

# GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Have You "Herd"?



## Making A Difference In the Lives Of Others



left to right: Ms. Courtney Hagans and DAR winner Jessi Cox

Jessi Cox, an eighth grader at Gainesville Middle School, proudly represented her school on April 12th at the annual Daughters of the American Revolution Awards Tea at First Presbyterian Church in Gainesville. Jessi received the Youth Citizenship Award with her family and GMS teacher, Ms. Courtney Hagans, in attendance to show their support.

"I am privileged to gain a deeper look at Jessi Cox beyond school," stated Dr. Monica Hayman, GMS 8th Grade School Counselor. "Jessi has a heart, love, and a desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others. She truly exemplifies Gainesville City School's four R's, Ready, Respectful, Responsible, Role Model; and she has varied service-oriented experiences that confirm her patriotism and citizenship in the community."

Jessi has participated in several outreach service projects for youth and senior citizens. This summer she will travel to Ecuador on a missionary trip where she will assist with the construction of a school, visit a clinic, and distribute Operation Christmas Child boxes. A role model for many youth, Jessi volunteers her time and services while maintaining excellent grades; and she is currently on the Principal's Honor Roll.



**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

May 21

BOE Meeting  
Public Safety Complex  
6:00 p.m.

May 25

Last Day of School

ES Report Cards

GHS Graduation

## QuestBridge College Prep Scholars



left to right: Kingsley Owusu Otoo and Doris Toledo

Two Gainesville High students, Kingsley Owusu Otoo and Doris Toledo, have been chosen as 2018 Questbridge College Prep Scholars. Selected from a pool of academically outstanding high school juniors, these scholars had to have demonstrated academic excellence, outstanding character, and financial need to be considered for the distinction. As College Prep Scholars, Kingsley and Doris will have the opportunity to gain admission and full scholarships to top-tier colleges through Questbridge, a national college match program, and will more than likely be selected as finalists for Questbridge's National College Match scholarship.

In addition to the distinction of being a College Prep Scholar, Kingsley and Doris have been extended invitations to attend a National College Admission Conference this summer and have been nominated to receive all-expense paid campus visits to Questbridge college partners. In May, they will be notified if they are selected to receive full scholarships to a college summer program or a Quest for Excellence Award, which covers expenses such as laptops and reimbursement for college application fees.

"Kingsley is one of the most hardworking, humble, grateful, sincere, and genuine students I have ever known," states Mrs. Cindy Lloyd, GHS English teacher. "Kingsley is an extraordinary human being and his selection as a College Prep Scholar is a notable distinction."

In addition to the many opportunities granted to Questbridge scholars, Doris was also selected to receive Telementoring from an Amherst College student which will add to her growing list of tasks considering she has already volunteered over 100 hours at Northeast Georgia Medical Center and is actively involved in the National Honor Society, Student Council, Yearbook, HOPE, Environmental Awareness Club, and French Honor Society. "Doris is one of the most amazing students [who] I have ever had the pleasure of teaching," states GHS English teacher Mrs. Jennifer Givens. "She has a servant's heart, and her work in all areas is of the highest quality. She is truly a one of a kind student,

May 28

Memorial Day Holiday

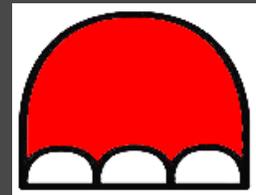
May 29-30

Teacher Planning

June 6

MS & HS Report  
Cards Mailed

### Upcoming Events



[EVENT CALENDAR](#)

[ELEPHANT TRACKS NEWS](#)

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### Points of Pride



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

[2017 GCSS Data Snapshot](#)

[Alumni News](#)



## Inquiring Minds Learn To Explore & Soar



Students create their own kites

Gainesville Exploration students participated in a STEM inquiry-based activity in Mrs. Samantha Cronic's class to find a solution to a real world problem. Their task was to construct kites that floated and remained in the air for an extended amount of time. The materials used to create the project included construction paper, butcher paper, brown paper bags, tape, straws, string/yarn, and tissue paper. Within a 30-minute time-frame, students had to create, test, and fine-tune their kites' engineering design. As a result, hand-made kites soared (or drifted) through the air, created by GEA's construction engineers.

## "Giving Is Your Rent For Living"

[125th Anniversary Slideshow](#)

[Class of 2017 Achievements](#)

[Class of 2017 College Acceptances](#)

[View the GCSS Alumni Page](#)

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### 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

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### Our Schools

Gainesville High

Gainesville Middle

Centennial Arts Academy

Enota MI Academy

Fair Street International Academy

Gainesville Exploration Academy

New Holland Knowledge Academy

Mundy Mill Academy



**Inspiring women celebrated at Annual Queens Brunch**

On Saturday, May 12th, the 500 Queens organization celebrated its Annual Queens Brunch at Gainesville High School. Mrs. Eunice Davis, a retired GCSS teacher, was honored with the "Vintage Queen Award". Mrs. Kelly Spain, a GHS graduate, was honored with the "Fierce and Fabulous Queen Award". Also, graduating GHS senior, Stephanie Prez, was honored with the "Honorary Queen Award".

The keynote speaker for the event was famed TV One talk show host of Sister Circle Live, Rashan Ali. She left the crowd speechless with her words of wisdom, emphasizing that "giving is your rent for living".

500 Queens will have 17 graduating seniors, and all of them have been accepted into college. They will be attending: Georgia State, Georgia Southern, Coastal Georgia, Lanier Tech, Fort Valley State University, University of Georgia, and Lenoir Rhyne University. Each graduating senior was given a bed-in-bag, a journal, and three motivational books to get them ready for their exciting journey to college.

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**A Strong Mind With A Soft Heart**



**Enota Faculty on Fire Winner - Ms. Margaret Dowdy**

Margaret Dowdy, Academic Coach at Enota MI Academy, had a feeling that teaching was what she was destined to do. Coming from a family of educators - her mom taught elementary school for 35 years and her sister taught English and later became a college professor - Ms. Dowdy had teaching "running throughout her veins". At Enota, she works hard to ensure that things are running smoothly and that teachers have all the resources that they need to foster academic success within their classrooms. Because of her strong work ethic and dedication to Enota, she was selected as the school's "Faculty on Fire" award winner.

She describes herself as straightforward and clear about her opinions, and normally her facial expressions communicate her exact thoughts and feelings. Although those around her daily may view her as very independent, she clearly thrives from the strong support of her family and friends. Her children (Jake, Miles, and Katherine), daughter-in-law (April), and two grandchildren (Reed and Rish) are her supporting cast members who keep her grounded and keep her going. Considering that she has been an educator for a little over 30 years - 20 years at GCSS and 11 years at Hall County- solid family support is essential; especially when dealing with the many challenges (and rewards) that come with the teaching profession.

"When I was in the classroom, it was important to know as much about each student as possible and not just academically, but also socially and emotionally," stated Ms. Dowdy. "I wanted to know about their families, where they lived, what they liked to do, and how they got along with other students. I wanted students to realize their value and that they each could contribute." This kind of advice is helpful to the teachers who she mentors each day. Because of her years of experience, she provides invaluable knowledge to teachers on how to successfully connect with students and how to utilize resources that enable students to learn. This is the serious side that most people encounter when meeting Ms Dowdy. However, there is more to Ms. Dowdy than what meets the eye. For instance, she is obsessed with the solo artist Prince and is a fan of the singing group, Linkin Bridge. And if you're around her when she is watching television while relaxing at home, you may see a flow of tears if

she happens to see an ASPCA commercial showing abused animals with the infamous Sarah McLachlan song playing in the background. "I have a soft heart when it comes to animals and won't hesitate to speak up if I don't like the way an animal is being treated, much to the chagrin of persons who are with me at the time," she shared.

Ms. Dowdy is "all business" when it comes to education; but she executes her "business" with a strong mind and a soft heart. As long as students' needs are met, her true purpose in life is being accomplished. "As I get older, I realize how important it is to feel confident that [I] did all that [I] could do to serve [my] purpose." And...she will continue to serve her purpose - one student at a time!

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## GCSS School Nutrition Summer Meals



GCSS School Nutrition will be serving Summer Meals beginning June 4th - June 28th, Mondays through Thursdays, at Fair Street International Academy, Gainesville Middle School, and Gainesville High School cafeterias.

Meals are FREE to children 18 years and younger and include breakfast and lunch! GCSS students and families are encouraged to participate. Coaches and club sponsors are also encouraged to allow athletes and students who are participating in summer practices, camps, or summer activities to participate in the free summer meal program.

Adults meals will also be available for \$1.50 for breakfast and \$2.75 for lunch.

Listed below are the breakfast and lunch times per location.

<b>Fair Street Academy</b>	<b>Breakfast:</b> 7:30 am - 9:30 am	<b>Lunch:</b> 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
<b>Gainesville Middle School</b>	<b>Breakfast:</b> 8:00 am - 8:45 am	<b>Lunch:</b> 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

The free meal program is also available to daycare facilities and churches. For planning purposes, groups who plan to participate should contact Penny Fowler at 770-536-5275 or penny.fowler@gcssk12.net.

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## **Enota Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**



Gainesville City School System will host a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the completion of the new Enota elementary school scheduled to open for the 2018-2019 school year. The ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 31st at 10:00 a.m. at Enota MI Academy, 1340 East Enota Avenue NE, Gainesville, Georgia. The public is invited to attend.

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## **GHS Graduation Ceremony**



Gainesville High School will host its Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2018 on Friday, May 25th, at 7:30 p.m. at City Park Stadium. In the event of rain, the event will be held on Saturday, May 26th at 7:30 p.m. at City Park Stadium.

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## **Check Out the Weekly**

# Elephant Tracks News



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