



George Jenkins

Volume XXVII

Issue 3

"A Five Star School"

★★★★★

November
2024

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

School Contact Information

Main Number

(863) 648-3566

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(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

Lea Bickerton

Dean of Students

Danisha Rivera

Dean of Students

Gavin Osborn

Dean of Students

<http://georgejenkinshs.com/>

George Jenkins High School Newsletter

November 2024 • 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.

Dear Eagle Family,

What an OUTSTANDING START to another school year! We are on the right track to make this another successful year. The hurricanes definitely put a wrinkle into the momentum we had going as the year started, but I am confident we will regain that momentum as school year progresses. Class sizes are up in our electives and most core classes are closed. When you have a great tradition, students and parents want to be part of the success.

As I walk the hallways and visit classrooms, the staff and students are reaching the highest academic expectations. All different styles of learning modalities are being exhibited in the classrooms and rigorous questioning and student led discussions to solve problems should be in every class, not an exception. It is impressive to walk in the classroom and see the students actively involved in the learning process. The academic expectations are high.

The continued improvement and accomplishment of higher academic expectations takes a great deal of planning, time, and effort. I'm very proud of our staff for putting the time in to create these experiences for our students. I am confident that in our working together, we will do **"whatever it takes"** to ensure that every student will reach the highest academic level possible. Our mission is to make sure our students are prompt, polite, and prepared to meet the challenges they will face upon graduation. Our Vision that each student will graduate with the skills necessary to be successful in college or in a career is always a part of everyone's discussion with our students.

Tom Patton

Principal

GJHS

Polk County Schools Mission Statement

The mission of Polk County Public Schools is to provide a high-quality education for all students.

News from Student Services

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We've already completed the 1st quarter of the 2024-2025 school year! The 2nd quarter will end on December 20th. 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 office 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.

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2024
SCHOOL YEAR
2025

Yearbooks on Sale

Don't forget to pre-order your yearbook for the 24-25 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
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To Learn More

George Jenkins HS Dream Maker Band

2nd Annual Mattress Fundraiser



@ 6000 Lakeland Highlands Rd

Saturday, Dec. 7th, 2024, 10:00AM - 5:00PM

Savings on mattresses from top brands!

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George Jenkins HS Dream Maker Band Mattress Fundraiser

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Questions? Contact: gregg.wallace@cfsbeds.com

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College and Career Week

The College and Career Week initiative is a nationwide effort to inspire students to pursue education beyond high school. Our College and Career Week will be November 18th – 22nd. 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 three nationally-recognized college entrance exams: SAT, ACT or CLT.
 - SAT** – collegeboard.org
 - ACT** – actstudent.org
 - CLT** – cltexam.com

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.

GO EAGLES!

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- 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, a small amount of 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 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 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.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.



Knowledge is Power!

Use these resources:

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



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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.



GJHS Financial Aid Night/FAFSA & Bright Futures lab – Wednesday, December 11th in the GJHS Media Center from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Seniors and their parents should come ready to complete the free federal financial aid application and a financial aid advisor will be available to help. Both students and parents should create their accounts at studentaid.gov to get their FSA ID. This account can be created now and takes a few days to generate the FSA ID. The FAFSA application opens on December 1st. The application can be completed at home or in the completion lab at GJ on 12/11. Please bring your FSA ID, financial information, and 2023 tax return to reference when completing this application. Over \$24 billion of financial aid goes unclaimed each year. Seniors, don't miss this opportunity to get your financial aid process started!

Polk Education Foundation Scholarships: Nov 8th – Dec 12

The Polk Education Foundation Scholarship application is scheduled to be open from November 8th through December 12th. Applications will be accessed on Class Links. This one application includes about 90 scholarships that are just for Polk County high school seniors. Most scholarships require minimum GPA, SAT/ACT, and/or community service hours. GJHS will be hosting a PEF completion night on November 21st at 6:00 pm in the Media Center. More information can be found at www.polkschoolsfl.com/pef/scholarships/.



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Alexander Angulo	Alexander.Angulo@polk-fl.net
Tennis	1/13/25
Eric Bright	ericbrightapple@gmail.com
Track and Field	1/20/25
Girls Curtis Williams	Curtis.Williams@polk-fl.net
Boys Brian Robichaud	Brian.Robichaud@polk-fl.net
Boys Weightlifting	1/6/25
John Freeman	John.Freeman@polk-fl.net
Flag Football	1/27/25
Qasim Ward	Qasim.ward@polk-fl.net
Boys Volleyball	2/10/25
Jena Ousley	jenanolimits@gmail.com
Beach Volleyball	2/3/25
Jena Ousley	jenanolimits@gmail.com

Athletic Director: Jestin Bailey, Jestin.Bailey@polk-fl.net

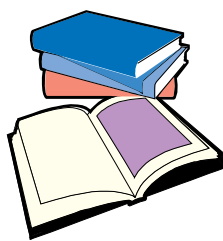
National English Honor Society

2024-25 Monthly Meeting Dates and Times

Our Chapter's NEHS meetings occur every first and third Thursday of every month, either at 6:25 AM or 2:05 PM in Mrs. Barr's classroom (19-127) or the Media Center.

The following listing catalogs our NEHS remaining meeting dates.

Fall Semester Meeting Dates	Times	Locations
Thursday, November 21	6:25 AM	19-127
	2:05 PM	19-127
Thursday, December 5	6:25 AM	19-127
	2:05 PM	Media Center
Spring Semester Meeting Dates	Times	Locations
Thursday, January 2	2:05 PM	19-127
Thursday, January 16	6:25 AM	19-127
	2:05 PM	19-127
Thursday, February 6	6:25 AM	19-127
	2:05 PM	19-127
Thursday, February 20	6:25 AM	19-127
	2:05 PM	19-127
Thursday, March 6	6:25 AM	19-127
	2:05 PM	19-127
Thursday, March 27	2:05 PM	19-127
Thursday, April 3	6:25 AM	19-127
	2:05 PM	19-127
Tuesday, April 22	2:05 PM	Auditorium Decorating
	6:30 PM	Sixth Annual NEHS Spring Senior Recognition and Induction Ceremony, Auditorium and Foyer
Friday, April 25	5:30 AM	Breakfast @ Eagle Room
Thursday, May 1	2:05 PM	NEHS Party, Media Center



Academic Booster Club

The ABC, Academic Booster Club, is a parent run organization that helps support teachers, staff, and students throughout the school year. We would love to have you join the ABC group! Student membership is only \$5; staff \$10; and family \$25. Your membership dues and the proceeds from various spirit nights 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. One event ABC sponsor's is the Teacher and Support person of the year. This year our teacher of the year is Brian Robichaud and our support person of the year is Son Mays. Congratulations to both!! Soon you will see information about ABC selling PDQ gift cards. They will be sold at a discounted price and would be great stocking stuffers. 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. In order to apply for the scholarship, the student needs to be a member. It can be just the student and not the family. 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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To Addressee or Current Resident

8

School Calendar



**TENTATIVE 2024-2025 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR
FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND PARAEDUCATORS**
Dates are subject to change.
January 24, 2023 School Board Approval

Events	Dates
HOLIDAY (Veterans Day) – STUDENT, Teacher and Paraeducator	Monday, November 11, 2024
Second Interim Report (23 rd Day – November 20, 2024)	Distribute Week of November 18 – 22, 2024
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL 4 of 10 (Teacher Planning Time 3 of 6)	Friday, November 22, 2024
FALL BREAK – STUDENT, Teacher and Paraeducator (Paid 11/28 and 11/29)	Monday – Friday, November 25 – 29, 2024
Storm Make-Up Days as Needed	Monday & Tuesday, Nov. 25 and 26, 2024
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL 5 of 10 (Teacher Planning Time 4 of 6)/ END OF FIRST SEMESTER (87 Days)/ End of Second Grading Period and Last School Day before Winter Break	Friday, December 20, 2024
WINTER BREAK BEGINS	Monday, December 23, 2024
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS or Paraeducators/Teacher Work Day	Monday, January 6, 2025
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS or Paraeducators/ Teacher Staff Development Day/Storm Make-Up Day as Needed	Tuesday, January 7, 2025
STUDENTS RETURN AFTER WINTER BREAK/Begin Third Quarter/Paraeducators Return To Work/Grades Due (Second Grading Period)	Wednesday, January 8, 2025
Distribute Report Cards (Second Grading Period)	Wednesday, January 15, 2025
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL 6 of 10 (Teacher Planning Time 5 of 6)	Friday, January 17, 2025

2024-25 Testing Calendar

TEST	DATE*
PERT Window for Dual Enrollment Classes (exact test date not scheduled yet)	11/1-1/17/24
Geometry, Biology, and US History EOC Requests Only – This is not a retake	12/5/24
B.E.S.T. Algebra Retakes	12/11/24
FAST Reading Retakes for 11th and 12th Grade	12/12/24
District Quarterly Assessments (Algebra, Geometry, Biology, US History, Environmental Science)	12/9-12/20/24
Florida Civics Literacy Exam (FCLE) – Government Students (no makeups)	12/18/24
FAST ELA PM2 for 9th & 10th Grade (AFTER WINTER BREAK)	1/16/25

