



George Jenkins

Volume XXVI

Issue 3

"A Five Star School"

★★★★★

November
2023

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

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Dean of Students

<http://georgejenkinshs.com/>

George Jenkins High School Newsletter
November 2023 • Issue #3
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.

As we near the holiday season and the end of the first semester of the school year 2023-2024, our students must continue to work bell to bell and be on task. Teachers and students are busy preparing for exams and various assessments. Teachers are working continuously to make sure all students are prepared to do their very best at all times. This is the time for our students to buckle down on studies for the upcoming assessments in all areas. Teachers are being constantly reminded to provide students with meaningful instruction and to give additional instruction where needed. We have tutoring available after school, just ask our guidance counselors for details. Students are being reminded continuously of the importance of completing work and making wise choices in all areas of school activity both on and off campus. This is the time of year students let the holiday spirit take over a little too early. Help us in stressing the importance of being on time with assignments, completing assignments and making good choices. Please, remind your child "it's not over, till it's over." You see on our marquee and hear us say to students, be **prompt, polite and prepared**, this is our Mission.

I would like for everyone to take a few minutes to reflect on what you have accomplished up to this point in the school year. What could you have done differently to make a greater impact on yourself, your friends, your school, and your community? The choices you make now can and will affect not only yourself, but also those around you. Every choice you make does come with a consequence. Some consequences are more readily seen or heard by others, but nevertheless, all have an impact. The ability to reflect on your choices and how you could have changed the response, if needed, is a valuable learning tool. You are not always the main person affected by your choice, it may be someone younger or older that you have influenced in a positive or negative way. **Please...make good choices both on and off campus.**

Tom Patton
Principal
George Jenkins High School

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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Upcoming Testing Information

The FAST Progress Monitoring takes place three times a year (Fall, Winter, Spring/PM1, PM2, PM3). PM 1 and PM2 are given to monitor students' progress toward mastering grade level standards throughout the year. The third round (PM3) will take place in the Spring and will be the test that officially counts toward students' future academic placement and/or graduation requirements. As in previous years, if a student earns a passing score in their sophomore year, then they have satisfied their graduation requirement and will no longer be required to sit for this test.

Please note that students must still pass the Algebra EOC to graduate.

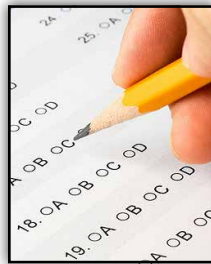
In addition, current juniors and seniors who did not earn a passing score on the FSA ELA still must meet that graduation requirement.

Juniors and Seniors will be taking FAST Reading Retakes again in December if they have yet to meet the ELA graduation requirement.

Ninth and 10th graders completed their FAST PM1 in early September. Juniors and Seniors needing to meet ELA graduation requirements, completed their FAST Reading Retake in September and ACT NCR (non-college reportable) in October. Parents and students can see these results in Student Portal. PM2 will be in January for 9th and 10th graders with the final PM3 being administered in May.

Tenth graders (seniors needing the Math concordant score) participated in the PSAT online version in October.

Fall EOC and PSAT scores are expected in late November and Fall ELA (FSA) and ACT Non-College Reportable scores are expected before Winter break. Scores will be available in the Parent and Student portals within two weeks of receipt, not counting holidays.



Florida Statute section 1003.4282 states, "Beginning with the 2021–2022 school year, students taking the United States Government course, or an equivalent course are required to take the assessment of civic literacy identified by the State Board of Education pursuant to s. 1007.25(4). **Students earning a passing score on the assessment are exempt from the postsecondary civic literacy assessment required by s. 1007.25(4).**" Students in the U.S. Government course will take the Florida Civic Literacy Exam (FCLE) on **Thursday November 30th**. Letters will be sent to affected students' school email accounts prior to Thanksgiving break.

Students who still have not met the Algebra 1 EOC graduation requirement will be provided another opportunity to pass it in December with the new Algebra 1 EOC (B.E.S.T.). The Algebra 1 B.E.S.T. was administered in September with scores uploaded within the week of testing date. Those scores can be viewed in the Parent and Student portals. There are several ways a student can meet the Algebra 1 graduation requirement: Pass the Algebra 1 EOC with a Level 3 or higher; Pass the Geometry EOC with a Level 3 or higher; Achieve a comparative score on the Math section of an ACT [16], SAT [420], or PSAT [430]. Students can obtain information about upcoming ACT and SAT tests in the Student Services office.



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GJ FASHION SHOW RECAP

HOCO Fashion Show Recap

Pictured Top Left (Mr. Matt Townley, Mr. Rick Briggs), Top Middle (Alexis Rocque, Lydia Shi, Halee Truman, Alice McEwen-Mitchell, Madison Fearnow, Hannah Fairley, Kayla McNary, Genesis Medina, Sophia Shi), Top Right (Mrs. Katrina Bourque, Charleigh Wood), Bottom Right (Kirsten Hinson, Ethan Cornelius, Hannah Fairley, Alexis Rocque, Jordin Harris, Kailynn Prather, Alexa Lee, Sophia Shi, Lydia Shi), Bottom Middle Left (Mrs. Taina Corcelles), Bottom Middle Right (Alyssa Currie, Charleigh Wood), Bottom Right (Charleigh Wood, Mr. Matt Townley).

Fortify Florida Report a Threat

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.

By accessing FortifyFL, students can provide a description of the threat, share pics and videos and optionally submit their contact information.

- **Anonymous or Non-Anonymous - You decide whether you want to include your name and contact information.**
- **Convenient - Submitting a tip is quick and easy using our mobile app or website.**
- **Include Photos and Video - You can also include photos or video with your tip report.**

Report Here: <https://getfortifyfl.com/>

George's Closet

George's Closet is open year-long to clothing and hygiene product donations. Students can bring donations to room 2115. Our hygiene drive was a success! Our annual Homecoming Fashion Show was also a large success with 30+ models, with both teachers and students, volunteering their time to showcase the dresses and suits available for all students from George's Closet.

October was breast-cancer awareness month, and we held a drive to raise awareness by collecting bras. The fifth period with the most donations received a pink cupcake party.

George's Closet Foundation has created a Media Team to help create a magazine to showcase all the newest fashion trends at George Jenkins that are accessible to students for free.

Congratulations to the following for making the team: Azala Christensen, Brooke Fulmer, Gabriella Rivera, Katelynn Smith, Kiara Germain, Lauren Schille, Miley Zorrilla, Olivia Costigan, Riley Plants, and Yeimelyt Acevedo.

Our Media Team is led by our Co-Vice President, Alexis Rocque. Students can earn community service hours before school by helping sort and organize clothes in George's Closet. Meetings are every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays after school at 2:05 PM in Room 2115. If you have any questions, please email Mr. Robinson at: lee.robinson@polk-fl.net.



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NEHS



By Emma Abdoney, President and Mrs. Michele Barr, NEHS Lead Sponsor

Our GJHS Chapter of the National English Honor Society held their first meeting of the fall semester on Thursday, September 7, 2023. After following up a year of drastic growth and blooming community service participation, the officers – 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 sponsor, Mrs. Barr – have set major goals for the 2023-24 school year’s NEHS Chapter.

Several Chapter goals for 23-24 include continuing the abundant and frequent participation in community service, both on and off George Jenkins’ campus. Last year, our Chapter was able to donate socks to our own **George’s Closet** during *Socktoberfest*, aid in the formation of Thanksgiving Baskets, of which Spanish Honor Society received, donate both hard and paperback books to the *Little Book Bus*, and donate gifts for our *Adopt-a-Christmas-Child*. The Chapter is participating in all these activities again in 2023 with the addition of a few new projects.

Two new projects include writing *Appreciation Letters For Veterans* and giving them to those in attendance at the Bonnet Springs Park Events on November 11. Members are also viewing nationally broadcast webinars 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 reviving 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. Additionally, we will be leading the Chapter’s involvement with Key Club’s *Angel Tree*, a program that allows students to write to and befriend children of incarcerated parents. The final new service development with the Chapter is that of reinstating *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 choosing. Tutoring by appointment will be offered every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 2:05–2:35 PM in 19-127.

The NEHS’s main desire for the 23-24 year is to double in size, as we currently hold 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 will be eligible to join NEHS in the 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. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining the GJHS NEHS Chapter, please reach out to Mrs. Barr, Ms. Rose, or any of our current NEHS officers.



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Yearbook News

Senior or Business Ads

The last day to purchase a senior or business ad in the GJHS yearbook has been extended to December 15th. The yearbook staff will gladly design your ad and provide you with a proof before publication. If you have any questions please email Mrs. Salas at Jessica.salas@polk-fl.net.

- Full Page → \$425.00
- Half Page → \$275.00
- Quarter Page → \$150.00
- Eighth Page → \$80.00

Yearbooks on Sale

Don't forget to pre-order your yearbook for the 23-24 school year. Yearbooks may be purchased with cash or check (made payable to George Jenkins High School) in room 4224 or by a yearbook staff member. Credit and debit card purchases may be made online at www.yearbookordercenter.com, job #0140. Extra yearbooks will not be purchased this year so all orders must be pre-paid. **Last day to pre-order your yearbook is January 12, 2024.**

- Yearbook Only → \$90.00
- Yearbook, Nameplate & Cover → \$100.00



GJHS Academic Booster Club

The ABC was honored to host the teacher of the year banquet. Lea Bickerton was named teacher of the year and Lisa Morris was named school related person of the year. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the raffle.

We will be hosting quarterly spirit nights at JBurns. Our next spirit night is November 14th. You can still join the ABC group.

Contact Lilly Harris at LAA97@hotmail.com. Student membership is only \$5; staff \$10; and family \$25. Your membership dues and the proceeds from the spirit night help fund programs of support, encouragement, and appreciation for GJHS students and staff throughout the school year such as academic medallions, honor cards, and the many other recognition programs that ABC sponsors.

Luckily it's not too late to join. If you are a member and complete at least 10 hours of service, you will get special seating at graduation and your child can apply for one of two scholarships offered through our club. Attendance at our monthly meeting is not required, but it provides a wealth of information about what's happening at George Jenkins High School.

Join us on the second Monday of each month at 6PM in the GJHS Media Center to learn about decisions being made that affect your student(s), important events, and much more!

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News from Student Services

We've already completed the 1st quarter of the 2023-2024 school year! The 2nd quarter will end on December 15th. Students should be working hard to earn the best semester grades possible. Only semester grades are posted to student's academic records and included in their cumulative GPA. It's also important to take advantage of assistance offered. All teachers are available in their classrooms after school on Wednesdays and Thursdays to help their students. Parents, be sure to take advantage of the information accessible through Parent Portal. Check student's grades, missing assignments, attendance, graduation progress and more. Parents can also email their student's teachers for the most efficient communication. When first setting up a Parent Portal account, parents must visit the front office or Student Services or verify identity in an email to obtain the activation PIN. Students can obtain their student portal login ID and password from any of their teachers.

Reach Higher Polk! College and Career Week

The Reach Higher initiative is a nationwide effort to inspire students to pursue education beyond high school. Our Reach Higher Polk! Week inspires to do the same in Polk County and took place November 13th – 17th. Students are encouraged to explore careers and their education pathways. Our goal is to help students make more informed decisions about the post-secondary options. Graduates take one of five pathways after high school: 4 year college/university, 2+2 State College System, technical college, military, or full time employment.

State Universities: State Universities have a competitive selection process. To be eligible for admissions to a state university, a student must meet these requirements:

1. Earn a standard high school diploma with a minimum of 18 core academic courses which are:
 - 4 English
 - 4 math (Alg I & higher)
 - 3 natural science
 - 3 social studies
 - 2 in the same foreign language
 - 2 academic electives
2. Earn scores in reading, math and writing on one

of two nationally-recognized college entrance exams: SAT or ACT. SAT – collegeboard.org ACT – actstudent.org CLT -

Admissions is based on the university calculated weighted GPA (academic core courses only), admission test scores, and course selection. The more competitive universities, such as UF, FSU, UCF, and USF, are looking for students with 21 or more academic courses and a rigorous course selection. Students seeking university admissions are advised to take additional academic courses such as Psychology, Sociology, Advanced Placement, higher level sciences, and the 3rd and 4th years of foreign language.

Students are encouraged to use FloridaShines @ www.floridashines.org when exploring post-secondary education plans. The State University System of Florida and the Florida College System includes 12 public universities and 28 public state colleges with hundreds of campus locations. At floridashines.org, students can search these colleges for degrees, majors, locations, tuition, size, admission requirements, and more.

State Colleges & Florida's 2+2 System: State colleges have an "open door" admissions process. To be eligible for admission to a state college, a student must earn a standard high school diploma (or equivalent). Florida is nationally-recognized for its highly effective articulation between these state colleges and universities. For instance, in Florida's 2+2 System, students:

- can complete the two-year Associate in Arts (AA) degree at a Florida College System institution.
- are guaranteed admission with an AA to at least one of the SUS or baccalaureate-granting Florida College System institutions.
- do not need to complete any additional general education requirements to complete the baccalaureate degree.

Florida is strengthening this 2+2 articulation agreement. Universities have partnered with their state colleges to provide direct pathways with specific course work that leads into their university programs. These programs include Direct Connect to UCF and FUSE at University of South Florida.

Technical College: With the high costs of college and the majority of jobs NOT requiring a 4 year degree,

the smartest choice may be less college. However, some post-secondary education will push students into the higher paying jobs that are in high demand. The Florida College System which includes Polk State College offers Associate of Science (2 yr degrees), Certification Programs and Technical Diplomas in many of the fastest growing career fields. For more information, visit or polk.edu or www.floridacollegesystem.com/info. Other options are career & technical colleges which include our local Triviss Technical College and Ridge Technical College. These programs include career training in Fire Fighting, Automotive Repair & Service Technology, Construction, Dental Assisting, Electricity, and even some medical programs including Medical Coding, Practical Nursing, and Phlebotomy.

Military options: Through many different branches of the military, there are a huge variety of career options available to high school graduates. Each branch has different requirements for age, physical condition, and education. With five branches including Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, there are full time and part time options. The first step is meeting with a recruiter. This recruiter contact can often be made on our campus during lunches or through our ROTC program. Interested student will also need to take the ASVAB. This is a multiple-aptitude test that measures abilities across several subject areas. Minimum scores are required to be eligible for enlistment in different military branches or for certain jobs within the service. The ASVAB is administered at GJHS every November. For more information go to www.todayismilitary.com.

Full time employment: While post-secondary education is recommended and needed for higher paying jobs, there are still many careers that offer dependable pay, job growth, and retirement options while only requiring a high school diploma. These jobs often require on the job training, apprenticeships, or state licensure. Some students pursue full time employment to gain life experience, explore career options, or start saving to pay for college. Mrs. VanCamp, our Success Coach, often works with these students to expose them opportunities like Triviss meetings & application assistance, Publix job fair, and Polk State College's Earn & Learn program.

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Money for College

Colleges have been researched, applications carefully completed, and the wait for acceptance notifications has begun. So while waiting...let's talk money! FloridaShines refers to "financial aid" as money provided by a third party to help students meet the costs of attending college. With most colleges and universities, the financial aid process begins with completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Four types of financial aid are scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study.

Scholarships are free money that does not have to be paid back. They come from a variety of sources including federal, state, institution, companies, and individuals. This money can be awarded based on academic achievement, financial need, athletics, programs of study, or other background factors. Each scholarship sets its own criteria and application process. Information on Florida scholarships, including the Bright Futures Scholarship, can be found at www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org.

Grants are also free money that does not have to be paid back. They are usually awarded based on financial need, college cost of attendance, and/or enrollment status.

Loans are money that is borrowed and must be paid back. Student loan programs offer long term, low interest education loans which generally do not have to be paid back until they graduate. Loans should be used as a last resort but can be used as an affordable way to finance education. Federal loans require the completion of the FAFSA.

Work-study is when the student works to pay for their education. This employment can be for the school or community business. Some work study positions are obtained after completing the FAFSA and working with the financial aid office at their college.

Remember... Never pay for a scholarship!!! Beware of scams! Never pay for a scholarship search service and never give out your social security number. When you win a scholarship, the provider will ask for your social security number, as this is required by the IRS for tax reporting purposes. Educate yourself at www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams.

The most important financial aid application is the FAFSA – free application for federal student aid which can be completed at studentaid.gov.

The Polk Education Foundation Scholarship application is scheduled to be open from February 5th – February 19th. This one application includes about 70 scholarships that are just for Polk County high school seniors. Most scholarships require minimum GPA, SAT/ACT, and/or community service hours. The completion of the FAFSA is required! More information can be found at www.polkschoolsfl.com/pef/scholarships/.

SAT and ACT Test Dates

SAT – register at www.collegeboard.org

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
Aug 26, 2023	July 28, 2023	Aug 15, 2023
Oct 7, 2023	Sept 7, 2023	Sept 26, 2023
Nov 4, 2023	Oct 5, 2023	Oct 24, 2023
Dec 2, 2023	Nov 2, 2023	Nov 21, 2023
*Mar 9, 2024**	Feb 23, 2024	coming soon
May 4, 2024**	April 19, 2024	coming soon
June 1, 2024**	May 17, 2024	coming soon

** digital testing at testing locations, not offered at GJHS

ACT – register at www.actstudent.org

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
Sept 9, 2023	Aug 4, 2023	Aug 18, 2023
Oct 28, 2023	Sept 22, 2023	Oct 6, 2023
Dec 9, 2023	Nov 3, 2023	Nov 17, 2023
Feb 10, 2024	Jan 5, 2024	Jan 19, 2024
*April 13, 2024	Mar 8, 2024	Mar 22, 2024
June 8, 2024	May 3, 2024	May 17, 2024
July 13, 2024	June 7, 2024	June 21, 2024

See website for testing fees. Waivers are available for those who qualify with family income eligibility guidelines. By completing a Fee Reduction Testing Waiver form, you may be eligible for Fee Waivers for ACT-SAT and College Applications. Student may receive up to a total of 4 test waivers (2 ACT 2 SAT) and 5 college applications fee waivers. To obtain a FEE WAIVER see your counselor in Student Services.

Photo required to be uploaded for registration for all tests. Photo ID required for admission to test.

All tests will be held here, at GJHS, in the Freshman Academy except the SAT ** Spring tests indicated.

*** Last testing to have scores received for Graduation Requirements.**

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and more!

