

GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

A Georgia Charter District

Maintaining Safety in Our Schools

With the start of school, it is important that students are aware of school safety procedures to ensure a safe learning environment. Please be mindful of all bus safety rules, car rider procedures, and school policies.

Parents and students can refer to the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct located on each school's website under the parent center tab for additional information regarding school procedures and policies.



The district strives for the 2018-2019 school year to be a great year of learning for all students in an environment that is safe, secure, and conducive for student achievement.



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

Transporting Students Safely is Top Priority



Transporting over 4,900 school bus riders daily, GCSS Transportation department takes pride in ensuring that student riders get to and

Important Dates

August 20

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

August 22

Community Pep Rally
Bobby Gruhn Field
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

September 3

Labor Day Holiday

from school safety. Parents are urged to encourage their children to follow safety rules when getting on and off the bus. Students need to do their part by staying alert and aware of their surroundings to prevent accidents or injuries. With a new traffic law in effect, extra precaution is needed by students, parents, and motorists to ensure that bus safety is a top priority.

"As we begin a new school year, one new law - House Bill 978 - which covers passing a stopped school bus went into effect on July 1," states Jerry Castleberry, GCSS Transportation Director. "Prior to this new law, vehicles traveling in the opposite direction of a stopped school bus had to stop unless there was a grass or raised median on a multi-lane road or highway. The new law states if there is a turn lane oncoming traffic does not have to stop for a stopped school bus." Mr. Castleberry explains, "The new law is somewhat confusing and could be dangerous. While we do not have bus stops that require students to cross a multi-lane road with a turn lane, the added protection of having traffic traveling in the opposite direction be required to stop is no longer the law. It is important that everyone is aware of this new law, and students should be instructed to never cross the road on a multi-lane road."

Students and parents should be aware of this new law, and students should always check traffic when crossing highways or roads before entering or exiting a school bus. Motorists are also encouraged to be cautious of students and buses at all bus stops. The goal of the Transportation Department is for all student riders to have a positive and safe experience when riding the school bus!

[*Click here to view the school bus safety brochure](#)

Good Study Habits Foster Achievement



Now that school is officially in session, parents and students should focus on developing study routines centered around children's and teenagers' school schedules. Developing good study and homework habits help ease the burden and stress of feeling overwhelmed or unprepared at school. For those who need a little nudge to get on the right track, here

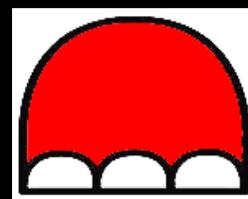
September 4

**BOE Work Session
School Board Office
6:00 p.m.**

September 17

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

Upcoming Events



[EVENT CALENDAR](#)

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Points of Pride



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

[2017 GCSS Data Snapshot](#)

Alumni News

are a few tricks that will make studying a little easier.

1. **Pay attention in class.** When students pay attention in class and take good notes, they begin the process of learning and studying. Students should alert their teachers and/or parents if there are any issues that prevent them from paying attention and taking notes.

2. **Good notes make studying easier.** Students should write down important facts that their teacher mentions or writes on the board during class.

3. **Plan ahead for tests or quizzes.** Don't wait until the night before the test to begin studying! Get a cool calendar or planner, and write down due dates of tests and assignments. Develop a plan to determine how much studying to do after school each day and how much time to spend on each topic.

4. **Break it up!** When there is a lot to study, break down the information into "chunks". For instance, try studying spelling or vocabulary words in five-word chunks at a time. Once the first chunk is mastered then began studying the second chunk. Also, different "chunks" can be mastered each night instead of learning everything in one night. Another helpful trick is when trying to memorize a list of things, make up a phrase of the first letter of each item to help remember. For instance, to memorize the order in which to do arithmetic - Think: Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally to remember the order is Parenthesis, Exponents, Math, Division, Adding, Subtraction.

5. **Use index cards.** On index cards, students can write each study question on individual index cards, listing the answers on the back of the cards. Students can then read each card until they have mastered the answer to each question. This is also a great way to review for tests and quizzes.

6. **Ask for help!** If students don't understand information discussed in class, they should always ask the teacher for help. Students should also ask their parents for help if they get stuck on a problem at home.

7. **Get a good night's rest!** When students get a good night's rest, they are able to retain what they have learned. Remember: The brain needs time to digest all of the information that it has processed while studying, and getting a good night's rest helps the brain retain information and allows students to be alert and ready for the next school day!

Positive Behavior Produces Positive Results

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an intervention method that Gainesville City schools utilize to promote good behavior among students. Though PBIS, students learn to exhibit positive behavior at school, home, and within the community. The key to PBIS is prevention of inappropriate behavior, not punishment.

Currently in its third year of implementation, the district's PBIS initiative



[Class of 2018
Achievements](#)

[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

Mundy Mill Academy

New Holland
Knowledge Academy

www.gcssk12.net



encourages students to strive for the 4R's - Ready, Respectful, Responsible, Role Model. Signage is displayed throughout all schools that remind students daily of the importance of the 4R's.

Awards and incentives are provided for students who exemplify model behavior

throughout the school year. Through PBIS, students make better grades, have a higher self-esteem, and display better behavior. Our goal is to mold positive role models into future leaders of our schools and community.

Wrap-Around Services Support Student Success



Gainesville City School System will be implementing wrap-around services as a district-wide initiative to support academic success and to maintain student wellness. "Wrap-around services are a supportive network of people and agencies that specialize in different aspects of a student's needs (social-emotional, physical, academic, etc.)," explains Dr. Kim Hall, Fair Street School Counselor. "By consulting with each other and referring to appropriate people, students are able to continue their education while going through some tough situations. Wrap-around services save parents and educators time by appropriate and timely referrals and reduce the chances of unnecessary duplication of services."

Follow us on Twitter

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Centennial:
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Enota:
[@enotamiacademy](#)

Fair Street:
[@GCSS_FS](#)

Gainesville Exploration:
[@GCSS_GEA](#)

Mundy Mill:
[@GCSS_MMLA](#)

New Holland:
[@GCSS_NH](#)

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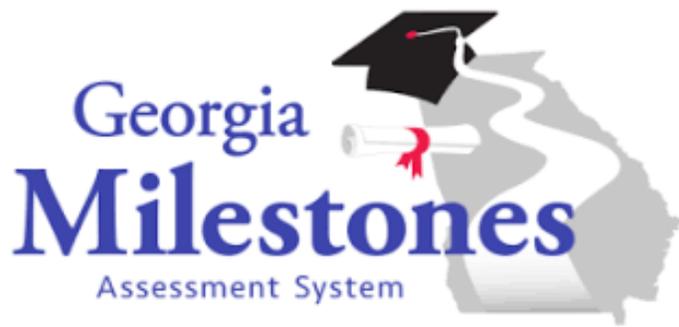
The Compass Center provides resources to families and individuals

Students and families provided with the appropriate wrap-around services become more engaged in healthier communities in which high school graduates are more prepared to be part of a productive workforce. Examples of wrap-around services include health, dental, and vision care; behavioral health, nutrition, and wellness; parent/family target services such as adult education; service referrals/assistance; social work and family crisis response.

"Once fully integrated with district and community-based resources, it will alleviate the gap that students and families experience when accessing services for food, clothing, shelter, and mental health," states Dr. Ursula Harris, GCSS School Social Worker. "These are the basic needs all people require to be productive and successful, especially students. These services, partnered with exceptional teaching and learning, position our students to reach their goals and improve our community."

Community partners such as the Boys and Girls Club of Lanier, District 2 Public Health, Gainesville Housing Authority, Hall County Library System, Lanier Technical College, and United Way of Hall County are already on board by jointly promoting literacy initiatives. Also, the Compass Center, a community resource center led by Shannon Crook, Center Coordinator, connects families and individuals in need with resources and local providers to assist them with financial, housing, and health issues. Connecting the proper services to appropriate student/family needs will enable students' academic success and will support a healthy and prepared workforce to better serve the Gainesville/Hall County community.

Georgia Milestones Spring Results



The Georgia Department of Education has released district and school level results for the 2018 spring administrations of End-of-Grade (EOG) and End-of-Course (EOC) Milestones assessments. The Georgia Milestones Assessment System is a comprehensive assessment system spanning grades three through high school. Students in grades 3 through 8 take EOG assessments in English Language Arts and Math while students in grades 5 and 8 are also assessed in Science and Social Studies. High school students take EOC assessments in any of the eight courses designated by the State Board of Education they may be enrolled in.

Georgia Milestones measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills outlined in the state-adopted content standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The assessment system utilizes four achievement levels to describe student mastery of their content knowledge and skills. The Milestones achievement levels are Beginning Learner, Developing Learner, Proficient Learner, and Distinguished Learner. [Please click here to view the full report.](#)



One Gainesville Community Pep Rally

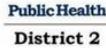
Wednesday, August 22, 2018
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Bobby Gruhn Field
@ City Park

Join our local community partners for an exciting evening of food, fun, and fellowship and learn about the various services that they provide to the Gainesville community & meet your Big Red Athletic teams & players!



Our Community Partners & many more



GET CONNECTED WITH GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Parents & Guardians:

You can take advantage of our **TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE**.

Gainesville City School System utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number, 67587.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

Opt-In From your mobile phone now. Just Send "Y" or "Yes" to 67587.



Send "Yes" or "Y"
to 67587



*The Trusted Platform
for School Community Engagement*

Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes:

SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a "text message". Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as "short code" texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you've ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

*Terms and Conditions – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See schoolmessenger.com/txt for more info.

Check Out the Latest Elephant Tracks News



GCSS Proof of Residency Requirements



All 6th and 9th grade students who are registered to attend the Gainesville City School System for the 2018-19 year are required to provide two updated proofs of residency. Proofs of Residency documents should be sent or taken to the school office by September 7, 2018.

Acceptable proofs of residency include one of the following:

- non-contingent sales contract
- current lease/rental agreement
- most recent income tax return/IRS Form 1099
- current paycheck stub
- current warranty or quit claim deed
- current home purchase agreement
- current homeowner's insurance policy

Additionally, one of the following must also be provided:

- current gas bill (within last 30 days)
- current water bill (within last 30 days)
- current electric bill (within last 30 days)
- current cable/internet bill (with service address within last 30 days)

Please be advised that students will be withdrawn from the school on September 10, 2018 if two valid proofs of residency are not received by the deadline.

6th and 9th grade students who have been accepted as non-residents should contact the school to update their address.

[Click here for information in Spanish.](#)



We are



ainesville