

GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

A Georgia Charter District

Have you "Herd"?

Two GHS Seniors are Scholarship Finalists



l to r: Doris Toledo and Kingsley Owusu Otoo

Congratulations to Gainesville High School seniors, Doris Toledo and Kingsley Owusu Otoo, as the 2018 National College Match Finalists for the Questbridge National Scholarship program. Doris and Kingsley were two of the 6,507 students selected from over 16,000 applicants nationwide. The scholars were chosen based upon their strong academic achievement (with an average grade point average (GPA) of 3.90 or higher), high test scores on the SAT or ACT, financial circumstances, strong character, and exemplary accomplishments and leadership roles in extracurricular and community activities, while ranking in the top 10% of their graduating class.

"Becoming a Questbridge finalist is like a dream come true. It's that one step closer to ensuring that my parents won't have to worry about paying for [me] to go to college," says Kingsley. "It's that distinct pleasure of knowing that all those sleepless nights worrying about grades, stressing about tests, and focusing on school above all else will finally pay off." Kingsley's career goal is to become a neurosurgeon. He plans to major in Pre-Medicine in college with a focus on human biology and neuroscience.

Doris states, "By getting Questbridge, my dream of going to a college out of state seems to be more realistic. I plan on majoring in Biology on a Pre-Med track. I hope to work in the Forensics field, potentially as a Forensic



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Jeremy Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Board Members

John Filson, Chair
Willie Mitchell, Vice Chair
Sammy Smith
Andy Stewart
Dr. Heather Ramsey

Important Dates

November 5

BOE Work Session & Regular Board Meeting
Public Safety Complex
6:00 p.m.

November 19-23

Thanksgiving Break

December 3

BOE Work Session &

Pathologist."

Doris and Kingsley will each be awarded a full four year scholarship to one of the nation's top colleges. The scholarship will cover the full cost of attendance, including tuition, room and board, and additional expenses for four years. The finalists will receive notification in early December regarding which college that they were "matched" to receive a full academic scholarship.

School Nutrition Earns Golden Radish Award



Penny Fowler (center) accepts state award

Gainesville City School System won Platinum recognition at the 2018 Golden Radish Awards ceremony held on October 22nd at the Georgia Freight Depot in Atlanta. The Golden Radish Award publicly recognizes Georgia school districts for best practices in farm to school programs, such as local food procurement, exposing students to new foods through taste tests, and incorporating gardening and cooking activities in curriculum.

Gainesville City School System received recognition for its outstanding work in farm to school initiatives which included the following:

- Gainesville Exploration Academy hosted a corn shucking relay, after which school nutrition staff cooked the corn for a student taste test. The following week, local corn was on the menu and served to the entire school.
- Gardens in the district were created in all shapes and sizes, including window boxes, raised beds, aeroponic systems, and even gardens grown in recycled water bottles.
- School Nutrition staff have made it their mission to ensure Farm to School is manifested in everything they do, including using Royal Foodservice to procure watermelon from L & M farms, strawberries from Jaemor farms, hydro bibb lettuce from Stone Creek Hydroponics, and corn from Bainbridge. They also buy bread baked in Georgia from Bimbo Bakeries, chicken products from Proview

Regular Board Meeting
6:00 p.m.

December 21-31

Winter Break

January 1-2

Winter Break

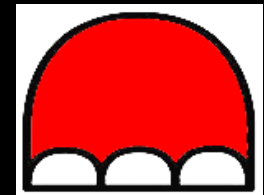
January 3-4

Teacher Planning Days
Student Holiday

January 21

MLK Day Holiday

Upcoming Events



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Points of Pride



Foods in Gainesville, and locally packed milk from Mayfield Dairy.

Gainesville City School System was one of 84 Georgia School Districts recognized at the awards ceremony. Penny Fowler, GCSS Director of School Nutrition, accepted the award on behalf of the school district. Collectively, school districts served more than 1.3 million students approximately 109 million school meals with locally grown food items during the 2017-18 school year.

"Feed My School For a Week, Georgia Grown Test Kitchen, and the Golden Radish Awards are all great examples of success thanks to the strong partnership that has been cultivated between our Georgia producers and our school nutrition directors. We are proud of the accomplishments of Georgia's farm to school efforts and excited to see what current and future award winners will further achieve as we work toward our 2020 Vision for School Nutrition in Georgia," said Gary W. Black, Georgia Agriculture Commissioner.

It's All about Fall at New Holland



New Holland's Fall Festival

New Holland's students and parents enjoyed an exciting afternoon at the school's annual Fall Festival. With lots of activities, games, and food, everyone had a wonderful time during perfect fall weather. What a great way for families and staff to come together for a few hours of hay rides, face painting, art activities, and much more!

Loving What You Do & Doing What You Love

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

[2017 GCSS Data Snapshot](#)

Alumni News



[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



Heroes of the Herd winners (l to r): Faviola Martinez and Amber Sharkey

Gainesville
Exploration Academy

Mundy Mill Academy

New Holland
Knowledge Academy

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Fair Street:
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Gainesville Exploration:
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New Holland:
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"My goal for my students is for them to first love who they are and know they are each important and unique in their own way," says Amber Sharkey, Second Grade teacher at Mundy Mill Learning Academy. "My second goal is for them to grow up and become successful and happy." Although this year is Miss Sharkey's second year at GCSS, she understands the importance of establishing an amazing support system within the classroom based upon her past experiences. Even though she grew up with a strong supporting cast which currently includes her parents, sister, brother-in-law, a niece, and a nephew along with her Maltese dog, Cotton, there were others around her who did not have that same supportive foundation. Because of them, she knew that she wanted to someday be a mentor to a child.

Mrs. Faviola Martinez, Registrar at Mundy Mill Academy, who also has been in the school system for two years, has a slightly different story. During her first year at GCSS, she served as a SPED Self-Contained paraprofessional at Enota before relocating to Mundy Mill. Even though she holds a degree in business management, she knew that she wanted to work at GCSS because she had fallen in love with the environment; but, most importantly, with the children. "I try to make a difference by helping out when needed, going beyond my duties to help daily procedures go smoothly," says Mrs. Martinez. "I contribute by being available when teachers, staff, students, and parents need help in a situation."

Even though Miss Sharkey and Mrs. Martinez have different jobs and responsibilities, they both have one thing in common: they are compassionate about their students. Because of their compassion and dedication, they were selected as Mundy Mill Academy's Heroes of the Herd award winners. They truly love what they do, and they genuinely care about students. "I'd like [students] to develop confidence in themselves and their abilities, as so many of them automatically give up because they think they cannot do it," shares Miss Sharkey. "Being positive is very important to me. I try to instill that into my students. They choose how they want their day to start and end. I always tell them to choose happiness. Don't let anyone steal your sparkle."

Mrs. Martinez is completely "in love" with her life, and that love radiates on those around her, enabling her in being caring, nurturing, and totally

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dedicated to helping anyone who needs her assistance. She urges others to do the same through one of her favorite quotes, "Never apologize for being sensitive or emotional. Let this be a sign that you've got a big heart and aren't afraid to let others see it."

Although Miss Sharkey and Mrs. Martinez are different women from different backgrounds, they both share the same philosophy on how to nurture our students - with compassion, love, and a big heart!

Dressed to Impress for Tricks & Treats



Students and staff around the school district got into the spirit of Halloween. Various characters in all shapes and sizes filled the hallways and classrooms. Check out the slideshows to see the unique costumes worn by those ready for a day of funny tricks and tasty treats!



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**GAINESVILLE CITY
SCHOOL SYSTEM'S**
GRADUATION RATE

MAINTAINS ABOVE
STATE AVERAGE
AT

87.9%



SO PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS & STAFF!

INSPIRE - NURTURE - CHALLENGE - PREPARE



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We are



ainesville