

## Literacy Awareness Connects GCSS Families



Families participate in the district's first ever Reading Day

On May 4th, Gainesville City School System partnered with Scholastic, the global children's publishing, education, and media company, to host the school district's first ever "Read to Learn, Live, and Lead" Day, a special event that engaged families and students in grade levels Pre-K through 5 to promote literacy within the community.

Students and families participated in literacy workshops, arts and crafts, interactive games, and a book signing with New York Times best-selling children's book author Carmen Agra Deedy. Families received a free copy of her book, "The Rooster who Would Not be Quiet!". The event encouraged elementary students and families to get more involved in reading; emphasizing the importance of continuous reading at home.

"We were extremely appreciative to have the support of both Scholastic and our volunteers to bring this great event to our students and families," said Sarah Bell, GCSS Deputy Superintendent. "Reading is so very important, and Mrs. Deedy's message and the activities of the day helped us spread the word. We are thankful to have shared in this wonderful day with our community!"



## 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

May 20

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

May 24

**Last Day of School**

**GHS Graduation**

---

## GHSA Soccer State Championship Saturday, May 18, 2019



GHS Boys Soccer Team

The Gainesville High School Boys Soccer team will compete in the State Championship game on Saturday, May 18th at 2:30 p.m. at Cantrell Stadium (McEachern High School) against the Dalton Catamounts. Tickets are \$12. Please come out to show your support for our Red Elephants! We need the "Big Red Nation" to show up to help our Red Elephants "STOMP OUT" the Catamounts! Let's Go Big Red!

---

## Teaching for the Outcome not the Income



May 27

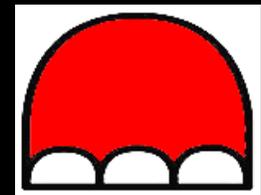
Memorial Day Holiday

May 28-29

Staff Planning Days

---

## Upcoming Events



[EVENT CALENDAR](#)

[ELEPHANT TRACKS NEWS](#)

Help us share our story

[Forward to a Friend](#)

---

## Points of Pride



[2018 District & School  
Achievements](#)

---

## Alumni News



Laura Diosdado has always wanted to be a teacher when growing up, and she and her sister used to pretend that they were teachers. However, it wasn't until she enrolled into Gainesville High School when her mom moved from Texas to Georgia that she realized that she had a true passion for teaching. "I used to be pulled from my classes by teachers so I could go and translate for the new students who came from countries that didn't speak any English," said Mrs. Diosdado. "I enjoyed being able to help out and be a part of their learning. This just confirmed my longing to be a teacher." After graduating from high school, she had to put her dream on hold to raise a family; but that did not deter her from achieving her dream. "I went back [to school] to get my degree when I was married and had my three girls," she stated. "It wasn't easy at all, but worth it. I knew that if I wanted my dream of becoming a teacher [to become a reality] I had to work extra hard."

Having taught as an ESOL teacher for three years and now as a third grade teacher, Mrs. Diosdado was recently honored as New Holland's Heroes of the Herd winner for certified staff. Her peers describe her as a caring person with a loving heart and as someone who is always there to listen to her students; going above and beyond to ensure that her students' needs are met.

"I have high expectations for my students. My goal is for them to believe that they can accomplish anything that they set their minds to," she said. "I make sure that my students know that they are cared for and loved. I greet them by name every single morning with a smile and a "Good morning". I build a trusting relationship with them so they know that they can come to me with anything that is bothering them; and if I can't help them, I seek the help they need."

Her goal as an educator is to change the lives of children, one at a time. Each school day gives her an opportunity to instill within her students the knowledge and skills that will make them successful. "I've shed tears because of certain circumstances that some of my students have gone through. They truly do become part of me," she shared. "My job does not end when I leave the school. It's not an eight hour job, five days a week for one hundred and eighty days job. It is a year-round job. I am an educator for the outcome not the income."

---

## **GMS Bands Succeed in Hitting High Notes**

[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](http://www.gcssk12.net)

---

**Follow us on  
Twitter**



**GMS bands earn top awards in annual music festival**

For the 20th consecutive year, the GMS Bands earned all Superior ratings at the High Note Music Festival in Powder Springs, Georgia. Held annually, the High Note Festival is one of the premier co-curricular performance opportunities for middle and high school bands in the southeast. The GMS sixth, seventh, and eighth grade bands competed in the festival which is an optional, supplemental event for the students. Each band performed two contrasting musical selections in front of a panel of judges. The judges evaluated each performance utilizing a rubric that measured six categories: tone, intonation, technique, interpretation, balance, and musical repertoire. A score was assigned based upon the overall results with superior being the highest score possible.

Congratulations to the GMS bands for their outstanding achievement!

## **The Most Rewarding Job in the World**



**New Holland Heroes of the Herd Winner - Ms. Kristin Cash**

"When I come to work every day, I bring a positive attitude and a smile on



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

---

Like Gainesville City School  
System on  
**Facebook**



Follow  
gainesvillecityschools on  
**Instagram**



my face for everyone who enters our doors," said Kristin Cash, Heroes of the Herd Winner (Classified Staff) for New Holland. "I make sure that each student who I come in contact with is acknowledged and is treated with the same respect and love as I expect my own children to be treated with. At the end of the day, I want each student to know that [he or she] matters as a human being and can do great things."

Ms. Cash began her employment at New Holland as a Pre-K paraprofessional then taught as a Kindergarten paraprofessional for three years and is currently an EIP paraprofessional for grades K through 4. She is passionate about education, and she is adamant about making a difference in her community which is why she chose to work in education; and eventually she plans to pursue her dream to become a certified teacher.

As a member of New Holland's Governance Council, Code Blue Team, and the school's designated diabetic personnel, Ms. Cash plays an integral part in the day to day operations of New Holland. "My new role as an EIP paraprofessional has allowed me to dig into the heart of our school and connect with our students and my coworkers in such meaningful ways," she said. "Whether it be offering support in the classroom for teachers as an extra resource or working in small groups with our struggling readers, I have had the amazing opportunity to engage school-wide on many levels."

She believes that a job in education is one of the most rewarding jobs that a person can have. "Being able to see the "light-bulb" moment when a student learns something that you taught is worth all the hard work that goes into preparing our children for what lies ahead," she explained. "Paraprofessionals' roles are just as important as certified teachers and should be regarded in the same light."

Ms. Cash inspires her students by creating a welcoming environment for them; ensuring that they feel valued. "Our students are so special because they are full of excitement about school and show an eagerness to learn and to never give up," she said. "I love knowing that my work has a purpose in the world and that I am making a difference in the lives of so many tiny humans every day. They are our future, and it is up to us to guide them in the right direction."

---

## **Local Businesses Seek Student Employment**



**Local businesses consider GHS students for hire**

Gainesville High School students recently participated in a job fair in which twenty eight local businesses interviewed students for future employment. GHS counselor Wendy Savitz coordinated Lunch and Learn sessions the week prior to the event to prepare students for their interviews and created a "job passport" as an incentive for students to get involved in the job fair. Their names were entered into a drawing if they completed at least one of the following tasks with five employers:

- Attended a Lunch and Learn session for interviewing and resumes
- Presented a resume
- Gave a favorable impression (shook hands, made eye contact, and had good communication skills)
- Requested a business card
- Dressed for success

184 students were eligible for the drawing for a chance to win Visa gift cards and door prizes donated by Brusters and Chick-Fil-A. Overall, the job fair was a huge success; allowing students to network with our local businesses while connecting employers to good prospects for future employment.

---

## **Jerry Castleberry Road Scholarship**



Jerry Castleberry, GCSS Transportation Director, will retire this year after serving many years with the Gainesville City School System. In honor of his 24-year career, the Jerry Castleberry Road Scholarship was established in his honor to recognize his outstanding service to our students, staff, and the community. The scholarship will award funds to a graduating Gainesville High School senior who seeks a career in logistics, public service, or a cause "close to his heart". The community has an opportunity to invest in the scholarship fund, and interested donors can make their tax-deductible contributions payable to "Gainesville High School" and mail to Gainesville High School, 830 Century Place NW, Gainesville, Georgia. Please state "Castleberry Road Scholar" on the check memo line. Contributions in any amount would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for honoring Mr. Castleberry as we celebrate his notable milestone and for your support of our Gainesville High School students.

---

## **Check Out the Latest Elephant Tracks News**



---

## **Regional Transportation Survey**



**GAINESVILLE-HALL**  
Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Gainesville - Hall County Metropolitan Planning Organization is developing the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan and would like input from the Gainesville/Hall County community which entails completing an online survey. Projects will include a wide variety of transportation related improvements including potential new roads, road widenings, and intersection improvements as well as improvements for transit, bicycles, and pedestrians. Please click [here](#) to access the survey in English or Spanish. Thank you in advance for your assistance. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.



**Follow Us!  
Like Us!  
Share Us!**

**GAINESVILLE CITY  
SCHOOL SYSTEM**

**IS ON INSTAGRAM!**

Find us at [gainesvillecityschools](https://www.gainesvillecityschools.org)

*We are*



**ainesville**