

GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Have You "Herd"?



Giving Lots of Love with a Healthy Heart



Students raise money for healthy hearts

Enota recently held its annual Jump Rope for Heart as a fundraiser for the American Heart Association. Students worked hard in raising money and increasing public awareness about the importance of maintaining a healthy heart. Those who raised the most money had the opportunity to "slime" a teacher. First grader Maddie Givens, whose mother, Jenny Givens, is an English teacher at Gainesville High School, showed a lot of love for the cause by raising \$1795 in memory of her uncle, Mark Ham (GHS Graduate of 2003), who passed away in October 2017 at the age of 32 from heart disease. Maddie raised more money than anyone at Enota, and she was surprised with a special ceremony in recognition of her outstanding fundraising efforts. Overall, Enota raised a total of \$4,757 for Jump Rope for Heart.

Through Jump Rope For Heart, students get a chance to raise money to help children with special heart conditions. In addition to learning the value of raising funds for a special cause, Enota students learned how to have fun through rigorous exercise, how to stay healthy and the importance of making a difference in the lives of others - by giving from the "heart"!



**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

April 16

BOE Work
Session/Regular Meeting
Public Safety Complex
6:00 p.m.

April 19

Progress Reports

Artists Create Memorable Works of Art



Student artwork is showcased at Quinlan Visual Arts Center

Youth Art Month is a nationally recognized event celebrated during the month of March with festivities that showcase visual arts for grades K - 12. For an entire month, a national platform is established that recognizes the many skills and talents that are developed through visual arts experiences that are not attainable through other curriculum subjects. The Youth Art Month Program emphasizes the value of art education for all children, encourages support for quality school art programs, and promotes art material safety.

Over the past eleven years, Youth Art Month in Gainesville has been particularly important because of the legacy of Charles J. Thurmond and the Kiwanis Club of Gainesville. In fact, the Kiwanis Club through the Charles J. Thurmond Youth Art Scholarship Awards has provided college scholarships totaling \$195,000 in which \$65,000 of that total is awarded to visual art students. Awards are given each year to recognize excellence in the following categories: Visual Arts, Performing Arts, and Writing. Also, a "Best in Show" prize in each category is awarded in the amount of \$2500 each year. First place winners from each grade level have the opportunity to compete at the State Youth Art Month competition where more cash prizes are awarded.

Each year, the Quinlan Visual Arts Center showcases the visual arts component of the competition in a professional gallery setting for youth entries in grades K-12. The following students received awards in the 15th Annual Charles J. Thurmond Youth Art Scholarship Awards competition: D'mahri Robinson - 12th Grade (Superintendent Award), Catie Cook - 11th Grade (Honorable Mention), Grace O'Keefe - 11th Grade (1st Place and Best in Show), and Esmeralda Paez- 12th Grade (Vision 2030 Public Art).

April 30-May 11

ES & MS Milestone
Testing

May 7 - 18
Tentative HS EOC
Milestone Testing

May 25
Last Day of School

ES Report Cards

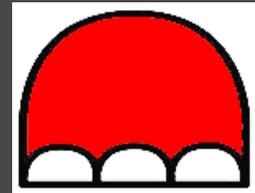
GHS Graduation
@ 7:30 p.m.

May 28
Memorial Day Holiday

May 29-30
Teacher Planning

June 6
MS & HS Report
Cards Mailed

Upcoming Events



[EVENT CALENDAR](#)

[ELEPHANT TRACKS NEWS](#)

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Points of Pride

Grace will receive a \$1,000 scholarship payable to the school of her choice. Esmeralda won a \$300 award, and her work will be reproduced in large-scale (8 x 8) in a public location in Gainesville.

The school district is proud of all of our art winners and contestants for their excellent artwork.



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

[2017 GCSS Data Snapshot](#)

Alumni News



[125th Anniversary Slideshow](#)

[Class of 2017 Achievements](#)

[Class of 2017 College Acceptances](#)

[View the GCSS Alumni Page](#)

Goodbye City... Hello Island Life



Exploring the many hidden treasures of Tybee Island

What is it like to be away from the common settings of city life on a far away island? Last month, students at Fair Street International

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

Academy said goodbye to the city for a few days to explore the intricate spots of an island. Eighty eight fifth graders took an exciting field trip to the mysterious Tybee Island. Each year, Fair Street offers this educational, learning excursion to allow students to experience a different environment and learn first-hand about core standards taught in the classroom. Students can apply what they have learned at school to a real-world, hands-on setting. This annual trip sponsored by donors and various school fundraisers allowed students to learn about marine and marsh ecology on the island and the various creatures that live there. Students engaged in activities that included dissecting squids, observing plankton samples, and hunting for shark tooth.

From learning how beaches are developed to studying how tidal waves are caused, students were exposed to an outdoor classroom that was intriguing. They walked in the salt marsh where they caught fiddler crabs and let periwinkle snails crawl on their hands while they learned how the marsh was a means of survival for many species. Students were able to enjoy activities such as kite flying, making shell jewelry, beach combing, building sand castles and other beach-themed activities. They also toured Fort Pulaski where they were able to see the Civil War monuments.

Many of the students were able to see the ocean for the first time in their lives. The trip was a wonderful experience that will always be remembered especially when returning to the daily routines of the city life.



Showcasing the Finer Things in Life

Centennial Arts Academy

Enota MI Academy

Fair Street International
Academy

Gainesville
Exploration Academy

New Holland
Knowledge Academy

Mundy Mill Academy

www.gcssk12.net



GMS students show off their creative displays and talents

Gainesville Middle School presented its Student Showcase and Fine Arts Night to parents and the community. Students created exhibits and displays showcasing their many talents and skills in which they impressed guests with what they had learned in areas of Math, Science, Social Studies, English, Health/Physical Education, and Technology. Guests were also entertained with special performances from members of the GMS Bands, Chorus, and Drama program. As the evening concluded, guests enjoyed a hot bowl of soup by donating to Soup Stomp, a fundraiser that raised funds in support of the Gateway Domestic Violence Center.

By opening its doors to the community, GMS enabled everyone to experience all of the amazing things going on and to see the great pride that the school has for its students.



Your Passion Can Become Your Purpose



New Holland Faculty on Fire winner - Beverly Hammin

"Allow your passion to become your purpose, and it will one day become your profession." This is the advice that Mrs. Beverly Turner-Hamin, Faculty on Fire recipient for New Holland Knowledge Academy shares. She is the Academic Coach at New Holland with prior experience as a classroom teacher at New Holland and Enota. Having worked in education for 43 years with 23 of those years being with the Gainesville City School System, Mrs. Hammin knows that education is her passion and - without a doubt - her purpose.

To attain her current job position, Mrs. Hammin was motivated by many mentors who pushed her to achieve her aspirations. "I have great memories of my mentors as a young girl growing up in this community," shares Ms. Hammin. "All [of them were] educators: Mattie Moon, Clara Belle McCrary, Geneva Bray, Clara Poole, Mable Butler and Myrtle Figueras. They and many others took an interest and made a difference in my life by looking at me as the whole child not just who the textbooks said I was."

Early in life she had an idea of what she enjoyed doing the most, and her determination steered her in the direction to set her dreams in motion. "I worked in recreation during the summers and realized I had a gift of relating to young people to give them alternatives and choices as they were navigating life. After attending University of North Georgia and arriving on the University of Georgia's campus, I soon found a calling to work with young people." Mrs. Hammin elaborates, "I understood what it would take to educate them, not just in academia but in life. I committed myself to do what was necessary to fill in the gaps, to show the way to unlocking success. Teaching is

not just about what goes in the classroom. Each child brings a suitcase with [him or her] daily. [They're] just waiting for someone to help them unpack. I couldn't wait to unpack. [It is] challenging at times but always rewarding."

Mrs. Hamin's personal cheerleaders include her husband Lateef, daughter Shalia Campbell, and grandsons Triston Cantrell and Reylon Meadows. And just as her family cheers for her to be the best that she can be, she in turn becomes a cheerleader for those who are willing to learn. "Children are the most valuable resource we have and as such we must provide them with safe and positive life-changing experiences. They are destined to make a difference as well. We just have to give them the tools to work with."

It is obvious that Mrs. Hamin is passionate about teaching; it's what "gets her up and keeps her going". One of her favorite quotes by Nelson Mandela states "There is no passion to be found in playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living." Mrs. Hamin has definitely not settled for anything less, and her life has been richly rewarded by her strong desire to "play big" and "work hard" in ensuring success for all of her students. This is what motivates her; and this is her passion and... her purpose in life!

Check Out the Weekly Elephant Tracks News



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#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**