

# GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Have You "Herd"?



## School Nutrition "Stomps" Out Hunger



Serving healthy meals during summer break

Children may go on summer vacation, but hunger doesn't! Gainesville City School Nutrition's Summer Meal Program helps bridge the summer hunger gap and lets our students know that the school nutrition staff cares about their well-being all year long.

The first week of the program, which began on June 5th, was a success at Fair Street International Academy and Gainesville Middle School. School Nutrition Managers Louvenia Richardson (FSES) and Brandy Thomas (GMS) both confirmed that breakfast and lunch numbers are up this year, indicating that children are coming out to enjoy these free, nutritious meals. Parents are encouraged to bring their children (ages 18 and younger) to either location now through June 29th on Mondays through Thursdays. Breakfast times are 7:30 am - 9:30 am (Fair Street) and 8:00 am - 8:45 am (GMS). Lunch times are from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm at both locations.

Many thanks to the GCSS School Nutrition staff for their efforts in maintaining a successful meal program and for relinquishing part of their summer break to serve healthy meals to our students.



**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

June 19

BOE Meeting

June 5-29

Summer Meals Program @  
Fair Street & GMS

July 4

Fourth of July Holiday

## Brunch Event Fit For A Queen



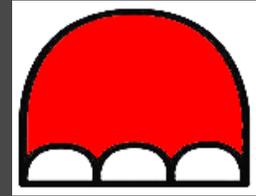
On May 6th, Gainesville High School's 500 Queens organization held its annual Queen's Brunch. The group celebrated the life's work of retired GHS educator, Mrs. Janice McGruder, for her commitment to education and to serving the Gainesville community. Mrs. McGruder was honored with the Vintage Queen Award. Gainesville Middle School Physical Education teacher Shawana Harrison received the Fierce and Fabulous Queen Award given to a GHS alum who has made a positive impact on students. Mikeisha Battle was the recipient of the Honorary Queen Award which recognizes a current GHS student that has faced insurmountable odds throughout the school year. Mikeisha has battled with Lupus. As a member of the GHS Girls' Basketball team, she has fought through her illness by playing the sport that she loves and that motivates her to overcome life's challenges.

As part of the program, Jordan Osinowo, a rising 11th grade student, performed a powerful oration that left the audience speechless. The event's keynote speaker was Brenda Usher, a Strategic Account Manager for AT&T and the President of the Atlanta Chapter of Women of AT&T.

500 Queens had 18 seniors on its club roster this year, and all of the seniors have been accepted into the college of their choice. During the fall, they will be attending Fort Valley State University, Clark Atlanta University, Furman University, Brenau University, University of North Georgia, Savannah State University, Truett-McConnell College, Oglethorpe University, Grambling State University, Georgia State University, Trinity University and Piedmont College.

One of the organization's goals is to encourage young women to pursue their college education so that they are empowered to become intelligent, successful leaders of the future.

## Upcoming Events



[EVENT CALENDAR](#)

[ELEPHANT TRACKS NEWS](#)

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## Points of Pride



[District & School Achievements](#)

[GCSS Data Facts](#)

## Alumni News



[125th Anniversary Slideshow](#)

[Class of 2017 Achievements](#)

[Class of 2017 College Acceptances](#)

## Honoring Our Heroes Of The Herd



2017 Heroes of Herd winners Yolanda Gomez and Timeka Brownlee

Three GCSS employees were honored at the Gainesville City Board of Education meeting in May for their outstanding service to the district. Timeka Brownlee, Yolanda Gomez, and Tim Watson were recipients of the district's 2017 Heroes of the Herd award. The annual award recognizes classified employees for their exceptional work performance, commendable service, and commitment to serving the needs of students.

As part of its recognition program, the school district honors 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. Ms. Brownlee, Ms. Gomez, and Mr. Watson were among the 23 individuals nominated for the award which includes three categories.

Timeka Brownlee, who serves as a paraprofessional at Fair Street International Academy, was the winner for the Instructional Support Personnel category. GHS Parent Coordinator Yolanda Gomez was chosen for the Administrative Support Personnel category, and Tim Watson, GCSS Maintenance and Operations Supervisor, was the award recipient for the System Support Personnel category.

Congratulations to Ms. Brownlee, Ms. Gomez, and Mr. Watson for their exemplary representation of the school district!

## Embarking On A New Phase In Life

### 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](http://www.gcssk12.net)



2017 GCSS Retirees

Retirement is often considered as the "next phase in life", and several GCSS employees have officially signed up for the next phase. The school district recently honored eighteen individuals for their dedication and years of service. The 2017 retirees are Linda Buffington, Angela Vickery, Margot Mickle, Janice Deerwester, Sheila Rogers, Kay DeFoor, Valerie Wragg, Yvonne Jackson, Debra Storey, Bonnie Smith, Charles Irwin, Paula Hudson, Joyce Mitchell, Hilda Reyes, Sharon Barron, Pamela Michelsen, Kathy Chapman, and Josue Rivera.

Best wishes to all of our retirees as they embrace new opportunities and embark on new adventures during their retirement!

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## **GHS Alum Debuts In Local Orchestra Concert**



Gainesville High alum and former GHS Crimson Chorus member, Robert Cantrell, will perform as a guest vocalist with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra at The Arts Council Smithgall Arts Center on June 16th at 8:00 p.m. His performance will be the first time collaborating with the orchestra. Mr. Cantrell has performed with

various operas around the country such as the Washington Opera, Metropolitan Opera Chorus, Baltimore Opera, and Opera Delaware; and he has debuted at Carnegie Hall. He credits his family for his success; particularly his mother and father for their support. He also acknowledges the role that his former Gainesville High School French teacher, Myrtle Figueras, had on his career as a vocalist.

The GCSS family is proud of the many accomplishments of this native "Red Elephant" with more to come as he continues to share his vocal talent locally, nationally, and abroad.

Click [here](#) to read the article from The Times featuring Mr. Cantrell.

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## 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](#).

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## Advancing A Tradition of Excellence!

# #OneGainesville #RoadtoGraduation

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- **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**

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## 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 **Windows 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!