

# The MakeWaves Monthly

We develop students to become the best versions of themselves, so they can transform the world.



## Superintendents' Message

On February 17, Gulf Shores City Schools will celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Day by encouraging everyone to wear their Kindness Day t-shirts (or your favorite shirt that celebrates kindness) and to do something kind for others or for our community. It's easy for all of us to get caught up in the many activities of the day and to sometimes overlook an opportunity to hold a door for someone, pick up a piece of trash, say hello, or share a smile. On February 17, let's remember that we can make someone's day better, by a simple act of kindness. Our hope is that every day becomes kindness day and that as a community, we create unending waves of kindness.

Dr. Matt Akin - Superintendent [makin@gsboe.org](mailto:makin@gsboe.org)

Dr. Stephanie Harrison - Assistant Superintendent [sharrison@gsboe.org](mailto:sharrison@gsboe.org)



Health & Wellness



Athletics



Arts Education



Teaching & Learning



ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL



MIDDLE SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL



VIRTUAL  
ACADEMY

## Meet Our WaveMakers of the Month: Students

Elementary School:



**Libby Autrey**

**Grade** - 2nd Grade **Area of Recognition** - Leadership Abilities

**I'm a WaveMaker because...**

Libby is a natural leader. In the classroom, she is the first to help other students in need. She is a natural at win-win situations. She gives 100% on all work and participates in class discussions. The best part of all, she continues these behaviors beyond the classroom. She leads in the school and community with integrity.

~Nominated by Staci Robinson~

Middle School:



**Ruby Cervantes**

**Grade** - 6th Grade **Area of Recognition** - Displays good manners- Is Honest- Is respectful toward his/her peers and faculty and is respected in return- Demonstrates responsibility and trustworthiness-

**I'm a WaveMaker because...**

I would like to nominate Ruby Cervantes for WaveMaker. Ruby displays several of the qualities that we want Gulf Shores WaveMakers to have. She has good manners. She is respectful towards her peers and teachers and is respected in return. She demonstrates responsibility and trustworthiness. It is definitely an exciting adjustment moving to the Middle School. Ruby adjusted well to the many aspects and has willingly helped other students that were struggling with the new demands of being a Middle School student. We recently had a new student enroll in school that doesn't speak English. Ruby has been extremely helpful with the student and teachers communicating with each other. She takes the initiative to help the student adjust to a new school, procedures, and language. I appreciate Ruby's efforts to be the best that she can be and so ready to help others. ~Nominated by Machele Martin ~

High School:



**Dominic "Dom"  
Maldet**

**Grade** - 12th Grade **Area of Recognition** - Athletics and Academics

**I'm a WaveMaker because...**

Dom Maldet is the definition of a WaveMaker. Dom is the captain of the baseball program and does a great job of leading by example as well as being vocal when he needs to be. Dom recently committed to play baseball at University Montevallo to further his academic and athletic career. When it comes to displaying the characteristics of a Gulf Shores City School WaveMaker, Dom Maldet is a great example of how to do that in the hallways of the high school and on the baseball field. ~Nominated by Chris Jacks~

**What is a WaveMaker? Someone who incites action or activity.**

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## Meet Our WaveMakers of the Month: Staff

Elementary School: **I'm a WaveMaker because...**



**Chris Motes**

Coach Motes has taken on school spirit for our school and promotes it daily. The students are excited each day to go to PE and participate in his lessons and eager to share the new skills they have learned. You can see him interacting with the students in his classes as well as just having fun with them. He sets the standards high each day and shares with the classroom teacher when goals are met. By building these great relationships with students, he is building leaders in our school.

~Nominated by Kathy Helms

Middle School:



**Calvin Vaofefe**

**I'm a WaveMaker because...**

Over the past few months, I have watched how Calvin always goes above and beyond to help everyone at GSMS. He always has a smile on his face and is eager to help in any way he can. He plays his music while taking care of his duties at the school. It makes me smile every day when I hear him coming down the hall. He engages with the students and always has kind words to say to them. He clearly tries to make a connection with them. He is at every home basketball game. He watches each game and cheers for each player. He runs the music for them as well. He is like part of the team! He stays late at each of the games and cleans the gym, so the students have a clean environment when they show up the next day. Calvin is a role model for our students. His actions and words have a positive impact on the students and faculty at GSMS. He is a true Wave Maker!

~Nominated by Cinthia Moore

Calvin is always present and ready to assist with anything you need. He actively looks for ways to help and support everyone around him and interact with the students - bringing smiles and laughter wherever he goes. He attends the majority of our home sporting events to support our students and DJs events to pump up student spirit and excitement.

~Nominated by Brittney Reeves

High School:



**Karen Bevilacqua**

**I'm a WaveMaker because...**

For the past 2 wrestling seasons I have seen Ms. Bevilacqua go above and beyond to make sure that our facilities are clean and stocked while we host over 25 schools for tournaments. She does not stop the whole time the tournament is going on which can range from 7 am to sometimes 7 pm for 2 days at a time. It is also during her Christmas vacation! She is always smiling and friendly to everyone no matter how many spills these kids seem to ask her to clean up! Our wrestling family appreciates her very much!

~Nominated by Jennifer Payne

On top of working tirelessly to keep our school and classrooms clean. Ms. Bevilacqua has spent many hours helping our wrestling team keep our gyms clean during and after competitions. We have hosted several large weekend wrestling tournaments this season and for every one Kristen has been one of the first to arrive and always, the last to leave. She never complains and only asks where she is needed. We showcase our gyms to many out-of-town teams and she is the reason they sparkle and shine.

~Nominated by Britt Shaw

**What is a WaveMaker? Someone who incites action or activity.**

## Elementary School

### K-Kids are making a difference!

GSES is proud of the service organization club - K-Kids. These students discover their passion to serve, desire to lead and their ability to engage and collaborate with others to better the school and community. In K-Kids, students are learning leadership through service. The latest contribution from our GSES K-Kids has been collecting items for Selma, Alabama. Items being collected include: towels, pillows, adult diapers, feminine/hygiene products, socks, toilet paper, dental hygiene, brushes/ponytail holder, underwear, flashlights, enfamil, etc. These students have definitely found a way to MakeWaves!



## Middle School

### A bike ride to the Gulf State Park!

The GSMS Cross Trainers club took a historical bike ride to a very remote part of the Wildlife Reserve in Gulf State Park. There, students learned the history of dipping vats, cattle drives in Baldwin County, a dangerous little bug called Babesiosis or tick fever, dynamite, feral hogs, arsenic, and a "ticking" time bomb. It was a great ride and learning experience for all. You can visit the geocache page linked below for more information on where they went.

### [Geocaching in Gulf Shores State Park](#)



## High School

### Small Town, Big Farm presents "Farm to Table Harvest"

Please join us for a lovely evening of small plates and pass-arounds, made with fresh, local ingredients, in our outdoor learning space at Gulf Shores High School. This collaborative event will be hosted by our Sustainability and Hospitality and Tourism Academies and "Small Town, Big Garden" Project.

Please contact Jessica Sampley, Academies/Career Tech Coordinator, with questions:

[Tickets Here](#)



## Virtual Academy

### Engaging Water Cycle lesson for our students!

Thank you to the Baldwin County [Alabama Extension](#) Master Environmental Educator program for sending Ms. Angie to teach an engaging Water Cycle lesson to our elementary virtual students. She demonstrated all four steps of the water cycle with a rain cloud in our classroom!



## UPDATE ON THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR GULF SHORES CITY SCHOOLS

- \* Completion of new classrooms at the elementary school
- \* Renovation of purchased building for district employees offices' and a professional development center for teachers
- \* Site work at the new high school has begun which includes drainage and utility work, and road and parking lot development

## Health & Wellness

### February Harvest of the Month: Citrus!

Have you tried the carrot fries that we recently introduced in our cafeterias? They were a big hit with both students and staff! Below is the recipe if you want to try this healthy dish at home.

### Ranch Carrot Fries

#### Ingredients:

2 # carrots  
2 Tbl oil  
4 Tbl cornstarch  
2 tsp smoked paprika  
2 Tbl ranch seasoning  
Fresh herbs if desired



#### Preparation:

Preheat oven to 425°F.

Cut carrots into sticks and toss with remaining ingredients. Place carrots onto a sheet pan in a single layer and roast until browned in spots and tender.

Remove from oven and toss with herbs if desired and serve with a dipping sauce

## Arts Education

### All-State/District VII Honor Band

Several of our middle school and high school band students will be auditioning for All-State/District VII Honor Band. Selected students will perform at the All-State festival in the spring. The All-State Festival is a series of performances by bands comprised of the BEST students in the state. In order to be selected, students must audition and compete against other musicians in the area. Our students have been working very hard. We wish them all good luck. We are already so proud of them!

**The hard work pays off...  
our GSHS students  
getting ready for Spring**

## Charcuterie Board

Guess what's coming to our cafeterias this month? Individual charcuterie boards with cheese, meat, vegetables, fruit, pretzels, and hummus! Be sure to try one this month, and let the cafeteria staff know what you think.



## Athletics

### Spring is in the air - along with our Spring Sports!

February begins with our spring season sports at GSCS. At Gulf Shores High School we have boys baseball for varsity and junior varsity, girls softball, boys and girls golf, soccer, tennis and outdoor track. The Middle School have boys baseball, girls softball, boys and girls soccer, girls softball and outdoor track. And for the Elementary School, spring sports include baseball, softball, and t-ball for our boys and girls.

**Check out our Athletics website for more info!**

## Teaching & Learning

**It never ends... educators do not stop educating at GSCS!**

GSES PE Department and GSMS each received a \$10,000 grant from the Be Healthy School Grant Program. The grant will be used to purchase new equipment and expand the opportunities and experiences for the students.

Thank you BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama!  
Take a minute to view their videos:

[GSES Video](#)

[GSMS Video](#)

## National School Counseling Week 2023

National School Counseling Week 2023 was celebrated Feb. 6–10, 2023, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems. National School Counseling Week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.



Sara Parker  
GSCS



Jennifer Knight  
GSES



Jennifer Brutus  
GSES



Wendy Holmes  
GSMS



Chesley Bowling  
GSHS



Kelli Adkins  
GSHS



Denise Harrison  
GSCS

**Thank you! GSCS Counselors - A Job Well Done!**

## Kids Hope USA

Gulf Shores City Schools was recently recognized by Kids Hope USA for our thriving mentor program. Through this program, selected students meet once a week for one hour with a mentor – someone who is there just for them. This one-on-one attention of another caring and consistent adult in a student's life makes a difference! We appreciate the community volunteers who give of their time and their hearts to serve our students.



Kids Hope mentors work with our students every week! We love having you on our team! If you are interested in being a mentor, please reach out to GSCS!

Mentors from Kids Hope USA are teaching the students at GSMS how to knit!



## Random Acts of Kindness

### MakeWaves of Kindness!

We all have the power to do amazing things! On February 17, Gulf Shores City Schools invites everyone to celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Day and get involved in the unending *waves of kindness!*

On Friday, February 17th:

- *Do an act of kindness!*
- *Wear your Kindness Day t-shirt!* \* Or wear your favorite shirt that celebrates kindness!
- *Make a donation!* \* Be on the lookout for Donation Stations at the GSES and GSMS morning carlines and bus loop and inside GSHS. \* Visit our online Donation Station at: <https://gsboe.square.site>

**#BeKindGS**

- *Spread the word!* \* Use **#BeKindGS** to share Gulf Shores' waves of kindness.

*All funds raised will support the Exceptional Education Department and the sensory needs of all GSCS students.*





Gulf Shores High School Baseball program was recognized for the Team Academic Excellence Award.



GSHS Bowling Team made it to state! They finished in the Final-Four!(The best finish in school history). MakeWaves!



Congratulations, Graham McKerral, our 2022/2023 GSES Spelling Bee champ and Charlotte Colvin as runner up! Seventeen of the top spellers in the school competed in the local Scripps Spelling Bee.



Thank you K-Kids of GSES and [Wheels Karate & Jiu Jitsu](#) for donating, collecting, and sending items to the tornado victims in Dothan! Way to help out a community in need!

# makewaves With Our Dolphin Family Recent Achievements



Stiles Duke and Ryan Hayes in Mrs. E.Davis' Class are 100% fluent in multiplication and division facts!



We have a WINNER!! 7th grader, Sophia Bauer, is the GSMS Spelling Bee winner! She will advance to regionals!

Students and staff at Gulf Shores City Schools are excelling inside and outside the classroom. From arts, athletics, academics, leadership, and character, we develop students to become the best versions of themselves.



National Board Certified Teachers Week was January 23-27! GSCS is proud of our teachers!



In the Last Chance Pentathlon, Morgan McCartney finished 11th overall. Brady Cook, Gulf Shores very first male pentathlete, finished 20th. We are so proud of both of these new school records!



The GSMS Turbo Dolphins traveled to Columbus, GA for the Winter Goblin Chase. The results were:1st and 2nd Place: Circuit Race 2nd Place Overall



Congratulations to our CSFO - Chad Green! MakeWaves!



Congratulations to State Champion, Lily Zlab in High Jump!!



Students in Mr. Anthony Schaff's GSMS Life Science class partnered with Gulf Coast Center for Ecotourism and Sustainability to plant roughly 500 bare root Sand Pine Trees that are native to the coastal region of Baldwin County and Northwest Florida. Trees donated by Rayonier Nursery.

# makewaves GSCS



Our Fine Arts students headed to Birmingham, AL to watch the Broadway musical HAMILTON!



The Dolphin Sound at GSES: Find Your Voice!



Congratulations to the Turbo Dolphins! They placed 3rd in the Overall Intermediate Modified.



Congratulations to our first Track & Field State Champion, Lydia Reno in the shot put!!



Congratulations to Anthony Schaff! He won Best of Baldwin in the category of School Teacher. We are so grateful for all that he does for our school system!



Ms. Brittney Reeves presented 3 sessions at the Future of Education Technology Conference highlighting national education trends in data, alignment, and technology. GSMS stays on the forefront of innovation to ensure our students have access to the best education possible, and we are proud that our leaders are invited to showcase at national events.



We are pleased to announce Gulf Shores High School NJROTC was voted best ROTC in Baldwin County. Accepting the award was Cadet CO Oubre, Cadet XO Roman and Cadet SEA Hughey. Congratulations to every cadet in our unit who made this possible.

# New Faces at Gulf Shores City Schools



**GS**

**WELCOME PAUL WILSON**

Gulf Shores City Schools  
Athletic Director

**WELCOME TO GULF SHORES**



**RYAN GRAVLEE**  
HEAD VOLLEYBALL COACH

- 131 CAREER WINS
- 4-TIME 6A AREA CHAMPIONS
- 4-TIME 6A ELITE 8
- AVCA "30 UNDER 30" AWARD (2020)
- TUSCALOOSA COACH OF THE YEAR (2021, 2022)

**GS**

## Make Waves! Welcome to the Dolphin Family!

### SPARC Spring Break Camp March 27-31

Registration opens: Monday February 13th  
Open to: Kinderaarten- 5th graders



**SPARC**

REGISTRATION BEGINS: FEBRUARY 13TH

GULF SHORES RESIDENT \$80  
NON-RESIDENT \$90

INCLUDES FIELD TRIP TO EXPLOREUM

**MARCH 27-31**

MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:30AM-5:30PM

GRADES K-5 ONLY (NO PRE-K) CULTURAL CENTER BLDG D 251-968-9818

register here

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE! PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE

RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
Cultural Center

**GULF SHORES ALABAMA**

@GulfShoresRec www.gulfshoresal.gov

### Site Work to begin at the new GSHS Campus

On January 9, Gulf Shores City Council members voted unanimously to approve a construction contract with Cunningham-Delaney to complete early site work for the new Gulf Shores High School campus. Site work is set to begin the first week of February and includes drainage work, utility work, and road and parking lot development. The new high school will be located at the intersection of Foley Beach Express and Coastal Gateway Boulevard and is proposed to be completed and open for the 2025/2026 school year. For more information on this project, contact Public Works at 251-968-1156.



## Our Values - We Believe In...



- Promoting rigorous, comprehensive, and relevant curriculum that prepares students to become productive citizens and lifelong learners
- Developing self-reliance by incorporating the student's physical, mental, emotional and social well-being into the teaching/learning environment.
- Instilling a sense of pride in our schools by engaging the Gulf Shores community in the educational experience. Recruiting and emboldening the best and the brightest faculty and staff and rewarding innovation and collaboration.
- Fostering inclusive, engaging members of society, and encouraging critical and creative thinking.
- Instilling a sense of pride in our schools by engaging the Gulf Shores community in the educational experience.



**/// MAKE WAVES!**

# Dolphin Foundation for Education and Arts Past and Present Projects

Adopt A Teacher Program - National Board Certification  
 Band Room Projection System  
 Barr Group Mortgage Financial Lab  
 Bike Barn  
 Eco Learning Summer Camp  
 Fine Arts Audio Cart  
 GSCS Choirs  
 Hangout Music Lab

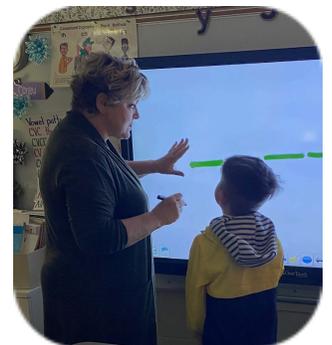
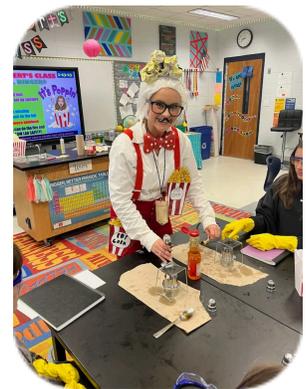
Lab Microscopes  
 Library Furniture  
 LuLu's Steel Drum Band  
 Ramsey Financial Program  
 Scholars Bowl  
 Spanish Immersion Summer Camp  
 Stage Construction and Lighting  
 Volkert Center For Applied Design  
 Virtual Reality Headsets



GSCS is thankful for the anonymous donation to the [Dolphin Foundation for Education & Arts!](#)

## National Board Certified Teachers

Congratulations to our present and future National Board Certified Teachers and our mentors! GSCS got electrified and celebrated our NBCTs during National Board Certified Teachers Week (Jan 23-27)! Thanks for your hard work and dedication to advancing the education profession and their impact on student learning.



**#TeamNBCT**

## GSCS Maintenance Department

### They make a difference!

A Big Thank You to the Maintenance Team for Making Waves! The Maintenance and Operations teams have completed 4082 work requests since the inception of Gulf Shores City Schools (As of 2/6/23-School Dude Work Order System). Work tickets can range greatly in priority level and difficulty and can range from something as simple as swapping a light bulb to tracking down an electrical problem and even swapping a pump or valve assembly in our HVAC system. We have certainly been blessed with a "Can-Do" crew that is always happy to help our teachers by assembling a cart or hanging a TV in their room to help them with instruction. We are certainly grateful for all they do and how they bring value to our district everyday!

Justin Stewart- Maintenance Specialist  
Greg Canham- Maintenance Specialist  
Scot Moren- Building & Grounds Manager  
Jonathan Walton- Building & Grounds Manager



## Meet Our Board:

### Kevin Corcoran - President

GSCS Board of Education (BOE) President Kevin Corcoran was recently honored at the city council meeting. Mr. Corcoran was given an award on behalf of the mayor and the council in recognition of his many years of hard work and dedication in making GSCS a success. "As you can see, this is a drop," said Councilman Jason Dyken as he presented the trophy. "This drop started the waves that we're going to see here with Gulf Shores City Schools and Kevin Corcoran was a major contributor."



## Happening at GSCS:

[District](#)  
[Elementary School](#)  
[Middle School](#)  
[High School](#)  
[Virtual Academy](#)



**SAVE**  
*the*  
**DATE**

BOE: Work Session - 2/2 4:00pm  
 GSES: Blue Ribbon School Review - 2/6-7  
 BOE: Board Meeting - 2/9 5:00pm  
 GSES: 7 Habits with Admin - 2/14 8:30am  
 GSCS: Random Acts of Kindness Day - 2/17  
 GSCS: Mardi Gras - No School - 2/20-21  
 GSHS: Career and Job Fair - 2/24

## Connect With Us:

[Matt Akin - Superintendent](#)  
[Stephanie Harrison - Assistant Superintendent](#)  
[Sandi Harris - Office Manager](#)  
[Chad Green - CSFO](#)  
[Marcelina Parrish - Human Resource Manager](#)  
[Chezley Neth - Data Management & Reporting Analyst](#)  
[Paul Wilson - Athletic Director](#)  
[Joey Drews - Director of Educational Technology & Student Support Services](#)  
[Beau Roode - Director of Operations](#)  
[Connie McNab - Director of Exceptional Education](#)  
[Carrie Barragan - English Second Language](#)  
[Tanya Hill - Child Nutrition Program Coordinator](#)  
[Marcus Early - Student Engagement, Transportation and Safety Coordinator](#)  
[Jessica Sampley - Career Tech Coordinator](#)  
[Karen Pearson - District Testing Coordinator](#)  
[Sara Parker - Mental Health Coordinator](#)

**/// MAKE WAVES!**

Do you have a  
**suggestion or comment**  
 you would like to share  
 with us?

[Connect with GSCS](#)

[Joe McAleer-Social Media](#)

