

GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Have You "Herd"?



Gainesville Goes Gold for Cancer Awareness



Supporting our GCSS families in annual "Gold Out"

September is observed as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month to recognize the nearly 16,000 children under the age of 21 diagnosed with cancer every year in the U.S. The objective is to emphasize the types of cancer that affect children, to address survivorship challenges, and to raise money for research.

Gainesville City School System hosted its second annual "Gold Out" Night on Friday, September 22nd during the Gainesville/Jefferson football game at City Park Stadium. Shirts stating "Gainesville Goes Gold" were designed and sold by Coins4Cure/Gold Out event organizer Carol Ann Ligon and childhood cancer survivor Eli Ligon, with a portion of the proceeds to be donated to Coins4Cure. During halftime, GCSS students dealing with cancer and their families were recognized for their courage and perseverance. Also, GCSS youth were recognized for their involvement in athletics in the annual Youth Night celebration.

The Gainesville City School System is committed to supporting GCSS students and families who face challenges associated with living with cancer by "Stomping Out" childhood cancer. All GCSS schools are involved in a coin drive through Coins4Cure fundraising



GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

A Georgia Charter System

Jeremy Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Board Members

Brett Mercer, Chair
John Filson, Vice Chair
Delores Diaz
Willie Mitchell
Sammy Smith

Important Dates

October 2

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

October 4

End of 1st Grading Period

Enota Walk To School
Day

initiatives in support of the CURE Childhood Cancer organization, and donations collected will go towards funding for more research to help find a cure.

Falcons Present Local Grant to New Holland



New Holland "Fuels Up To Play" with Falcons

As part of efforts to improve youth health and wellness, the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association, Inc. and the Atlanta Falcons hosted a Hometown Grant Celebration on September 26th at New Holland Knowledge Academy. During that event, the Southeast Dairy Association and Falcons provided the Gainesville City School System with a \$10,000 Hometown Grant to support healthy eating and physical education improvements. Falcons punter Matt Bosher and Falcons/Southeast Dairy Association support staff also hosted active football drills for New Holland students.

Prior to the festivities, local dairy farm representatives and state and local officials assisted in a check presentation ceremony for Gainesville City school officials. "Every year, the Southeast Dairy Association and Atlanta Falcons choose a deserving school district in Georgia to receive the grant," said Sharon Rhodes, Southeast Dairy Association manager of school health and wellness. "We are thrilled to support Gainesville City schools with this grant, which will support more healthy eating opportunities. Well-nourished and physically active kids do better in school, so we are proud to assist in the school district's efforts."

Developed by the National Football League (NFL) and Fuel Up to Play 60 in 2014, the "Hometown Grants" initiative provides grants to support physical activity and nutrition programs in school districts in all 32 NFL markets. Through the Hometown Grants program, NFL teams and state/regional dairy organizations identify deserving schools in their communities to receive funding that helps facilitate sustainable physical activity and healthy eating programs for students. Since 2014, the program has provided more than 700 schools

October 5

Centennial Walk To
School Day

October 6 - 9

Fall Break Holiday

October 10

Teacher Planning

October 16

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

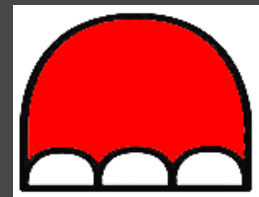
October 17

Report Cards

October 22

Rockin' 50 Paint Party
4:30 p.m.
Location: At the Rock


Upcoming Events



[EVENT CALENDAR](#)

[ELEPHANT TRACKS NEWS](#)

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nationwide with funds and resources, resulting in more than 1 million students staying physically active and making healthier food choices.

Celebrating "Aw Shucks" Day at GEA



Gainesville Exploration students compete in corn shucking

On Friday, September 22nd, students at Gainesville Exploration Academy participated in "Aw Shucks" Day as part of a nutrition initiative implemented by the GCSS School Nutrition program. In this hands-on culinary event, students raced head-to-head to shuck corn the fastest, with the winner earning the "Aw Shucks" trophy. Ms. Shirley's class was the team that claimed the coveted award. After the event, the shucked corn was cleaned and cooked by the cafeteria staff and was served to the entire school as part of the National School Lunch Program.

"Aw Shucks" is an annual Farm to School event created to provide edible educational experiences for students in the Gainesville City School System. The GCSS School Nutrition program partners with produce suppliers to procure Georgia grown corn, as the program values supporting local agriculture.

Big Red Machine Named Grand Champion



Big Red "Grand Champion"

Points of Pride



[District & School Achievements](#)

[GCSS Data Facts](#)

Alumni News



[125th Anniversary Slideshow](#)

[Class of 2017 Achievements](#)

[Class of 2017 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

The GHS Big Red Machine traveled to West Forsyth High School to participate in the 15th Annual Wolverine Classic on Saturday, September 23rd. The band received First Place and Superior scores in all categories which included Drum Majors, Color Guard, Majorette, Percussion, and Overall Band. The highlight of the competition was the naming of the GHS Big Red Machine as the "Grand Champion", which is only the second time in school history that the band has received this distinction!

Congratulations to the Big Red Machine band members, band director Larry Miller, and assistant band director Joey Forbes for their outstanding accomplishments! We are proud of all of you for your hard work and dedication in making the Big Red Machine the BEST band in the land! The next band competition is scheduled for Saturday, October 14th in Blue Ridge, Georgia.

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

NFL Camp Teaches Character Traits



Students participate in Falcons character camp

September 26th was a busy day for the Atlanta Falcons in Gainesville. On one side of town, the team hosted a grant presentation ceremony, while less than 5 miles away, the Falcons sponsored a character camp for local students. The NFL Play 60 Character Camp held at Bobby Gruhn Field was a free camp that included grade levels 3 through 8. Students from Gainesville Middle School and GCSS elementary schools as well as other local schools were selected to attend the three-hour event, with each participant receiving a t-shirt, gift bag, and lunch provided by Subway. Assisting with the event were USA Football Heads Up certified coaches and current Falcons players. The camp focused on teaching introductory level football skills, reinforcing the Play 60 message of eating healthy and exercising for 60 minutes a day, and emphasizing 10 character

traits such as integrity, honesty and loyalty to help students incorporate these traits in their attitudes and daily behavior.

Let's ROCK at the Rockin' 50th Paint Party



GCSS will celebrate the 50th birthday of "The Rock" with a **"Rockin' 50th Paint Party"** on Sunday, October 22nd at 4:30 p.m. at "The Rock". The community is invited to join us in celebrating this special occasion.

Community members are asked to bring a rock to paint which will be added to the new "Kindness Rock Garden" that will be created at the Rock park. All GCSS schools will have a tent and/or table at the event, and GCSS alumni are encouraged to visit their former school's or the Alumni's tent or table to participate in painting activities. Shuttle services will be provided by the GCSS Transportation department from Centennial Arts Academy and Gainesville High School parking lots to the Rock to reduce traffic congestion and parking limitations.

To commemorate the 50th birthday of "The Rock", the community is encouraged to send photos of the Rock taken over the past 50 years to rock50@gcssk12.net or click [here](#) to submit photos.

Online Donations Now Available for 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.

Gainesville City School System and Hall County Schools have joined efforts in raising donations for our REACH scholars. Donations can now be made online at www.ngcf.org. Monetary donations to REACH can be made in the Gainesville-Hall Fund at the North Georgia Community Foundation and are tax deductible (501c3). Checks may be mailed to NGCF at 615 Oak Street, Suite 1300, Gainesville, Georgia 30501. (When submitting checks, please note REACH: Gainesville-Hall Fund on the check memo line).

For individuals interested in mentoring REACH scholars, please contact Marie Davis at marie.davis@centerpointga.org. For additional information regarding the GCSS REACH program, please click [here](#).

**Share your photos & great news @
#OneGainesville**



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- **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**