

GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Have You "Herd"?



Impacting Lives and Changing Futures



GCSS School Social Workers (l to r): Dr. Ursula Harris and Jarod Anderson (not pictured - Shannon Crook)

March is National Social Workers Month with this year's theme being "Social Workers: Leaders. Advocates. Champions." School districts and agencies across the nation will recognize social workers and highlight the important contributions they make to society. It is important for the public to understand that social workers act as advocates, champions, and leaders in the communities where they serve.

"Social workers help individuals and families in need connect with services and resources. [They] fill a variety of professional roles," says Leigh Sears, Director of Student Engagement and Intervention. "From case manager, facilitator, organizer, mediator, and educator, the number of social work roles increases every day. Social workers help make our communities and schools safer, healthier, and happier."

With more than 600,000 social workers nationally, these individuals confront some of the most challenging issues facing our students, families, and communities and foster solutions that help our students reach their full potential physically, mentally, socially, and



**GAINESVILLE
CITY SCHOOLS**

A Georgia Charter System

Jeremy Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Board Members

John Filson, Chair
Willie Mitchell, Vice Chair
Sammy Smith
Andy Stewart
Dr. Heather Ramsey

Important Dates

March 8

**End of Third Grading
Period**

March 13

Report Cards

March 30

emotionally.

Please join us in honoring our school social workers, Jarod Anderson, Dr. Ursula Harris, and Shannon Crook. They are on the "front line" every day, ensuring that our students and families are provided with the resources and services needed for a better quality of life in order to have a brighter future.

Empowering Youth to be Strong Leaders



Students from GMS participate in youth summit

Sixth grade students from Gainesville Middle School and Hall County attended the Youth Empowerment Summit also known as Students Together Achieving Responsibility and Tolerance (START) on February 15th at First Presbyterian Church.

START was an empowering event with the purpose of recruiting and developing youth leaders to guide them in prevention efforts in the Gainesville/ Hall County community. The primary focus was to empower youth by fostering leadership skills so that they can make positive and healthy life decisions. Topics included substance abuse prevention, refusal strategies, developmental assets, and creating a life plan.

One initiative of START was to establish a Youth Advisory Council which would operate under the Hall County Family Connection Network and would serve as an advisory group of youth and teen leaders to work in partnership with all organizations. This group would assist in developing prevention efforts from a youth perspective that would include prevention of substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and bullying. The goal is to instill knowledge within youth regarding the importance of making good decisions when faced with choices that can be life-changing.

Teacher Planning
(Weather Make-up)

April 2-6

Spring Break

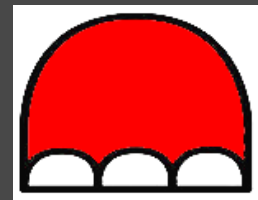
April 19

Progress Reports

April 30-May 11

ES & MS Milestone
Testing

Upcoming Events



EVENT CALENDAR

ELEPHANT TRACKS NEWS

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Points of Pride



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

[2017 GCSS Data Snapshot](#)

Building Solid Relationships That Foster Trust



GMS Faculty on Fire winner - Charles "Chuck" Graham

Described as someone who is always quiet, seemingly in the background, Charles "Chuck" Graham is very aware of everything that occurs at Gainesville Middle School and is engaged with the students who he mentors. He is always "in the know" about every student and is well informed about their academic progress as well as their interpersonal and family dynamics. As the Graduation Coach at GMS and Assistant Basketball Coach for the GHS varsity boys basketball team, Coach Graham carries a heavy workload; yet he always finds the time to offer words of encouragement for each student who he encounters. His determination to help all students to excel in life and his will to offer guidance to those who need a mentor, especially young men, make Coach Graham a faculty member who is definitely "on fire" at Gainesville Middle School.

"I love working with young people and building relationships," states Coach Graham. "My high school basketball coach changed my life when he told me he believed in me. I want to make that same impact on our students." Coach Graham believes that "building relationships is the core" of establishing a strong connection with students. His personal mission is to "help (students) reach their full potential" by teaching them how to "withstand adversity". His philosophy is "You teach or coach people first and academics and basketball (comes) second".

When asked what is his goal as a school leader, he replied, " To be a life-long learner. I never want to arrive in my career, I always want to

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

Gainesville
Exploration Academy

be in flight." Unsurprisingly, this is exactly the approach that Coach Graham takes with students, teaching them how to remain "in flight" in their academics, athletics, and personal achievements with the ultimate mission of "flying high" to achieve their dreams and aspirations.

Students Engage in College Experience



(L to R) GCSS Migrant Student Support Staff Brenda Robles, Gabriela Paniagua, Leslie Velez; GHS students Juana Silvestre, Na relyn Maldona do, and Rodrigo Ortiz

Gainesville High School's Migrant students recently participated in an exciting college day experience at Georgia Gwinnett College. GCSS Migrant Support staff along with students attended the event for an opportunity to expose the high school students to life on a college campus. Dr. Justin E. Jernigan, Dean of School of Transitional Studies, talked with students about how to complete financial aid applications for college financial assistance, what to expect during college life, and the importance of being mentally prepared for college. Following his lecture, he gave a tour of the campus.

The school district's Migrant program assists migratory students in their transitions at the elementary, middle, and high school levels by providing guidance and resources that foster a smooth transition as students migrate from school to school or from one school district to another. Attending a college campus was a great experience for the students, allowing them to learn first-hand the responsibilities and expectations of college students as they begin to prepare for a successful transition from high school to college.

Community Spotlight



Congratulations to our community partner, Center Point, and Executive Director David L. Smith on having a successful 2017 year commemorated by the organization's 50th anniversary. Center Point is a huge advocate of our school system and is instrumental in providing invaluable services and resources to our students. Last year, Center Point impacted the lives of over 2,000 youth, teens, and their families. The partnership between GCSS and Center Point has fostered a solid investment in the well-being of our students and their families, ensuring that students' needs are met academically, mentally, and socially.

Gainesville BOE & City Council Joint Meeting February 28, 2018

The Gainesville City Board of Education and Gainesville City Council held a joint meeting on Wednesday, February 28th at City Hall. Please click the links below to view the agenda and reports discussed at the meeting.

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [District Overview](#) and [Leveraging Partnerships to Serve Students](#) (Wraparound Services)
- [District Capacity](#) and Capital Projects

GCSS Pre-K Registration



GCSS Pre-K Lottery Registration for the 2018-19 school year begins February 26 - March 7, 2018 at the School Board Office located at 508 Oak Street. The lottery drawing for all Pre-K enrollments will take place on March 8, 2018. Pre-K classes will be housed at each of our elementary campuses for 2018-19.

Please click the links below for additional information.

- Pre-K Information in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Pre-K Important Dates/Parent Nights in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Frequently Asked Questions in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

GCSS Registration and Choice Enrollment



Gainesville City School System is pleased to offer school choice enrollment for the upcoming school year. The district has established elementary zone clusters in order to improve transportation services. This may result in parents having to provide transportation outside of their child(ren) assigned cluster. Gainesville City School System will provide transportation services within students' assigned cluster. Click [here](#) for the full press release. Non-resident students must complete a tuition form and return to current school. Click [here](#) for a copy of tuition form.

- [2018-2019 Attendance Zones](#)
 - [2018-2019 Attendance Clusters](#)
-



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Elephant Tracks News
Each Week**



(Located in the Right Sidebar)

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- **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**

