutional officers of Georgia, school board members are responsible for setting educational policies, employing school personnel, providing buildings and equipment, operating a transportation system and disbursing school funds. As community leaders, they serve as advocates for children in local public schools and must study, evaluate, and decide what actions are in the best interest of students.

Gainesville City School System commends its board members for their dedication to serving the needs of students and employees and for their commitment to providing quality education for all children.

Support Our REACH Scholarship Program



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.

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!

