

Volume XXV Issue 3

"A Five Star School"

November 2022

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

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George Jenkins High School Newsletter November 2022 • 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, our students must continue to work bell to bell and be on task. Teachers and students are busy preparing for exams and end of semester testing. 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 assignments 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 can let the holiday spirit take over a little too early. Help us in stressing the importance of being present, 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 never the less, 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.**

Parents and families of George Jenkins' students, I would like for you to make a special effort this holiday season to talk with your children about the following areas of concern I have for all adolescents:

- Maintaining positive relationships with peers, adults, authority figures and you the parent
- Establishing good habits in diet and nutrition; personal hygiene and physical exercise
- Getting enough rest and sleep to properly function during the school day
- Finding a balance involving school life and personal life
- Becoming a knowledgeable, responsible, caring citizen-contributing to community service or environmental projects
- Planning and preparing for career
- Earning and budgeting money
- Developing personal goals and interests, including hobbies, clubs and future education plans
- Meeting responsibilities and finding outlets for ideas and creativity
- Appreciating people of different races/cultures

I know the list is long, but I believe that every one of the topics is important. I want you, the parent, to make it a point to discuss the topics at some point over the long holiday break with your child. Involvement in any of our many clubs, sports, and arts programs improves academic performance, attendance, and discipline issues. We have something for everyone. Participation in these

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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."





Principal's Message

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activities enhances school life and looks good on career and college applications. Also, help your child plan and execute community service, which is a requirement for earning *Bright Futures* scholarship money.

If we all stress the importance of these topics, I am sure at some point it will become the norm, our **Mission that each student is Prompt, Polite and Prepared** to fulfill our **Vision that each student will graduate with the necessary skills to be successful in college or in a career.** Just take a few minutes on each topic and see what your child's thoughts are concerning these areas. I believe a little discussion about these items can go along way in developing a close relationship with your child. Spend your holiday time together. Show your children that you support them in all of their endeavors. Share your knowledge and expertise of your life experiences. We are all in this together, **REMEMBER... YOU ARE AN EDUCATOR TOO.**

Thanks to all of you and our Business Partners for your continued support of GJHS

Wishing you a healthy and happy Holiday Season!

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Tom Patton, Principal

PSAT

For sophomores and juniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT, score reports will be emailed to students at the beginning of December. Students should use the email link to access their PSAT score reports and connect to Khan Academy for individualized test preparation. The PSAT score report will show



projected SAT scores. Each question can be reviewed, see the correct and incorrect answer, and view explanations of the correct answers. By setting up an account on Khan Academy and connecting it to the College Board PSAT account, students will get personalized practice for the SAT with hundreds of practice questions. Sophomores who took the PSAT should plan to take the PSAT again as a junior because it's the only test to qualify students for the National Merit Scholarship Program and it's the best test preparation for the real SAT available. Juniors who took the PSAT should definitely be using the personalized test prep through Khan Academy to take the SAT in the spring. Go to collegeboard.com for more information.

Dr. Marc A. Presnell 863-665-5033 SantaFe-AnimalHospital.com 3107 US Highway 92 East • Lakeland, FL 33801 Open Monday - Friday from 7:30am - 5:30pm



Yearbook News Senior or Business Ads

The last day to purchase a senior or business ad in the GJHS yearbook has been extended to December16th. 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 \rightarrow \$425.00 Half Page \rightarrow \$275.00 Quarter Page \rightarrow \$150.00 Eighth Page \rightarrow \$80.00

Yearbooks on Sale

Don't forget to pre-order your special edition 30th anniversary yearbook for the 22-23 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 13, 2023.

Yearbook Only \rightarrow \$90.00 Yearbook, Nameplate & Cover \rightarrow \$100.00

Senior Class Info

All Seniors and Parents

The Class of 2023 is off to a great start for their senior year! It is very important that each senior (and their parent/guardian) is aware of all activities and upcoming events as we move throughout the year, so please access the "Class of 2023 Senior Information" webpage on the school's website for events, dates, and times. Events and dates are provided under each month and be sure to scroll down to the bottom for additional information concerning senior year prices and contact information. We are all looking forward to an awesome year! See Mr. Townley or Mrs. Iatarola with any questions.



Fine Arts

Last month the Fine Arts Department had its annual Prism concert and fine arts festival! Chorus, dancers, culinary, face painting, and participants even had the opportunity to conduct the orchestra. It was a huge success celebrating fine arts!





GJHS Eagles Bowling Team

The GJHS Bowling team completed their inaugural season on a strong run. Both the Women's and Men's Teams finished with undefeated records and saw tremendous growth from many on the team throughout the season. They look to continue to grow as bowlers and as a team in the offseason with camps and tournaments to prepare for next year. If you would like to sponsor the team with a financial contribution to help pay for these expenses, please contact Matt Townley (matt.townley@polk-fl.net), and he will ensure your contributions go to positively impacting the bowlers. Congratulations Eagles Bowling for your incredible year!

ABC

We hope everyone is having a great school year so far. Thank you to staff, families, friends and students that have joined the Academic Booster Club this year. We have already surpassed our membership from last year and are excited for the many ways everyone can be involved this year. Your membership provides support, encouragement, and appreciation to the students and staff throughout the school year.

Congratulations to GJHS's 2022 Teacher of the year, Mrs. Erin Crosby, and School-Related Employee, Mrs. Pam Pierce. The Academic Booster Club co-sponsored the Teacher of the Year Banquet, providing some of the funding needed to give the teachers and the staff an extra special evening at the Eaglebrooke Country Club to celebrate their hard work. ABC members enjoyed setting up and decorating for the banquet, as well as securing door prizes and gifts from many local businesses. Also, a big thank you to the Culinary Arts Academy students for the wonderful desserts.

We hope to see you all at our upcoming meetings on 11/14/2022 and 12/12/2022. Our meetings are held on the second Monday of the month in the Media Center at 6pm. Everyone is welcome. Check out our Facebook page for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. Feel free to email us at GJHSABC@gmail.com with any questions you may have about how to join and get involved.





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News from Student Services

We have already completed the 1st quarter of the 2022-2023 school year! The 2nd quarter will end on December 16th. 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 14th – 18th. 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:

- 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
- 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

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 requirementws to complete the baccalaureate degree.

Florida is strengthening this 2+2 articulation agreement. Universities have partnered with their state

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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 that include our local Traviss 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 is 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 multiple-aptitude test measures abilities across several subject areas. Minimum scores are required to be eligible for enlistment in different military branches or jobs within the service. The ASVAB is administered at GJHS every November. For more information go to www.todaysmilitary.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 Traviss meetings & application assistance, Publix job fair, and Polk State College's Earn & Learn program.

Money for College

Colleges have been researched, applications carefully completed, and the wait for acceptance notifications has begun. So while waiting...let us 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 that 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 January 19th – February 7th. This one application includes about 60 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/













Upcoming Testing Information

This year marks the onset of new standards for ELA/Reading and Math. It also marks the onset of a new state ELA test, called the FAST Progress Monitoring Assessment. This assessment will be given to all current 9th and 10th grade students and replaces the FSA ELA assessment taken in previous years. The FAST Progress Monitoring did not change statute language regarding graduation requirements and accountability.

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 his sophomore year, then he has satisfied his graduation requirement and will no longer be required to sit for this test. Please note that students must still pass the Algebra EOC in order 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.

Ninth and 10th graders completed their FAST PM1 in early October. Parents and students can see these results in Student Portal. PM2 and PM3 will be significantly more structured. To avoid the need to pull students out of classes for makeup tests, we ask that you ensure that your students are present for school.

Fall EOC and PSAT scores are expected in late November, and Fall ELA 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 Wednesday 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.). 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.





GJQ

The GJQ Competition BBQ team is off and running preparing for their upcoming competitions and catering opportunities through many practice cooks and classes. To continue their successes, they are looking for sponsors to help offset the costs with support and donations. The students will be holding a pulled pork by the pound and YETI fundraiser on Saturday, December 3rd from 10am – 1pm at The Old South Country Market on South Florida. If you would like to contribute to the growing successes of these students with any financial or product donations, please contact Matt Townley (matt.townley@polk-fl.net).



George's Closet

The benefits to working in George's Closet are the ability to earn service hours, learn teamwork and collaborative skills, as well as becoming an active member in the community. Service hours are important for scholarships, college applications, and standing out against the rest of the student body. With the ability to work half an hour each morning and our meetings every other Wednesday in room 2115, earning hours is a breeze, especially when volunteering for drives. Throughout the year, we will hold drives for items we need. Our November drive emphasizes the need for personal hygiene items. If you have any questions, reach out to Mr. Lee Robinson or Mrs. Crosby at (863) 648-3566.



Knowledge is Power!

Use these resources:

- www.floridashines.org
- www.collegeboard.com
- www.actstudent.org
- www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org
- www.fastweb.com
- bigfuture.collegeboard.org



Athletics News

Keep up to date with our athletic teams, spirit & more!







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To Addressee or Current Resident

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