



George Jenkins

Volume XXIII
Issue 2
"A Five Star School"
★★★★★
February
2020

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

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.**

Here at GJHS we are busy keeping our focus on the academic achievements of our students and the co-curricular activities of everyone to ensure our students success. Our students continue to perform at or above the levels of expectation demanded by the staff and community. We were notified recently that we had the highest graduation rate last year of all traditional high schools in Polk County. George Jenkin was recognized again at the end of December as being a 5 Star School. We continue to strive to succeed and compete in all areas of academics and athletics. I am very proud of our students, staff and stakeholders as we continue to increase our scores in all areas and be recognized for our community involvement. We want our students to graduate from George Jenkins High School with the skills necessary to be successful in college or in a career. We are proud to say that being prompt, polite and prepared is a way of life at GJHS.

Recently, I've been writing letters of recommendation for scholarships for students who are not ranked in the top ten of their graduating class. It is with great pride that I write these letters for these students. These are the students who you never hear about getting special awards and are part of that silent majority. It is this group that will one day make the majority of the decisions that will affect our country. It brings me great joy when all my students receive the recognition and awards they deserve. The staff at George Jenkins High School takes great pride in their ability to connect with each student and enhance the student's ability to acquire the needed skills to survive in an ever-changing world.

As I walk the campus and visit classrooms...I see the dedication and professional manner in which our teachers perform their duties and are preparing their students for the AP, EOC, and EOY tests. The demands on my staff grow each year with more time needed daily to do their job. They continue to do an excellent job, despite all the obstacles each one encounters in both their personal and professional lives. **I want to personally thank my staff for their work with our students and each other.**

Our students are engaged in meaningful activities and take part in a varied number of co-curricular activities. **It is even more important now than ever before, that you stress to your child to do their very best on every test they take this year.** With the number of mandatory tests and the importance of each one has varying effects on your child's graduation, schedule and their ability to take part in school activities.

We continue to have opportunities for everyone to be involved here, parents and students. Please check our school website frequently to keep up to date on all activities going on here at GJHS. The teamwork involving my administrators, staff, students, parents, food service, custodial, volunteers and community is what makes **George Jenkins High School!**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR SCHOOL!
KEEP SOARING EAGLES!**

Tom Patton
Principal

School Contact Information

Main Number 648-3566
School Fax 648-3573
Attendance Office 701-1015
Guidance Fax 701-1131

Administration

Tom Patton
Principal

Ladreda Akins
Assistant Principal

Dan Durham
Assistant Principal

Lacy Emmerling
Assistant Principal

Brad Hiers
Assistant Principal

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Dean of Student Activities

Daniel Rawson
Dean of Students

Jonathan Walton
Dean of Students

<http://georgejenkinshs.com/>

George Jenkins High School Newsletter
February 2020 • Issue #2
Published Five Times Per Year
George Jenkins High School
6000 Lakeland Highlands Road
Lakeland, Florida 33813

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."



George's Closet

Thank you for the continued support to George's Closet. For those of you new to our community, George's closet is a Non-profit organization that has clothing (jeans, tops, shirts, business attire, underclothes and jacket), can food, shoes, school supplies and toiletries as well as Beautiful gowns for Homecoming and Prom. All of these items are FREE of cost. We only ask students and community members to give back when they can. The closet was started by the GEICO BUSINESS ACADEMY and is maintained by GJHS students and the transition unit on the campus. Donations are always welcomed you can bring them to the front office or contact Donna Canning (donna.canning@polk-fl.net or Erin Crosby (Erin.crosby@polk-fl.net) if you have any questions. By the way, Service hours are given to those students who help in the closet. Current Needs are: Clothing of all sizes, belts of all sizes, toiletries (family sizes) and Jeans (all sizes) .

Test Scores in Parent and Student Portals

Your student's test scores are now available through the Parent and Student Portals. You can find directions on how to access test scores on our website www.georgejenkinshs.com located at the top under "Announcements". We have also included information regarding which test scores are required to receive a standard diploma. We will no longer provide test score information over the phone. If you do not have access to the parent portal you will need to come into the Guidance office to obtain this access.

Final Yearbook Sale

This is your final opportunity to purchase a yearbook for the 2019-2020 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 Saturday, February 29th.



- Yearbook Only → \$90.00
- Yearbooks will be available for distribution in early May, 2020.

Proposed Education Trip to Atlanta, GA

George Jenkins High School US History teacher, Coach Gregg Mays has put forward a request to take GJ students on an educational trip to Atlanta, GA during spring break 2021. The proposed dates are March 19-23, 2021. The current estimated cost which will be collected by the school is \$600.00 per person which will cover transportation, hotel cost, breakfast, and all admissions to the historical sites we will visit. There will be a payment plan available for those who would like to make payments. Students will need money for other meals and the evening events; the estimated costs are \$75 and \$40 respectively. This would bring the estimated total cost of the trip to \$715. We will only be able to take 36 students on this trip so if you are interested, please pay as early as possible. This cost estimate is at the highest end. With fundraising, we expect the cost to be below \$500; maybe even well below.

If this trip is approved by the district office, students will be able to participate in fundraising activities to help defray the cost. Additionally, there will be an interest meeting at the beginning of the school year in order to gauge the interest and provide the most up to date information for students and parents.

Please direct any questions you may have to Coach Gregg Mays via email at gregg.mays@polk-fl.net.



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What Do You Want to Do When You Grow Up?

If the average person changes careers 6-7 times in their lifetime, wouldn't it be wise to do some research before choosing a career that's supposed to last a lifetime? The most common reasons for changing a career are disillusionment of the job and not utilizing a person's strengths. Not all interesting and well-paying jobs require a college degree. With technology changing our work force at lightning speed, it's more important than ever for high school students to research careers that will align with their interests and strengths.

Two beneficial resources available to Florida high school students are Bigfuture by the College Board and the My Career Shines at Floridashines.

At bigfuture.collegeboard.org, students can choose topics in which they are interested, then combine these interests to get career ideas. These career ideas can lead to possible college majors. A plethora of information is available for students to learn more about what careers are out there and how to make career choices.

New to the Floridashines website is the Kuder Navigator in the MyCareerShines section. Students can use career assessments to explore careers in areas which their interests, skills, and work values align. Floridashines explains this new tool as follows:

MyCareerShines Kuder Navigator® is an online planning tool made just for students in high school. It gives you everything you need to start planning for your future. You can:

- Assess your interests and skills to connect with careers that are just right for you,
- Explore the extensive catalog of careers to find exciting job opportunities in the dynamic 21st century economy,
- Get information about colleges and financial aid to turn your plan into reality, and
- Create a resume that gets you in the door and moves you up the ladder of success.

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

All community service hours are due to Mrs. Higgins by April 1st, 2020. Community service is required for all of the Bright Futures Scholarships. Florida Academic will require 100 service hours, Florida Medallion will need 75 hours and Gold Seal will require 35 hours of community service. If you are an underclassman your hours will carry over until your year of graduation.



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Registration:

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year started on February 4th. The registration form was given out in 1st period then taken home for parent approval. These registration forms were due back at GJHS on February 7th. Please make sure these forms have been turned in. This registration process is essential to planning courses that will be offered next school year. In May, every student will get a copy of their courses that will be scheduled in the 2020-2021 school year. Any requested changes must be submitted at this time.

Academics:

Student's academic course placement will follow a District Progression Plan for each subject area which is based on current courses, course grades, and testing data in each subject area. These flow charts were created by county office personnel and content area teachers based on research, experience and graduation requirements. Teachers also make academic and academy progression recommendations on the Registration form.

Electives:

Students, with parent input and approval, choose their elective courses. On the registration form, students prioritize their elective choices by placing the numbers 1 - 6 next to their desired courses. Their #1 elective choice is the elective course that is most important to them. Five more elective choices are selected in priority order. Electives are chosen based on college plans, career interests, and participation in performing arts programs. Students must choose these elective courses wisely. The GJHS master schedule and teaching staff is created based on what the students choose at registration. With limits on class sizes, this master schedule does not have the flexibility to honor requests to change courses once schedules have been completed in the summer.

Something to consider when selecting elective courses: In order to be accepted into a four year state college, the State University System (SUS) requires students to have a minimum of 18 academic credits. Academic electives offered at GJHS include additional science courses, foreign language, or even psychology, sociology, or creative writing. Students should visit their

prospective colleges' website for information about admissions requirements. More information on SUS requirements can be found at www.floridashines.org. Our Career Academies give students experiences and exposure to different careers in areas where they are interested. 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 their field of study.

For questions about academic progressions and the selection of elective courses, refer to our website out www.georgejenkinhs.com under 'academics'. Please remember, all students are scheduled based on graduation requirements, Florida Legislative Testing Mandates, Class Size Amendment, college admissions requirements, academic records and course availability. Courses are subject to cancellation due to funding and/or lack of student requests.

Freshmen:

The first semester of high school is complete! Freshmen should review their graduation requirements to evaluate their progress. The Freshmen Class Power Point Presentation can be reviewed on the GJHS website for reminders about graduation requirements, Bright Futures Scholarships, and college/career planning. It is never too early to plan for the future! Use Florida Shines at www.floridashines.org to start career planning. This valuable resource should be used to plan for Post-Secondary Education and includes information about colleges, technical schools, and careers. Students may also access their unofficial Bright Futures evaluation and high school course records on the Florida Shines website.

Sophomores:

Sophomores should visit www.floridashines.org to research careers and make post-secondary plans. Students can research what education is required for difference careers; is a four-year degree needed? Is a 2-year degree or technical certification the better route? Then, search for colleges or technical schools that offer that education. Florida Shines is an educational service provided by the Department of Education, the State University System of Florida, and the

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Florida College System to help students plan their education. Sophomores who took the PSAT in October were given their score report and test book in their English class. Students should review their score report and plan to take the PSAT again next October during their junior year. Taking this test as a junior is the only way to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program and the best preparation for the SAT. Be sure to use Khan Academy to get ready for the junior PSAT.

PSAT:

Any student who did not receive their scores can pick them up in the Guidance Office. The score reports show how a student would perform on the SAT and detailed feedback on content areas where students are doing well and where they need improvement. Students can review their test to see what questions they got right, what they got wrong, and refer to the website to get explanations of the correct answers. Connecting their PSAT/College Board account to Khan Academy gives students access to personalized PSAT and SAT preparation based on how they performed on the 2019 PSAT. They also have access to thousands of practice questions and four official SAT Practice Tests. College Board research shows that 20 hours of test preparation using this resource will gain a student an average of 115 points from the PSAT to the SAT. For more information, refer to PSAT on the College Board at www.collegeboard.org and satpractice.org.

Juniors:

Counselors will be meeting with Juniors individually in March and April. Graduation requirements and college and career planning will be reviewed along with the requirements for Bright Futures and State University System (SUS) admissions. Students will be able to discuss what elective choices are best for them in the 2020-2021 school year based on their post-secondary plans. Please refer to the Guidance section of the GJ website for the junior conference video that covers all the information in the conference.

Many colleges require SAT or ACT scores at the time students apply. College bound juniors should start taking the SAT and ACT the second half of their junior year. The College Board and Kahn Academy established a partnership to give all students SAT practice. For ACT, go to ACTstudent.org to register for the ACT tests and find excellent test preparation resources. After taking these tests in the spring, students will have several opportunities to retest before completing college applications in the fall of their senior year or to qualify for Bright Futures. Don't forget! Your junior year is most important when applying to a post-secondary school. Begin planning your college campus visits. Many colleges have special dates set up for students interested in attending their school. See their websites for more information.

Seniors:

Seniors have entered their final semester of their high school careers. Avoid 'senioritis'!!! Grades, attendance, and behavior continue to be of high importance to successfully make it to graduation. Seniors should be paying attention to college deadlines (housing, financial aid, etc), looking for

scholarships, completing financial aid applications, and planning for next year. All courses taken on FLVS/PVS must be completed by **May 1st** to count for graduation and be included on the high school transcripts. Community Service hours are due **April 1st**. Remember, colleges may rescind acceptance based on semester schedule changes and/or final grades. Be sure to stay up to date on the latest graduation ceremony information by visiting our GJ webpage at www.georgejenkinshs.com under 'announcements' on the front page.

Bright Futures:

In October, seniors had the opportunity to complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) which is the registration application for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program. If this opportunity was missed, students must apply at www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org. Initial Bright Futures eligibility status checks will be completed in February. Students should check their eligibility status on this website using their log in ID and PIN. If a student is not eligible at this time, he or she will be re-evaluated at the end of the school year.

Remember for Bright Futures:

- **Community service is required for all of the Bright Futures Scholarships.** Florida Academic = 100 hrs; Florida Medallion = 75 hrs; Gold Seal = 35 hrs
- **Qualifying SAT or ACT scores are required.** Students can continue to take the SAT and/or ACT through the last June 2019 testing dates to achieve the minimum test scores. Students must register on the SAT/ACT websites for testing.


FAFSA:

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) became available on October 1st. 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. Use Floridashines.org for a link to the FAFSA website. There is no charge to complete the FAFSA. If the site requests any form of payment, it is the wrong site!!

Use these websites to find your own financial aid:

- www.floridashines.org - FL DOE Official Student Information Site
- bigfuture.collegeboard.org – bigfuture by the College Board
- www.fafsa.ed.gov – Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org – Bright Futures Scholarship Program
- www.fastweb.com – free scholarship search
- www.floridaprepaidcollege.com – Florida pre-paid college program
- www.knowhow2go.org – Know how 2 go
- www.studentaid.ed.gov – Official Federal Student Aid website





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George Jenkins High School Inducts National English Honor Society Members



Members of the GJHS Chapter of the National English Honor Society are privileged to actively serve on the high school campus and in Central Florida community.

A reputable nationwide organization, the NEHS exists for those who have not only exceeded expectations in English class, but those who also demonstrate a love for competitions, learning, literature and writing. Opportunities for local, state and national scholarships are available for active members of the NEHS.

On Thursday, February 6, nearly 50 English scholars were inducted into the GJHS NEHS Chapter. Students maintaining a 3.0 GPA or higher overall, holding a 3.0 GPA or higher overall in English class, and submitting their \$20 Dues, Parent Permission Forms and Teacher Recommendations were given their Membership Certificates and treated to a catered Reception in their honor with cupcakes and punch from the GJHS Culinary Department.

Assistant Principal Lacy Emmerling and NEHS Advisors -- Michele Barr, Shannon Mooney and Briann Peterson – coordinated the inaugural event, the first NEHS Induction Ceremony for any Polk County public school. Active NEHS members attend meetings on designated Thursday mornings (6:20 AM) or afternoons (2:05 PM).

The GJHS NEHS Chapter is both academic and service oriented. Our December Adopt-a-Child service project included gathering a paper box full of art supplies, books, clothing, personal care items and school supplies for our female Crystal Lake Middle School student. “We are so glad to share these gifts with her,” said President Kelcey Langham. We say a “HUGE Thank You!” to all the NEHS students who contributed to her worthwhile gift.

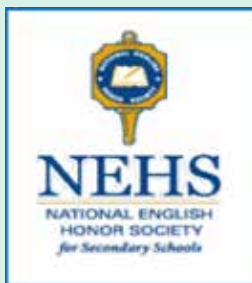
With our new members fully inducted, our February service project includes the **Conquer Cancer 5K and 10K Promise Walk/Run** for the Hollis Cancer Center. We invite everyone to join our **GJHS NEHS Team** as we strive to raise \$500 for cancer research. “Both Mrs. Mooney and I are cancer survivors, so we want to support the **Promise Walk/Run**. Our school’s namesake, George Jenkins, worked alongside Mark C. Hollis, the former president of Publix Super Markets. We are excited about participating,” said NEHS Advisor Michele Barr.

The Spring Semester continues to be exciting for the NEHS with our Candy ‘n Chips Fundraising in March, **Serve-a-Teacher Service Project** in March, and **Spoken Word Showcase** on Friday, April 17.

Be part of the first National English Honor Society Chapter in Polk County. Join today! For more information regarding the organization, visit with any of our NEHS Advisors – Mrs. Barr (3216), Mrs. Mooney (3214) or Mrs. Peterson (3218).

Join the GJHS NEHS Team!

See Mrs. Barr (3216) for more information!



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To Addressee or Current Resident

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