

GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Have You "Herd"?



GHS Graduation Ceremony - May 25, 2018



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.

Please click below to view the Graduation Parking Map.

- [Parking Map for City Park Stadium](#)

*The community can view the GHS Graduation Ceremony Live by visiting nfhsnetwork.com.

Academic Scholars Inducted at GMS



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 25

Last Day of School

ES Report Cards

May 28

Memorial Day Holiday

May 29-30

Teacher Planning



GMS Induction Ceremonies

On Thursday, May 17th, Gainesville Middle School held Candlelight Induction Ceremonies for thirty nine National Jr. Beta Club and eighty National Jr. Honor Society inductees. Students in both organizations made commitments to uphold the core values and traditions of their respective groups and to exemplify the 4R's of being Ready, Respectful, Responsible, Role Models while encouraging their classmates to do the same. GMS Principal, Mrs. Misty Freeman, warmly welcomed parents and visitors; and she gave arousing, heartfelt congratulations to the honorees. GCSS Superintendent, Dr. Jeremy Williams, delivered inspiring keynote addresses to both groups and encouraged students to continue to achieve academic excellence and to pursue personal goals. We are proud of the academic prowess and tenacity of our new inductees and look forward to their service to GMS and to our community.

GHS Confers Three Honorary Diplomas

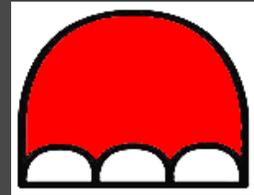


left to right: Dr. Pat Burd, Mr. Bob Hamrick, & Mrs. Donna Hall

June 6

**MS & HS Report
Cards Mailed**

Upcoming Events



EVENT CALENDAR

ELEPHANT TRACKS NEWS

Help us share our story

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

Points of Pride



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

[2017 GCSS Data Snapshot](#)

Alumni News



[125th Anniversary
Slideshow](#)

[Class of 2018
Achievements](#)

For the tenth year, Gainesville High School conferred three honorary diplomas to members of the community who uphold the school's mission and who help sustain the support of its students.

"In 2009, Gainesville High became the first high school in the nation to bestow honorary diplomas," said principal Tom Smith, "and the decisions are made by the school's governance council upon receipt of nominations and supporting letters. We are very pleased to honor Dr. Pat Burd, Bob Hamrick and Donna Hall as part of the class of 2018."

Patricia Ayers Burd, an Illinois native, earned collegiate degrees from Greenville (IL) College, Butler University, and Saint Louis University. She served as a counselor in the Gainesville and Hall County school systems until her retirement. She earned an honorary doctorate from Brenau University, serves on the Northeast Georgia History Center board and, since 2005, has been a member of the Georgia Student Finance Commission.

Robert L. "Bob" Hamrick is a native of Bremen and graduated from Austell High in Cobb County. He earned a degree from Emory University, served in the U.S. Army, worked at the J. D. Jewell company and Home Federal Savings and Loan. He was elected to the Gainesville City Council in 1969 and served 41 years with distinction.

Donna Summers Hall graduated from Briarcliff High in DeKalb County, Young Harris College, and Georgia State University. A multi-sport athlete, she is a youth leader at Lanier Hills Church, on the Fellowship of Christian Athletes board and a board member of Gainesville High's Theatre Friends for more than two decades.

The GHS Governance Council, comprised of parents, teachers and administrators, considers nominations for honorary diplomas each spring. Recipients must be living, not a graduate of a Gainesville city high school (Gainesville High, E. E. Butler High or Fair Street High) and demonstrate outstanding support for the school and its students.

Dr. Burd, Mr. Hamrick, and Mrs. Hall received their diplomas at a reception held in their honor on Saturday, May 19th at First United Methodist Church.

[Class of 2018 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

New Holland
Knowledge Academy

Mundy Mill Academy

www.gcssk12.net



Ending the School Year with Positive Behavior



New Holland students engaged in PBIS activities during the year

Throughout the school year, New Holland students have shown they are Ready, Respectful, and Responsible Role Models! On Wednesday, May 23rd, students who consistently represented the 4Rs were nominated by their teachers to attend an Ice Cream Social in the Media Center. It was a great time to recognize those students who have shown outstanding behavior and maintained perfect attendance during the 2018-2019 school year. Students are able to earn incentives through the district's implementation of the Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) framework. PBIS allows school personnel to teach and acknowledge positive behavior.

During the school year, students received lessons about following system-wide expectations to "Be the ONE: Ready, Respectful, Responsible, and a Role Model". Each month, students who demonstrated the 4Rs earned incentives, such as Dojo points, pizza parties, and spirit days! PBIS is important to New Holland because it supports academic achievement, improves school climate, and helps

Wealthy Habits Foster A Wealthy Lifestyle



GMS REACH Scholars learn wealthy habits

The Jonathan D. Rosen Family Foundation graciously provided scholarships to our GMS REACH Scholars to attend the foundation's Wealthy Habits Seminar in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 11th. CEO Angela Trotti, who also served as hostess, provided knowledgeable facilitators who presented essential, financial information and literacy by incorporating authentic, real-life examples. The scholars participated in job simulations, fun-filled interactive games, videos, writing assignments, and discussions, which created excitement about finance and wealth accumulation. More importantly, students were challenged and enlightened by a multitude of key concepts that pertained to credit cards, debit cards, stocks, bonds, insurance, taxes, real estate, private business, and the importance of saving and diversifying their assets.

One of the seminar's most exciting highlights included an opportunity for students to earn a monthly \$1000 "paycheck" by answering questions correctly and performing good, old-fashioned jumping jacks! However, out of the \$1,000 received, the scholars had to pay \$300 for housing, \$200 for transportation, \$100 for utilities, \$100 for self-improvement, \$100 for recreational activities, and \$100 for charitable donations. The students only had \$100 from which "to splurge" if they chose to do so! This activity certainly assimilated real-life decisions! Through this experience of having to budget their money and reconcile their finances each month, the students understood the timeless adage of, "A penny saved is a penny earned!"

To express their gratitude for this life-enhancing event, the scholars wrote thank you cards to Mrs. Angela Trotti and to the facilitators. They also expressed their desire to create a video for their peers and made a commitment to present the information that they had learned to their

parents and family members. The knowledge gained from this field trip could possibly change our students' and their families' lives for generations to come.

Special thanks to Mrs. Angela Trotti and her staff for their time and for the invaluable information! Also, many thanks to GMS Principal, Mrs. Misty Freeman, and chaperones: Dr. Monica Hayman, GMS 8th Grade Counselor; Mrs. Rakia Marcus, GHS 9th Grade Counselor; and Ms. Susana Murray, GMS ESOL Paraprofessional, for their unwavering support and tireless assistance with our REACH Scholars.

Fair Street Alum Becomes New Principal



Mrs. Gwenell Brown

Congratulations to Mrs. Gwenell Brown as the new principal of Fair Street International Academy! She will take the reins of her new role officially on July 1st, replacing Mr. William Campbell who has accepted the position of Superintendent at Rush City Schools in Minnesota.

A Gainesville High School graduate and Fair Street School Alum, Mrs. Brown earned her Bachelor of Science from Gainesville College, Master of Education from Piedmont College, and Educational Specialist degree from Lincoln Memorial University. Her previous teaching experiences were at White Sulphur Elementary, Jackson County Elementary, Enota MI Academy, and New Holland Knowledge Academy. Employed in the education field for almost 35 years, she has served at Gainesville City School System for 24 years where she has taught grades 1 through 5. She is currently the Assistant Principal of New Holland Knowledge Academy and has held this position for 10 years.

Honoring our True Heroes of the Herd



I to r: Natalie Niles, Patricia Cook, and Emily House

Congratulations to the 2018 Heroes of the Herd winners: Natalie Niles, Patricia Cook, and Emily Cook. The school district honors these remarkable women for their outstanding work, dedication, and unwavering service to our students, parents, and community.

The Heroes of the Herd award recognizes classified employees for their exceptional work performance, commendable service, and commitment to serving the needs of our students. The award acknowledges those outstanding individuals who work "above and beyond" in getting the job done and for being a true "HERO" using their Hearts Everywhere to Reach Out to others.

Natalie Niles, a Paraprofessional at New Holland Knowledge Academy, earned the award in the Instructional Support Personnel category. Having served the school district for over 30 years, Ms. Niles is often at the school early and stays late even after a long day of teaching. During the school day, she instructs students in core subjects; and in the afternoons she is busy tutoring students or assisting teachers however needed. "What is most incredible about Ms. Niles is her ability to do [her many tasks] with a positive attitude EVERYDAY, " says a close colleague. "You will never hear a bad word spoken about her; and the teachers, faculty, and staff truly appreciate all that she does for our students."

Earning the award in the category of Administrative Support Personnel, Patricia Guerrero-Cook, Secretary at GHS Ninth Grade Center, is always available to assist parents, students, and school staff whenever she can. She goes above and beyond in making sure that everyone feels welcomed when they enter the Ninth Grade Center. "Pat is fantastic about completing tasks in a timely matter," states her nominator. "She is always willing to help call home to parents and facilitate parent conferences. She is always so helpful and maintains a positive attitude every day." Others describe Mrs. Cook as "courteous, professional, knowledgeable, and willing to help without hesitation".

"As the receptionist at the Ninth Grade Center, I have the opportunity to assist administrators, teachers and students, as well as their parents, which makes my job an enriching and never boring experience every workday," Mrs. Cook says. "I am the first person that everyone meets

at the window, and it is my pleasure to represent GCSS by creating an agreeable and welcoming environment to all. I am proud to be a part of the supportive GCSS community!"

Emily House serves as the GCSS School Nutrition Coordinator, earning the HERO award for her work as a System Support Staff member. Her role requires her to have a strong relationship with our School Nutrition managers and staff to assist them with their daily operations. "Emily House is awesome at her job. She goes [above] and beyond to help us and never complains. She always has a positive attitude. She is also very concerned about the [students] that we serve. They are her top priority," states her nominator. "She works diligently on menus and is always willing to listen to the feedback of managers, students, teachers and parents when considering menu items. Her goal is to serve delicious and nutritious meals."

Emily is a vital asset to the School Nutrition program, and she is passionate about her job responsibilities because of her love for the school system. "As a GCSS employee and graduate, it is a true honor to receive the Hero of the Herd Award," states Mrs. House. "I take pride in my job and our program, which provides children the fuel they need to learn, while also investing in adult education. Assisting our Managers and Food Assistants is the highlight of my job; they inspire me to provide exceptional service every day to everyone. This award is for Support Staff, but I could not do my job effectively without the support of my Director and peers!"

The school district is appreciative of these amazing ladies for their strong work ethic, positive attitudes, and commitment to our students, families, staff, and the community.

2018 Mighty STOMP Leader Honored



Mighty STOMP Leader Award - Mrs. Bertha Shields

Mrs. Bertha Shields, Assistant Principal of Centennial Arts Academy, was selected as the 2018 Mighty STOMP Leader Award recipient. Gainesville City School System recognizes school and district

administrators who display outstanding leadership qualities. These individuals motivate and inspire others around them, set high standards of integrity, delegate roles and responsibilities among all team members, listen attentively and communicate effectively with all stakeholders with a clear, concise vision of strategic goals.

Mrs. Shields is knowledgeable about her profession and often shares her wisdom with those who need her assistance. She is always eager to help whenever a task needs to be completed or a challenge needs to be resolved. In an instant, she rolls up her sleeves and eagerly jumps in to help in whatever way needed. She does not ask her staff to do anything that she is not willing to do herself. Oftentimes, you can see her covering breakfast duty or filling in for teachers, and her warm smile, calm demeanor, and sense of humor are reassuring and enlightening to those who she encounters.

The Mighty STOMP Leader Award honors remarkable leaders such as Mrs Shields who lead our schools by Supporting Teachers and Others Modeling Positive-Performance (S.T.O.M.P.). This award recognizes an administrator who displays excellent leadership and who motivates and inspires employees and students - qualities that characterize Mrs. Shields who will be retiring at the end of the school year with 33 years of service to our students.

"I am honored to be a part of a system where students come first," says Mrs. Shields. "It is the opportunities that have been afforded to me and the GCSS personnel, staff, students, and parents all working together that have paved the way for me to become the leader that I am. I have experienced the true meaning of "One Gainesville"."

Gainesville City Board of Education Meeting May 21, 2018



Board Recognitions at the Public Safety Complex

The Gainesville City Board of Education meeting was held on Monday, May 21st at the Public Safety Complex. Special guests recognized by

the Board included: Gainesville Exploration Academy (Highest Student Attendance), Gainesville Middle School (Highest System School Employee Attendance), GCSS School Nutrition (Highest System Support Staff Attendance), 2018 GCSS Retirees (Eva Bell, Vanessa Ellison, Bertha Shields, Gayla Pierce, Charlyne Holland, Cynthia Hendrix, Amy Hamilton, Donna Bell, Norma Davis, Shari Frazier, Marilyn Szabo, Tom Smith, Bruce Miller, Michael Jackson, Steve Lawhorne, Patricia Caldwell, Marianna Connor, Katie Denning, Jessie Harris, Patricia Henderson, Laura Herrington), Bertha Shields (Mighty STOMP Leader Award), Heroes of the Herd Award Winners (Natalie Niles, Patricia Cook, Emily House), Marisa Woo (GCLE Chinese Star Student of GA), and Arista Consulting Group (Carl Riker and Libby Whitaker).

The Board reviewed, discussed, and approved the agenda reports as submitted by district personnel. To view the agenda and reports, please click the links below.

- [Board Agenda](#)
- [Facility Requests](#)
- [Softball Field Report](#)
- [Approval of Five Year Facility Plan](#)
- [April 2018 Financial Statements](#)
- [Tentative FY19 Budget](#)
- Tentative Adoption of 2018 Millage Rate ([6.85 mills](#)), ([6.725 mills](#)), ([6.599 mills](#))
- [Personnel Report](#)

To view the televised meeting, please click [here](#).

Enota Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

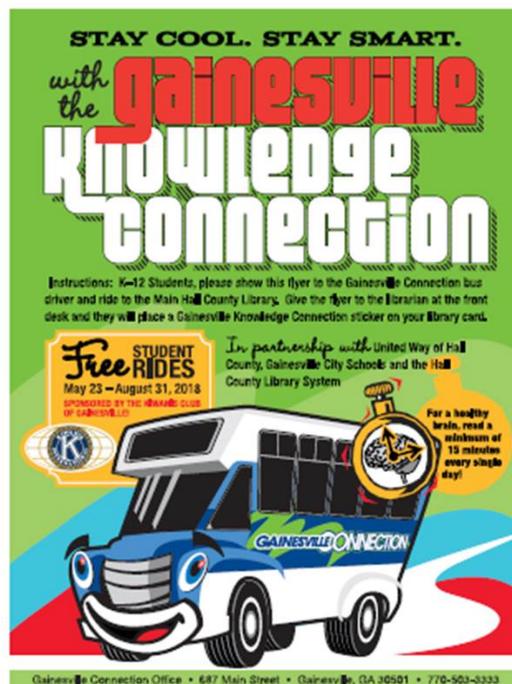


Gainesville City School System will host a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the completion of the new Enota elementary school scheduled to open for the 2018-2019 school year. The ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 31st at 10:00 a.m. at Enota MI Academy, 1340 East Enota Avenue NE, Gainesville,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



Through a partnership between Get Georgia Reading and myON, all students, parents, and educators in Georgia have free access to thousands of enhanced digital books available in myON via computer and mobile devices now through August 31, 2018. [Click here to sign up for access to free eBooks.](#) Let's Get Gainesville Reading during the summer!

Free Rides for Students to Local Library



Gainesville Connection is partnering with Gainesville City Schools, the Hall County Library System, United Way of Hall County, and the Kiwanis Club of Gainesville to host the Gainesville Knowledge Connection Program. This summer program encourages K-12 students to continue their summer learning by using the scheduled bus service to access the Hall County Main Library without charge. FREE RIDES are available to K-12 students, May 23rd through August 31st.

Here's how the program works...

- All Gainesville City Schools K-12 students can get a copy of the Gainesville Knowledge Connection flyer from their school administrators.
- When a student boards the bus for the first time, they will need to show the flyer to a Gainesville Connection vehicle operator who

will then help the student make the bus connection to the Hall County Library located on Main Street just off of the Gainesville Square.

- When the student arrives at the main library, he or she will give the flyer to the clerk who will place a Gainesville Knowledge Connection sticker on the student's library card. Now, the student can ride the Gainesville Connection free of charge all summer.

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.

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

The free meal program is also available to daycare facilities and

Check Out the Weekly Elephant Tracks News



Have a great
The word "Summer" is written in large, colorful, bubbly letters. Each letter has a small cartoon character or object on it: 'S' has a blue character, 'u' has a yellow sun, 'm' has a girl with a pink dress, 'm' has a girl with a pink dress, 'e' has a girl with a green dress, and 'r' has a girl with a red dress. Below the word "Summer" is the word "Vacation!" in a simple black font.
Vacation!



Share your photos & great news @
#OneGainesville



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twitter

- **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**