



George Jenkins

Volume XXVI

Issue 4

"A Five Star School"

★★★★★

February
2024

For The Parents, Students, Staff And Community of George Jenkins High School

School Contact Information

Main Number
(863) 648-3566

School Fax
(863) 648-3573

Attendance Office Fax
(863) 648-3018

Guidance Fax
(863) 701-1131

Administration

Tom Patton
Principal

Carmen Bonilla
Assistant Principal

Lacy Emmerling
Assistant Principal

Kyle Guira
Assistant Principal

Brad Hiers
Assistant Principal

Bruce Victor
Assistant Principal

Erin Crosby
Dean of Student Activities

Danisha Rivera
Dean of Students

Gavin Osborn
Dean of Students

<http://georgejenkinshs.com/>

George Jenkins High School Newsletter
February 2024 • Issue #4
Published Five Times Per Year
George Jenkins High School
6000 Lakeland Highlands Road
Lakeland, Florida 33813

Principal's Message

Our Mission... Each student is Prompt, Polite and Prepared.

Our Vision... Each student will graduate with the skills necessary to be successful in college or in a career.

Dear parents,

As we continue to progress through this school year, I am proud of the accomplishments and sense of urgency on our campus. We have our days of laughing, caring, crying, sharing, and working together. These moments create our culture of everyone pulling together to make sure each student is receiving the best instruction each day. **As we enter the testing season, I need you to keep encouraging your child to do their very best on every test they take the remainder of the school year and to be present the day of testing.** The results of their scores do have an impact on what courses they can take next year and keeping them on track to graduate on time. Your encouragement is greatly appreciated by all of us.

Although this school year has presented its challenges, I am very proud of how the staff, students and community of George Jenkins High School has adjusted. We continue to excel in all academic, athletic, and co-curricular areas at both the district and state levels. Our students have been involved in various school and community projects that have benefited those in need of assistance. The continued success in all areas of academics, athletics, student performances and club activities are the reasons parents want their child at GJHS.

It is important that you know and understand what is going on at our school. I urge you to become involved at GJHS...be a volunteer, be a substitute teacher, or be a mentor. Maybe you would like to work with one of the many clubs or sports teams...some place or someone is waiting for you...take an active part in George Jenkins High School. You can also stay up to date with activities and accolades on our website, Facebook, and Twitter. I'd also like to encourage you to think about joining our Academic Booster Club. It is our strongest parent organization that supports many things we do on campus throughout the year.

Our mission is each student is Prompt, Polite and Prepared...with a vision that each student will graduate with the skills necessary to be successful in college or in a career.

Keep Soaring Eagles!

Tom Patton
Principal

Polk County Schools Mission Statement

"The mission of Polk County Public Schools is to ensure rigorous, relevant learning experiences for our students that result in high achievement."



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GJHS Yearbook

Senior Cap & Gown Pictures:

Seniors will have the opportunity to have their cap and gown pictures taken on-campus on Thursday, February 15th from 7:15am – 11:00am. This is the **ONLY** day that Leonard's Photography will be on campus to take these pictures. Seniors received sign-up information to their school email.

FINAL Yearbook Sale:

This is your final opportunity to purchase a yearbook for the 2023-2024 school year. Yearbooks may **ONLY** be purchased with a credit or debit card online at www.yearbookordercenter.com, job #0140. Extra yearbooks will not be purchased this year so all orders must be pre-paid. The **FINAL** day to purchase your yearbook online is Thursday, February 29th.

Yearbook Only → \$90.00

Yearbooks will be available for distribution in early May 2024.



2023

2024



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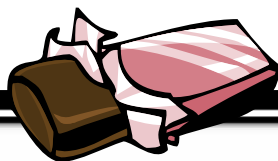
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Before and After School – Room 19-111 – Mrs. Corcelles

George's Closet

As the new year has kicked off, George's Closet is holding a Winter Drive, seeking warm outerwear and other attire that are appropriate for cold weather. The drive closes on January 31st, but donations are always welcome past the deadline.

This year's current executive board officers, President – Lydia Shi, Vice President – Laura Flores, Vice President – Alexis Rocque, and Secretary – Tiffany Lin, are all seniors and will be graduating this May. Officer Applications are open (please check Instagram @georgescloset_gjhs) and are due by Friday, February 10th. Shadowing for positions will be available after the date, where candidates can learn

more about their future duties as an officer of the executive board.

The George's Closet Media Team will be launching their online fashion magazine, *Thrifty*, which will be available via Google Sites, and is accessible by everyone. The Media Team has worked tirelessly to polish this new website and to get their first issue: Fall/Winter 2023 off the ground. Please look forward to seeing this new online publication!

As always, service hours are available in the mornings before school, in room 2115, for any students wishing to gain more community service hours. Volunteers are always welcome to help sort clothes and organize the Closet! 2024 is full of expectations, and George's Closet is working hard towards these goals.



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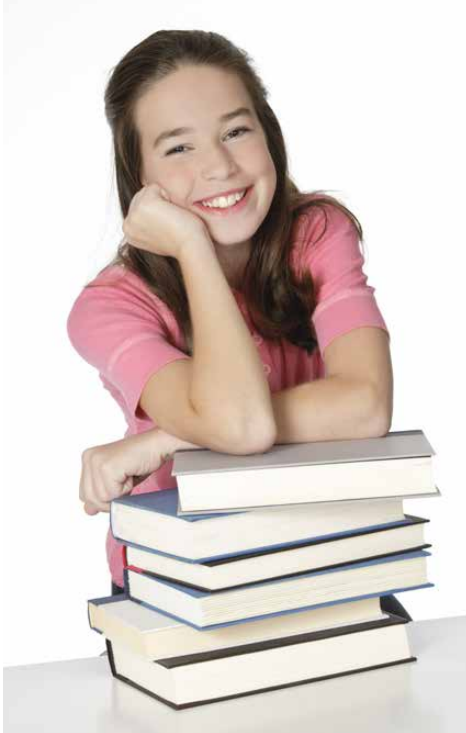
National English Honor Society

February 2024 Newsletter

By Emma Abdoney, Kelly Granger, and Mrs. Michele Barr, Members of the Executive Board

We are pleased to recognize our current GJHS Chapter of the National English Honor Society 2023-24 Officers, nine Class of 2024 Senior Graduates – President, Emma Abdoney; First Vice President, Sarah Ceranic; Second Vice Presidents, Nolan Fernandez and Eden Parker; Third Vice Presidents/Secretaries, Kelly Granger and Lydia Shi; Treasurer, Jacob Blankenship; Historian, Kayleigh Losch; and Parliamentarian, Nalanie Davila – along with their sponsors, Mrs. Barr and Ms. Rose. We are well underway accomplishing our major goals for the 2023-24 school year's NEHS Chapter, including continuing our abundant and frequent participation in the Tampa Bay area's community service endeavors, both on and off George Jenkins' campus. In 2023, our Chapter donated socks to our own George's Closet during Socktoberfest, aided in the formation of three Thanksgiving Baskets supporting the Spanish Honor Society, donated both hard and paperback books to the Little Book Bus, and wrapped and gave gifts for the National Honor Society's project, Adopt-a-Christmas-Child. The Chapter is participating in all these activities again in 2024 with the addition of a few new projects. Two new fall semester projects included taking nearly 350 handwritten Appreciation Letters for Veterans and giving them to those in attendance at the Bonnet Springs Park Veterans Day Celebrations on November 11, 2023. Thank you, GJ Writes, and all the students who crafted letters for distribution internationally to England, Germany, Honduras, etc. to name several locations.

NEHS members and officers also assembled in the Media Center to view the nationally broadcast webinar from the NEHS headquarters in Chicago, IL. "We watched our first webinar in the Media Center and learned about poetry with the current US Poet Laureate, Ada Limon," Abdoney quotes. The NEHS is also conducting a schoolwide Lego drive, which aims to collect used Legos, which will then be repackaged and sent off to Lego Replay and the Bartow Hospital. Another new service effort with the Chapter includes supplementing Varsity Tutors by reinstating our own campus Eagle To Eagle Tutoring. Any student is welcome to visit room 19-127 and work with current National English Honor Society officers or members on any subject of their



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choosing. Live, face-to-face peer tutoring by appointment is offered every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 2:05–2:35 PM in 19-127. The NEHS has also received their second personal invitation to the Emerge Symposium, this time to present Hasson's text, Pause, Ponder, and Persist In The Classroom, on Saturday, February 17 for Polk educators. Fifteen top-tier NEHS scholars are staging their PowerPoint presentation with the goal of offering to educators viable student perspectives upon their classroom learning. Dr. Hasson will be in attendance to hear our research findings. Everyone is invited to attend and support our NEHS Eagles at the Emerge Symposium on Saturday morning, February 17, at Polk State College, from 8:AM – 12:30 PM.

Our main desire for the 23-24 NEHS year is to double in size, as we currently comprise 34 members, with hopes of ending the spring semester with over 70 members. The Chapter has already grown with the addition of fall semester recruits and a new sponsor, Ms. Alyssa Rose. Freshmen through juniors are now eligible to join the NEHS in the 2024 Spring Semester in time for our Induction Ceremony on Tuesday, April 16 in the GJ Auditorium. Additionally, all officers have received ten or more applications, of which they are free to advertise "New NEHS Membership" within their classrooms and to their peers. New NEHS Officers are campaigning through Thursday, February 29. Meetings occur on the first and third Thursdays of every month. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining our GJHS NEHS Chapter, please reach out to Mrs. Barr, Ms. Rose, or any of our current NEHS Officers.

Fifth Annual National English Honor Society Induction Ceremony

6:30 PM ~ Tuesday, April 16, 2024,
George Jenkins High School Auditorium

Meet Our 2024-25 Officer Candidates! Instagram = @gj_nehs / Web = nehs.us One-Day 2024-25 Officer Elections Thursday, February 29 @ 6:30 AM & 2:05 PM



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- www.floridashines.org
- www.collegeboard.com
- www.actstudent.org
- www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org
- www.fastweb.com
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News from Student Services

Our elective course registration for the 2024-2025 school year starts on Monday, February 26th. The main academic courses (English, Math, Science, Social Studies) follow a District Progression Plan for each subject area which is based on current course, course grades, and testing data in that subject area. Students will be choosing their elective courses using an electronic online registration form. This form will open on Monday, February 26th and close on Sunday night, March 3rd. Students will have an opportunity to complete the form at school or may choose to complete it at home with their parents. Once submitted, the student will receive an email confirmation with their chosen courses. Students are encouraged to review course choices with their parent prior to making selections but will be able to resubmit their requests through Sunday, March 3rd. Counselors will be available in the Food Court during all lunches for students to ask questions and gain advice on selecting elective courses. All students must submit an elective registration form, or their elective courses will be chosen for them.

In May, students will be able to see all their courses that will be scheduled for the 2024-2025 school year on their Student Portal. Students will receive an email with directions on how to view these courses with a link to request any course changes. Any course change requests must be submitted prior to the end of the school year. Over summer, counselors will turn course requests into schedules. Final schedules will be distributed at orientation on August 8th. Please remember, we do not have the flexibility to honor course change requests once schedules are complete. Requests for course changes must be submitted prior to summer break.

How to Choose Electives:

Elective courses should align with post-secondary goals. Students wishing to attend a four-year university after high school should have academic rigor that includes additional AP, academic, and foreign languages courses. Even though foreign language is not required for graduation, two years of the same foreign language is required for admission to a four-year university and the Bright Futures scholarships. Additional academic courses include foreign language, science, AP, and social studies courses such as Psychology, Sociology, and Creative Writing. Universities require a minimum of 18



academic courses for admissions which would be 4-5 academic courses per year. More competitive colleges want 5-6 academic courses per year. More information on State University System requirements can be found at www.floridashines.org or on each university's website under admissions.

Dual Enrollment opportunities allow students to earn college credit while still in high school and offer additional opportunities at academic rigor, especially for students interested in the state college's 2+2 option. More information on dual enrollment can be found on our website under Student Services, and another dual enrollment information meeting will be held in April. Our Career Academies give students experiences and exposure to different career fields. Most offer industry certifications that prepare students for direct entry into the workforce. Students should use these courses to explore career options, build their work resume, make connections with professionals in these industries, and/or prepare for further education in that field of study. For a complete list of courses along with the course descriptions, please refer to the registration page on our website at www.georgejenkinshigh.polkschoolsfl.com.



Freshmen and Sophomores:

Counselors will meet with 9th and 10th grade students in their English class in March and April to review courses to be scheduled in 2024-2025. Students will have the opportunity to make changes to their elective course selections at this time.

Juniors:

Counselors will meet with juniors individually in April to review graduation status, post-secondary plans, and other important information. Students will review their requested courses for next year and make changes as necessary. Don't forget about the SAT School day on April 16th! These SAT scores can be used for college admissions and qualifying for Bright Futures. The College Board website, PSAT scores, and Khan Academy are great resources for test preparation.

Seniors:

It is now the final semester of your high school careers. Avoid 'senioritis'! Grades, attendance, and behavior continue to be of high importance. Remember, colleges may rescind acceptance based on semester schedule changes and/or final grades. All courses taken on

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FLVS/PVS must be completed by **May 3rd** to count for graduation and be included on the high school transcripts. Community Service hours are due **April 1st**. Be sure to stay up to date on the latest graduation ceremony information by visiting our GJ webpage under 'announcements' on the front page and 'Class of 2024 Senior Information'.

FAFSA:

FAFSA (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*) is a crucial component in paying for college. Students who plan on pursuing postsecondary education, whether it be at a university, community college or technical school, should complete a FAFSA. Once the FAFSA is complete, students can work with the financial aid office of the school they are planning to attend to find out their 'cost of attendance' and other financial aid opportunities. The official website is studentaid.gov. *There is no charge to complete the FAFSA. If the site requests any form of payment, it is the wrong site!!*

Bright Futures Scholarships:

The Florida Academic Scholars, Florida Medallion Scholars, Gold Seal Vocational Scholars require specific coursework, minimum GPA, minimum SAT or ACT scores, and community service hours. Students have until the June test dates of their senior year to achieve the required scores. The Florida Financial Aid Application must be completed prior to graduation at www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org. The Florida Academic or Florida Medallion Scholarships



may be used at Florida colleges as degree seeking students and have the following requirements:

Type	16 High School Course Credits ¹	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT®/CLT®/SAT®)	Volunteer Service Only	Paid Work Hours Only	Combination of Volunteer/Paid Hours
FAS	4 - English <i>(five must include substantial writing)</i> 4 - Mathematics <i>(at or above the Algebra I level)</i> 3 - Natural Science <i>(five must have substantial laboratory)</i>	3.50	2023-24 Graduates: 29/96/1340 2024-25 Graduates: 29/96/1340	100 hours	100 hours	100 hours
FMS	3 - Social Science 2 - Foreign/World Language <i>(sequential, in same language)</i>	3.00	2023-24 Graduates: 25/84/1210 2024-25 Graduates: 25/84/1210	75 hours	100 hours	100 hours

Students interested in a career education or certificate program earning technical degrees including Associate of Science or Associate in Applied Science may qualify for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) award. The initial eligibility requirements are:

- Achieve the required weighted minimum 3.0 GPA in the non-elective high school courses;
- Take at least 3 full credits in a single Career and Technical Education program;
- Achieve the required minimum 3.5 unweighted GPA in the career education courses;
- Achieve the required minimum score on the ACT®, SAT® or Florida Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) exams (ACT Reading 19, English 17, Math 19 or SAT Reading 24, Writing & Language 25, Math 24 sub scores or PERT Reading 106, Writing 103, Math 114); and
- Complete 30 volunteer service hours, 100 paid work hours, or the combination of 100 total hours.

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