

GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Have You "Herd"?



Middle Schoolers Tour The Nation's Capital



GMS students in Washington, D.C.

Eighty four students at Gainesville Middle School visited Washington, D.C. for three days from January 18th - 20th. Each day was filled with many exciting places to see and fun activities to do. Students toured several landmarks around the city such as the Lincoln Memorial, Martin Luther King Memorial, Washington Monument, and the Holocaust Museum. One of the highlights of the trip was the students' participation in the "Changing of the Guard" ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery. At the end of each day, the students were exhausted from walking to all of the places that they had visited.

Overall, they walked approximately 28 miles during their three-day visit. On their final day, students had the opportunity to watch the Presidential Inauguration. The trip was an exciting, rewarding and memorable experience for those who had never visited the nation's capital.

GCSS Teams Compete In Lego Super-Regionals



GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

A Georgia Charter System

Wanda Creel, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Board Members

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

Important Dates

February 6

BOE Work Session

February 7

Progress Reports

February 20

Teacher Planning
(Weather Make-up)



GCSS Robotics Teams at Super-Regionals

Several schools representing Gainesville City School System attended the Georgia First Lego League Super-Regionals Tournament held on January 14th in Athens, Georgia. Centennial, Enota, Gainesville Exploration, and Gainesville Middle School participated in the competition hosted by Athens Academy.

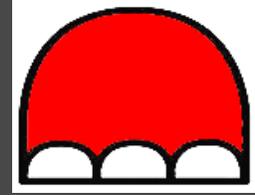
First Lego League gives elementary and middle school students the opportunity to collaborate on solving a common problem. They are challenged to research a real-world problem, determine a solution to the problem, and build a robot that assists in resolving the problem. First Lego offers a rewarding, learning experience to students, encouraging them to problem-solve, collaborate, and utilize their creativity.

To prepare for the competition, teams were presented with a challenge that focused on a scientific topic. The challenge consisted of three parts: the Robot Game, the Project, and Core Values. Students had to design an approach that incorporated the theme within the project, then create a robot while maintaining respect when interacting with each other and other teams. This year's theme, "Animal Allies", focused on how to resolve issues that occur when animals and people interact with each other. The teams were required to incorporate the theme into their robots' design.

Gainesville Middle School's "Robopachyderms" won the Robot Design award. Centennial's robotic team accomplished all of their missions on the robot run and received high marks for core values. All of the GCSS teams performed well at the tournament due to the many hours spent on researching, designing, and building their robots.

GHS Business Student Advances To State

Upcoming Events



[EVENT CALENDAR](#)

[ELEPHANT TRACKS NEWS](#)

Help us share our story

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Points of Pride



[District & School Achievements](#)

[GCSS Data Facts](#)

Alumni News



[Class of 2016 Achievements](#)

Vision

Our students will think critically, act compassionately, work meaningfully, choose wisely, and live joyfully.



Wendy Gutierrez

The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Region Competition was held on January 19th at Collins Hill High School in Lawrenceville, Georgia. There were over 800 competitors from our region that included Hall, Gwinnett, Forsyth and Walton county schools. Gainesville High School junior, Wendy Gutierrez, placed fourth place for Computer Applications which qualified her to attend the State Competition on March 12th -14th in Athens, Georgia. The Computer Applications competition included skills testing in Microsoft Applications of Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Access.

Congratulations to Wendy for her outstanding accomplishment! We wish her the best of luck at the state level!

History Class Travels To Historical Boston



GHS history students enjoy an annual Boston trip

Sixty students from Gainesville High School had the opportunity to take an exciting field trip to Boston, Massachusetts. The annual trip

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

New Holland
Knowledge Academy

www.gcsk12.net

which has occurred for over thirty years is offered to students enrolled in the school's US History course. Students were able to tour places such as the Boston Tea Party museum, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Freedom Trail Tour, and many other historical sites. The trip allowed students to see firsthand the historic locations that they learn about in their history class.



GCSS CCRPI Climate and Financial Ratings



On Thursday, January 26th, the Georgia Department of Education released the final components of the 2016 College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI). These included the School Climate and Financial Efficiency ratings.

The district's strategic improvement plan sets forth the goal of all schools having a four-star or higher climate rating. We are pleased to

announce that the district has not only met this goal, but exceeded it. Four schools earned a five-star climate rating, and three schools received a four-star rating. The climate rating is derived from student, teacher, and parent survey feedback; student discipline data; and attendance of students and teachers. The district's focus on attendance, Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS), and increasing family engagement and satisfaction all contributed to the exceptional ratings that were received. The scores are as follows:

Centennial Arts Academy - 5 stars
Enota Multiple Intelligences Academy - 5 stars
Fair Street International Academy - 4 stars
Gainesville Exploration Academy - 5 stars
New Holland Knowledge Academy- 5 stars
Gainesville Middle School - 4 stars
Gainesville High School - 4 stars

The district received a financial efficiency rating of 3 stars. The financial efficiency rating is determined by a three-year average of per pupil expenditures and College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) scores. The ratings are displayed as supplemental information to CCRPI scores. The district's financial resources continue to be focused on meeting the ever changing needs of our students, while ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used responsibly. The Gainesville City School System continues to receive clean annual audit reports and a bond rating of AA+; has increased the fund balance by over \$5.5 million in the last two budget cycles; and utilizes zero-based budgeting when identifying priorities for the schools and operationalizing the district strategic improvement plan.

According to the Department of Education, while the star rating provides additional information about the relationship between per pupil expenditures and student achievement, users should note its limitations. Although all districts follow the same reporting guidelines, inconsistencies in the use of school codes have resulted in the districts reporting similar expenditures in different ways to the GaDOE. For example, a school district that reports teacher salary expenditures at the district level will result in very high district allocations relative to a district that reports teacher salary expenditures at the school level.

GCSS Kindergarten Round-Up II



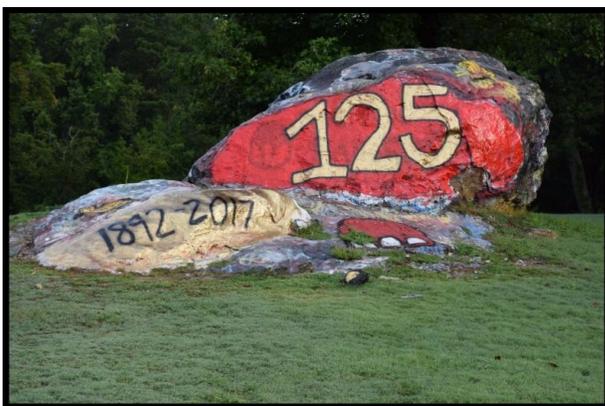
The Gainesville City School System will conduct a second round of Kindergarten registration during the week of February 6-10, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the elementary school in which students are zoned. This Kindergarten roundup is for families who did not register during the January 3-20, 2017 Kindergarten Round-up. Parents zoned for Mundy Mill Academy should register at the district office located at 508 Oak Street. Please click [here](#) or go to www.gcssk12.net for additional information.

Your Opinion Matters To Us



Parents and guardians of GCSS students are strongly encouraged to complete the online AdvancED parent survey to share opinions to help target areas of improvement for the school system. The survey can be accessed on the district website (www.gcssk12.net) or by clicking [here](#). Please be assured that responses will be anonymous, and parental input is greatly appreciated. For additional information or if there are any questions, please contact Priscilla Collins at priscilla.collins@gcssk12.net or 770-536-5275.

GCSS 125th Anniversary Celebration



The Gainesville City School System will host a celebration of the 125 year anniversary of the establishment of the system on Sunday, February 26, 2017, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Gainesville High

School Front Lobby. All alumni, current and former faculty and staff, friends and family are invited. To submit pictures for the slideshow, please send to 125years@gcssk12.net. For additional information, please email beverly.nordholz@gcssk12.net.

#Cheersto125years

**Advancing
A Tradition of Excellence!
#OneGainesville
#RoadtoGraduation**



- **Gainesville City School System - @GCSSK12**
- **Centennial - @GCSS_CAA**
- **Enota - @enotamiacademy**
- **Fair Street - @GCSS_FS**
- **Gainesville Exploration - @GCSS_GEA**
- **New Holland - @GCSS_NH**
- **Gainesville Middle School - @GCSS_GMS**
- **Gainesville High School - @GCSS_GHS**

GCSS Mobile App

GCSS is proud to announce its very own mobile app!

GCSS is now live!



Here are some amazing features to look forward to and things you can do with the GCSS app:



Notifications

Make sure you select "Yes" to receive Push Notifications so you can receive all breaking school news. These notifications will be used to provide information on early/late start and school closings.



Calendar

The school wide calendar of events and athletic events at the tip of your finger! Add the events that you are interested in to your native phone calendar so you never miss them!

Download the GCSS Mobile App through **App Store**, **Google Play**, or **Window Store** to access the latest information while on the go! Features such as Calendar of Events, Directions, Faculty and Staff Directory, Emergency and District Alerts, Helpful Links, and Current News can be accessed through our mobile application. **"Go Mobile"** with GCSS!