

Honoring Our Dedicated School Social Workers



l to r: Jenni Lively, Dr. Ursula Harris, Laura Etheridge, Jarod Anderson, Marion Smyser, Megan O'Brien, and Shannon Crook

Gainesville City School System is "lucky" to have great school social workers within our school district who provide various resources and services to our students and families throughout the year. As we celebrated School Social Workers Week on March 3rd through March 9th, school districts across the nation reflected on the many contributions that these remarkable individuals provide on a daily basis. From connecting parents to housing or utilities assistance services, assisting students dealing with physical, mental, or social issues, networking with local and state agencies to advocate for social services, to guiding families to local organizations that provide financial relief, these are just a few of the many responsibilities that school social workers must tackle. Oftentimes, they are the front runners in our district who work behind the scenes to ensure that many of our students and families' basic needs are being met. This year's theme "Lucky Enough" emphasizes how fortunate schools and communities are in having dedicated individuals who lend their expertise in many priority areas that foster the mental, physical, social, and emotional well-being of students and families.

Social workers across Georgia were recognized on Legislative Day at the State Capital in Atlanta. GCSS School Social Worker Laura Etheridge represented our school district on the Senate Floor as a resolution was presented by Senator Renee Unterman recognizing March 1, 2019 as School Social Workers Association of Georgia Day.

GCSS recognizes our school social workers for their unwavering efforts and



**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

Important Dates

March 15
Teacher Planning Day
Student Holiday

March 18
BOE Regular Meeting
Gainesville Exploration
6:00 p.m.

April 1 - 5

Spring Break

tireless commitment in providing invaluable resources and services while maintaining strong relationships with students, parents, schools, and the community. Many thanks to our dedicated team - Jarod Anderson, Shannon Crook, Laura Etheridge, Dr. Ursula Harris, Marion Smyser, Jenni Lively, and UGA intern Megan O'Brien - for their outstanding service to our school system. "We are incredibly grateful for the tremendous work of our school social workers," said Sarah Bell, GCSS Deputy Superintendent. "They are unbelievably dedicated and work tirelessly to ensure that our students and families have what they need, often during some of the most difficult of life events. Although the work of this department often takes place behind the scenes, it is invaluable in helping our students learn, and we are deeply appreciative."

2019 Philip Wright Award Recipient



l t r: GCSS SPED Director Mike Enright, Award Recipient Sammy Smith & Mr. Philip Wright

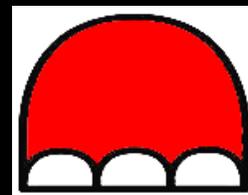
Mr. Sammy Smith, a veteran School Board member of the Gainesville City Board of Education, was selected as a 2019 recipient of the Philip Wright Award and was honored along with other award winners across northeast Georgia at the 18th Annual Philip Wright Award ceremony sponsored by the North Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) on March 1st in Cleveland, Georgia.

Each year the Philip Wright Award recognizes outstanding individuals within our local communities for their service, commitment, and advocacy of children with disabilities. The award honors the legacy of Mr. Philip Wright, a strong advocate committed to improving educational programs and services provided to students with disabilities in school systems within the Pioneer RESA region.

April 15

**BOE Work Session &
Regular Board Meeting
New Holland
6:00 p.m.**

Upcoming Events



[EVENT CALENDAR](#)

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Points of Pride



[2018 District & School
Achievements](#)

Alumni News



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

A member of the school board since 2008, Mr. Smith, who is also a GHS alum (Class of 1970), is committed to continuously improving our school system; ensuring that the academic needs of all students are met. He is a strong advocate of programs that support students with special needs such as the Rehabilitation Institute of North Georgia (RING), Randy and Friends (a Christian-based ministry that advocates for individuals with disabilities), and the new Gainesville High School PAES (Practical Assessment Exploration System) Lab (an interactive, hands-on lab that teaches special needs students how to successfully adapt to the workplace environment). "Mr. Smith is an avid supporter of all things [related] to Gainesville [City School System]," said Stacia Dillin, GHS Special Education Coordinator, "[He] will frequently drop by schools and eat lunch with the students and get to know teachers. He always makes a point to drop by our self-contained rooms to shake our students' hands and tell them Hello." Mike Enright, GCSS Special Education Director, confirmed Mr. Smith's advocacy of the GCSS Special Education program and his dedication to lending his support whenever needed. "Mr. Smith is simply one of the best," stated Mr. Enright. "We are happy to have him as one of the Herd."

Fifth Grader Elected As State Chaplain



2019 GSSCAR State Chaplain - Will Tims

Will Tims, a fifth grader at Gainesville Exploration Academy, was recently elected as the State Chaplain of the Georgia State Society Children of the American Revolution (GSSCAR). To be selected for this distinguished role, Will was nominated by a committee and then elected by members of the GSSCAR at their annual state meeting held at Stone Mountain, Georgia. As the chaplain, he will be responsible for giving the invocation and benediction at state meetings held three times a year. He will

also be responsible for conducting the memorial service at next year's state conference. Will has been a member of GSSCAR since he was a year old. Membership in GSSCAR consists of children who can trace their ancestry back to those individuals who fought in the American Revolution or rendered aid to the Colonial Army during the war.

Congratulations to Will on his appointment to this state-level position!

A "Souper" Night for Fine Arts at GMS



Parents and families enjoy performances at GMS Fine Arts Night

Gainesville Middle School held a Fine Arts Night for parents, families, and the community to join the excitement of seeing the excellent performances and visual displays by the GMS Fine Arts students. Guests were treated with performances by the 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade chorus students as well as musical ensembles presented by the GMS and GHS bands. Drama students gave interesting presentations at exhibits created by the students. Guests were able to view several displays located along the hallways which included a living museum, photos and displays of influential African Americans in American history, and an African American book display to highlight Black History Month. Local fraternities and sororities were on site to provide information regarding their organizations to visitors.

One of the highlights of the evening included the GMS Visual Arts students hosting the 4th annual "Soup Stomp" to raise money for the Gateway Domestic Violence Center. Those who contributed received a hand-made, ceramic bowl and a meal of soup, bread, and pastries.

Throughout the evening, students showcased the many great things occurring within the GMS Fine Arts program. Parents and the community were entertained by the talents of our middle school students while having the opportunity to make a charitable contribution for a worthy cause.



Gainesville City Schools:
@GCSSK12

Gainesville High School:
@GCSS_GHS

Gainesville Middle School:
@GCSS_GMS

Centennial:
@GCSS_CAA

Enota:
@enotamiacademy

Fair Street:
@GCSS_FS

Gainesville Exploration:
@GCSS_GEA

Mundy Mill:
@GCSS_MMLA

New Holland:
@GCSS_NH

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Big Red Alumni Reunion - March 16, 2019



Are you a GHS "Big Red" alum? All alumni of Gainesville High School are cordially invited to attend the Big Red Alumni gathering on Saturday, March 16th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Gainesville High School cafeteria. This event is an informal reunion open to all age groups. The Varsity food truck will be on site from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. to offer food at a cost of \$9 per person for those interested. Phil Forrester (Class of 1964) from Gainesville Jewelry will be giving away a diamond bracelet to one lucky guest. You don't want to miss this exciting opportunity to mingle with GHS alumni while meeting members of the the GCSS staff.

Gainesville City Board Work Session & Training March 4, 2019



The Gainesville City Board of Education Work Session and Board Training was held on Monday, March 4th at the School Board Office. The Board reviewed, discussed, and approved the board agenda and reports as submitted by district personnel. After the work session, the Board participated in its annual board training to meet requirements as set forth by the State Board of Education.

To view the agenda and reports, please click the links below.

- [Board Agenda](#)
- [Overnight Field Trips](#)
- [Facility Request](#)
- [2019 Board of Education Meetings - Updated](#)
- [Bus Driver Incentive Plan Update](#)
- [Centennial Arts Academy Chromebooks Purchase](#)
- [New Holland Technology Purchase](#)
- [2019-2020 Personnel Renewal](#)
- [Personnel Report](#)

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We are



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