



George Jenkins

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Issue 4
"A Five Star School"
★★★★★
March
2021

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

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George Jenkins High School Newsletter
March 2021 • Issue #4
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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 for 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 keeps them on track to graduate on time. Your encouragement is greatly appreciated by all of us.

Everyone has read about the different scenarios regarding federal and state legislature appropriating funds for non-personnel use and programs. Once the budget is finalized, then our District makes decisions with the funds that are allocated to us. We may have to reduce in some areas and tighten our belt in others. I appreciate your patience as we work through this process as it relates to student scheduling.

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. My administrators, staff, students, and parents have been very helpful in sharing information that I have needed to make decisions which affect our school.

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 a variety of 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.

K E E P S O A R I N G E A G L E S !

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."

Guidance News

We are three-quarters of the way through the 2020-2021 school year! And our registration process has already been completed for the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you to all who helped make our online registration process successful. Counselors will be inputting each student's requested courses into the scheduling system for next year. Individual *Student Course Request* summaries will be distributed to students in May. Any corrections to these requests must be submitted to the Student Services Office prior to the end of the school year. Over summer, counselors will turn course requests into schedules. Final schedules will be distributed at orientation. 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.

Juniors

Counselors plan to 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 ACT School day on **March 16th!** These ACT scores can be used for college admissions and qualifying for Bright Futures.

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 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**. 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. 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!!*

Graduation requirements, Diploma Designations, University admissions, and Bright Futures Scholarship requirements remain unchanged for the class of 2021 and beyond.

Graduation Requirements:

All students are required to earn 24 credits to earn a high school diploma including:

- 4 English (ELA)
- 4 Math (must include Algebra and Geometry)
- 3 Science (must include Biology)
- 3 Social Studies (1 World History, 1 US History, .5 Government, .5 Economics)
- 1 Physical Education (.5 Personal Fitness AND .5 any other PE OR 1 credit in HOPE)
- 1 Practical/Performing Art
- 8 electives
- 1 online learning course
- Maintain a 2.0 un-weighted cumulative GPA.

State Assessment Requirements:

- Grade 10 ELA (or ACT/SAT concordant score)
- Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) or a comparative score on the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.)

Scholar Diploma Designation:

In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student must:

- Earn 1 credit in Algebra II
- Pass the Geometry EOC
- Earn 1 credit in Statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course
- Pass the Biology I EOC
- Earn 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics
- Earn 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to Chemistry or Physics
- Pass the U.S. History EOC
- Earn 2 credits in the same World Language
- Earn at least 1 credit in AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course

A student is exempt from the Biology I or U.S. History assessment if the student is enrolled in an AP Biology or U.S. History course and the student

- Takes the respective AP, IB or AICE assessment; and
- Earns the minimum score to earn college credit.

Merit Diploma Designation:

- Meet the standard high school diploma requirements
- Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.)

Type	16 High School Course Credits ¹	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT [®] /SAT [®])	Service Hours
FAS	4 - English <i>(three must include substantial writing)</i> 4 - Mathematics <i>(at or above the Algebra I level)</i> 3 - Natural Science <i>(two must have substantial laboratory)</i>	3.50	2020-21 Graduates: 29/1330 2021-22 Graduates: 29/1330	100 hours
FMS	3 - Social Science 2 - World Language <i>(sequential, in same language)</i>	3.00	2020-21 Graduates: 25/1210 2021-22 Graduates: 25/1210	75 hours



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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 to achieve the required scores. The Florida Financial Aid Application must be completed prior to graduation at www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org. Please see this website for more information.

State University Admissions Requirements

Florida universities have a competitive admissions process. The MINIMUM eligibility requirements for admissions are as follows:

Earn a standard diploma with a minimum 2.5 GPA in 18 academic courses which include:

- 4 English
- 4 Math (Algebra 1 and higher level courses)
- 3 Science
- 3 Social Studies
- 2 Foreign Language (in the same language)
- 2 Academic electives

Earn competitive scores on national college entrance exams:

- SAT or ACT

However, students only earning minimum requirements will not gain admissions to most Florida universities. These schools are also looking for a rigorous curriculum, strong GPA with an upward trend, competitive test scores, a well written essay, a passionate commitment to extracurricular activities, and leadership experiences. Each school accepts their most competitive applicants. To view each universities average freshmen profile of GPA's and test scores, visit Florida Shines, then 'Go to College' at www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/get-ready-for-college/average-university-freshmen-profile/.

Students, Parents, Walkers, & Drivers!!!

The safety of our students and staff is always a top priority at GJ!! **Parents** please use **only the Front Entrance** of the school for **drop off** and **pick up**. Administrators are on duty every morning to assist in traffic flow. **The Faculty/Bus entrance, Peterson Rd, and the faculty parking lot should NOT be used to drop off/ pick up students.**

Walkers should use crosswalks and ONLY authorized **pedestrian gates**. Please be patient and use caution during drop off and pick up hours! Take the few extra minutes and follow the designated traffic patterns. The safety of our students and staff depends on it!

**Community Service Hours**

All community service hours are due to Mrs. Higgins by April 15th, 2021. 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. Please do not wait, turn hours in each year.

George's Closet News

Thank you for all the support for this wonderful closet. Donations are coming in weekly. We are in need for shampoo, conditioners, body wash, lotions, tooth paste and brushes. We also need underclothes still in the packages for male and female (all sizes).

Short story: A family had a fire and lost everything and we were able to provide clothing for all of them. We want to thank you – The GJHS community for allowing us to have what they needed.

All donations can be dropped off in the front office during school hours. A special thanks to Erin Crosby for making supply runs when needed, the transition class for washing all the incoming clothing and organizing the closet on a daily basis, and Marilyn Seger for organizing all the volunteers to assist with the closet. Shout out to: Kristen, Chris, Evan S, Miranda, Naon and Big D – You all Rock!!! Please direct any questions to Erin Crosby or Donna Canning at 863 648-3566 concerning George's Closet.

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Website: <http://sites.google.com/view/gjhs-abc/home>



George Jenkins Math Club

Luis leads Scott, Andy, and Nathan on a magical adventure seeking out the mysterious "Stats" quatch. Tune in as these hardy adventurers use their math skills to find this glorious beast. The bizarre twists and turns are highlighted when one of their own betrays the group. Sound interesting? Join math club, by invitation only. (Minter, Kim, and Rocco). How do you know if you're in math club? Oh... you'll know.

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Spring 2021 Assessment Information

In order to receive a high school diploma in Florida, students must meet certain academic requirements which include passing state assessments, specifically the FSA English Language Arts (ELA) and FSA Algebra End of Course (EOC) exams. The FSA ELA has a one day Writing section and a Reading section which is divided over two days. The Algebra EOC is also divided over two days.

In addition to these assessments students are required to participate in the End of Course exam when enrolled in the following courses; Geometry, Biology, and US History. The EOC will count 30% of the entire course grade – which could affect the first semester grade.

Below are the dates for Spring testing. Please make note of these test dates as make up dates are never guaranteed.

Note: eSchool students will be tested on campus and need to make arrangements to be at school on test dates.

- February 22 FSA ELA Writing Retake for juniors and seniors who have not met this graduation requirement.
- February 24 & 25 . . . FSA ELA Reading Retake for juniors and seniors who have not met this graduation requirement (*you must have completed the Writing session in order to sit for the Reading sessions*)
- March 2 ACT School Day (non-college reportable/triple time) English section for seniors who have not met the FSA ELA graduation requirement.
- March 3 ACT School Day (non-college reportable/triple time) Math section for seniors who have not met the FSA ELA and Algebra EOC graduation requirements.
- March 4 ACT School Day (non-college reportable/triple time) Reading section for seniors who have not met the FSA ELA graduation requirement.
- March 16 ACT School Day (college reportable – standard time) Students will complete all sections of the test on this day. This test is being offered to **all** juniors.
- April 6 FSA ELA Writing for 9th grade students.
- April 7 FSA ELA Writing for 10th grade students.
- May 3 US History EOC for all students enrolled in this course **and** AP US History.
- May 5 and 6 FSA ELA Reading sections for both 9th and 10th grade. (Must have completed the Writing test in April and complete both sessions of the Reading test to receive a score).
- May 11 and 12. . . . Algebra and Geometry EOC for all students enrolled in these courses. Must attend both days.
- May 13 Biology EOC for students enrolled in Biology.

Advanced Placement (AP) exam dates have changed. Please check with your teacher and the CollegeBoard website, www.collegeboard.org. We are waiting for direction from the District.

If you or your student would like to review the computer-based practice test at home, the practice tests and answer keys are available at <http://www.FSAssessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/>.

Students taking the Algebra or Geometry EOCs should practice using the online calculator and the equation editor. Handheld calculators will not be allowed for these EOCs. This information can be found in the FSA Portal (link below) under Testing Resources. Information about the FSA program can be found at www.FSAssessments.org.

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To Addressee or Current Resident

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Football

The George Jenkins High School 2020 football season was like no other. Despite Covid protocols the team bonded together lead by the senior members of the team to create an exciting season under the Friday night lights of Veterans Stadium. The culmination of the season was the playoff game against Strawberry Crest. An exciting 4th quarter, down to the wire play, fumble recovery and a 90 yard run and touchdown by George Jenkins, creating a playoff win, the first EVER Playoff win in George Jenkins Football History!

Unfortunately, in the final playoff game, a stronger, more experienced Armwood team defeated George Jenkins by a score of 40-0. Despite their record, the George Jenkins football team played the 2020 season with heart, determination and spirit. Along with athletic ability the team also shines bright in the academic realm with a high overall cumulative GPA as a team of 3.072 and is ranked 7th in the state for our classification as a team. These qualities will definitely carry them over to the 2021 season.

On January 14th at the annual football banquet, we bid a fond farewell to our senior players. Celebrated everyone's academic and athletic accomplishments of the season and gave a HUGE THANK YOU to all the Coaches, parents and Booster Club members that were able to carry us thru this sometimes difficult unknown Covid 2020 season.

We are currently preparing for our Spring season in the weight room. As we are always focused on how we can better our athleticism in the off season. In April we will begin Iron days and our official Spring practice begins in May concluding with a spring game.

A final Thank You to all the coaches who work with our players to create not only championship athletes but also students of character, commitment and sportsmanship. We also thank our parents, business partners and Booster Club who support and cheer on our team. In that spirit of support, please come out and join us to support our team at the annual Football Golf Scramble on March 6, 2021 at Cleveland Heights Golf Course 2900 Buckingham Ave Lakeland. Please contact Coach Canning or visit the GJ Football website for information at www.georgejenkinsfootball.org.

What's New at GJ?

As you arrive on campus, you have probably noticed the fencing that has been recently installed. This fencing plays an important role in **safety** by **restricting access to our campus**. **Gates to campus are locked promptly at 7 AM daily**. Any student arriving after 7am will be required to check in through the Main Office. All visitors to campus must, as always, request access through the Main Office.

Please discuss with your student the importance of maintaining a secure campus. Students have been instructed **not to open gates** for anyone during the school day and **never to "prop open" security gates** for any reason.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN KEEPING OUR STUDENTS & STAFF SAFE!



GO EAGLES in 2021!