



Newsletter



From the Superintendent

Ty Sparks

Inside this issue:

District Information	3
Primary News	5
Elementary News	6
Junior High News	9
High School News	14
Veterans' Day	23
Sports Schedules	25

In 2008, GWISD developed a comprehensive 3-Phase Master Plan that would allow all of the identified facility improvements for the District to be prioritized and implemented with three separate bond projects. Approval of Phase I, in 2008, produced various upgrades and new facilities addressing the greatest needs on each campus. Phase II, in 2011, constructed a new high school instructional facility.

Phase III, scheduled for the Fall of 2015, will now provide for a new band hall and gymnasium at the high school. Also included, will be a new classroom wing for the elementary school to replace the aging exterior north wing and provide better security for that campus. The plan also includes improvement for the main cafeteria, the primary school cafeteria, and upgrades to the sidewalks and disabled seating at the football stadium.

The new Student Activity Center, adjacent to the high school, will include a new performance stage, sounds system and theater lighting. This center will be used for student activities and special events for the school and community. Many hours of planning and thoughtful discussion have taken place in the development of these plans for Phase III.

In keeping with the scheduled timeline, the Board of Trustees, students and community members joined together to celebrate breaking ground this month. We're glad to 'get the ball rolling'!!

A very special THANK YOU goes to our community for giving our students the very best!



Important Dates

- Thanksgiving Holidays
November 25-30
- Christmas Holidays
December 21—
January 1
- Teacher Workday
January 4





*Ground Breaking Ceremony
2015*



GEORGE WEST ISD
2015-2016 No Child Left Behind
Report of Progress toward Meeting the Highly Qualified Teachers Requirements
November 17, 2015

School districts are required to report campus-level information concerning the number and percent of teachers and number and percent of classes taught by highly qualified teachers. This data must reflect the “highly qualified” status of both regular core area teachers and special education teachers at each campus and number of regular and special education classes or core area sections that are taught by highly qualified teachers as of September 16th of the current school year.

The chart below reflects the 2015-2016 school year data submitted to the office of No Child Left Behind - Highly Qualified Teacher Compliance Report. The data reflects that each school has 100% of the regular core and special education teachers meeting the definition of being highly qualified and that 100% of all of the core and special education classes and sections are being taught by highly qualified teachers for the 2015-2016 school year.

State Baseline Annual Target	% of Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers (State Aggregate)	% of Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers (High-Poverty Schools)	% of Highly Qualified Teachers (State Aggregate)	% of Teachers Receiving High-Quality Professional Development (State Aggregate)
2006-2007 and beyond	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

	% of Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers	% of Highly Qualified Teachers	% of Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Special Education Teachers	% of Highly Qualified Special Education Teachers	% of Teachers Receiving High-Quality Professional Development
George West ISD	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
George West Primary School	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
George West Elementary School	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
George West Junior High School	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
George West High School	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

High-Poverty Schools – N/A



George West ISD Earns State's Highest Fiscal Accountability Rating

Once again the George West Independent School District received the state's highest rating under the Texas' School FIRST financial accountability rating system for the 2014-2015 rating year.

This is the 13th year of School FIRST (Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas), a financial accountability system for Texas school districts developed by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999.

Major changes to the School FIRST system were implemented by the Texas Education Agency in August 2015 that combined financial indicators with financial solvency indicators, in accordance with House Bill 5, 83rd Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2013. The primary goal of School FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts' financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas' school finance system.

The Texas Education Agency converted Schools FIRST to a two-tier rating system of either "P" for "Pass" or "F" for "Substandard Achievement" for the 2014-2015 rating year. Prior to the 2014-2015 rating year, the Schools FIRST accountability rating system assigned one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts, with the highest being "Superior Achievement," followed by "Above-Standard Achievement," "Standard Achievement" and "Substandard Achievement." George West ISD achieved the rating of "Superior Achievement" for the 2013-2014 rating year and the previous eleven years.

"We are pleased with the George West ISD's School FIRST rating," said George West ISD Superintendent Ty Sparks. It shows that George West ISD's schools are accountable not only for student learning, but also for achieving these results cost-effectively and efficiently."



Holiday Release Times Announced for **Tuesday, November 24** & **Friday, December 18** Release time will be 12:30

Lunch for primary and elementary are at regular times. Lunch for JH & HS is at 12:00.

Buses will leave at 12:30.
Primary buses run at 12:10.
("Pick up" students and walkers may go home at 12:00.)

Thanksgiving Break—November 25-30
Christmas Break—December 21-January 1 (Teacher Workday-January 4)

Primary School News

Pat James, Principal

Primary students have been working hard in preparation for the District UIL meet which will be held here in George West on Saturday, December 12. Second graders will compete in Storytelling and Creative writing. Third graders will compete at Storytelling, Ready Writing, Spelling, and Music Memory.

On Thursday, December 10, students will be attending a performance by the Magic Theatre from San Antonio. These performances were paid for by donations from the community. We would like to thank Mary Ann Pawlik for securing the donations and coordinating this special event for our children.

In other news we are looking forward to the annual Christmas music program, one of the most anticipated events of the year for Primary students and parents. It will be held on Friday, December 18, at the Buck West Theatre. Performance times are as follows:

Kindergarten	9:00
First Grade	9:30
Second Grade	10:00
Third Grade	10:30



Primary students collected 225 stuffed animals to share with local law enforcement.



Primary Students Cheer on the Lady Horns as they head to the Regional Tournament



Elementary School News

Stephanie Schuette, Counselor

HOME & SCHOOL

WORKING TOGETHER FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

November 2015

GW Elementary Newsletter

Raising Respectful Children – When your child hears the word “respect”, what does he/she think? Explain that by being considerate of others’ feelings, letting people know he/she appreciates them, or taking care of belongings, he/she is showing respect.

Respect for yourself – Your child has heard the advice to treat others as he/she wants to be treated. If he/she respects himself/herself, following this advice will be easier. Children who have self-respect are also more likely to resist peer pressure. Here are some ways for your child to practice self-respect:

***Know yourself:** Ask your child what he/she does well or is proud of. Recognizing his/her traits and accomplishments will boost his/her self-respect.

***Ignore put-downs:** Teach your child not to react to a student who makes fun of him/her or calls him/her names. It can be hard to say nothing and walk away, but your child will respect himself/herself afterward. Tip: Role-play this at home so he/she will feel more comfortable.

***Stay healthy:** Encourage your child to take care of himself/herself. Part of self-respect is keeping his/her body healthy and strong by exercising, eating nutritious foods, and avoiding harmful substances like drugs and cigarettes.

***Do your best:** When your child works hard in school, he/she demonstrates self-respect. Taking advantage of every chance to learn shows that he/she cares about his/her own success.

PARENTS: Turning Off Cell Phones

Like most of us, we tend to pull out our phones frequently to check emails, text friends, or look at Facebook. Our phones can distract us from conversations we have with our children and the rest of our families. Not only is it impolite, but it keeps us from really hearing things our children are saying to us! Our children are much more important than our cell phones, and we are setting an example for them. Please be aware and more considerate. Our families deserve our full attention and need it!



Elementary News

*On November 7, 2015 many of our Elementary students ran in the 5K – Storyfest Run. We are so proud of them for showing up and doing such a good job running! Thank you to all the parents who participated and helped get your child there. It was a huge success!

Also, this was George West Elementary Student Council’s first year to enter the Red Wagon Parade and we placed 3rd!

*Students worked hard on their Fire Prevention Posters and essays this year. The winners will attend a Lions Club dinner on Nov 19th at 6:30 pm in the Cafeteria. The winners are:
4th grade: 1st place—Shellie Ellison, 2nd place—Sean Garza, 3rd place—JR Gonzalez. 5th Grade: 1st place—Gabbi Cruz, 2nd place—Katie Hollen, 3rd place—Addline LaRue. 6th Grade Essay winners: 1st place—Makayah Cantu, 2nd place—Noyely Rivera, 3rd place —Dianne Martinez. Congratulations to all of you!

Important Dates:

Nov 19	Fire Prevention Winners Dinner at 6:30pm in the Cafeteria
Nov 20	4 th and 6 th Field Trips
Nov 24	Early Release – Thanksgiving Break - 12:00 and Bus at 12:30
Dec 1	School Resumes and Progress Reports
Dec 1	Green Bean Canned Food Drive Starts
Dec 4	Game Trailer during PE times
Dec 10	Magic Show
Dec 12	4 th and 5 th Grade UIL Meet in GW
Dec 14	BMX Bike Show and Roll in Dough
Dec 17	Limo Lunch
Dec 18	Early Release Christmas Break 12:00 and Bus at 12:30
Jan 5	School Resumes
Jan 7	Award Ceremonies and Report Cards

STAAR TESTING DATES THIS SCHOOL YEAR

March 29	4 th Grade Writing	5 th Grade Math	
March 30	4 th Grade Writing	5 th Grade Reading	
May 9	4 th Grade Math	6 th Grade Math	5 th Grade Math Retest
May 10	4 th Grade Reading	6 th Grade Reading	5 th Grade Reading Retest
May 11	5 th Grade Science		

Tis the Season to be Singing!

From the baton of Mrs. Gerth

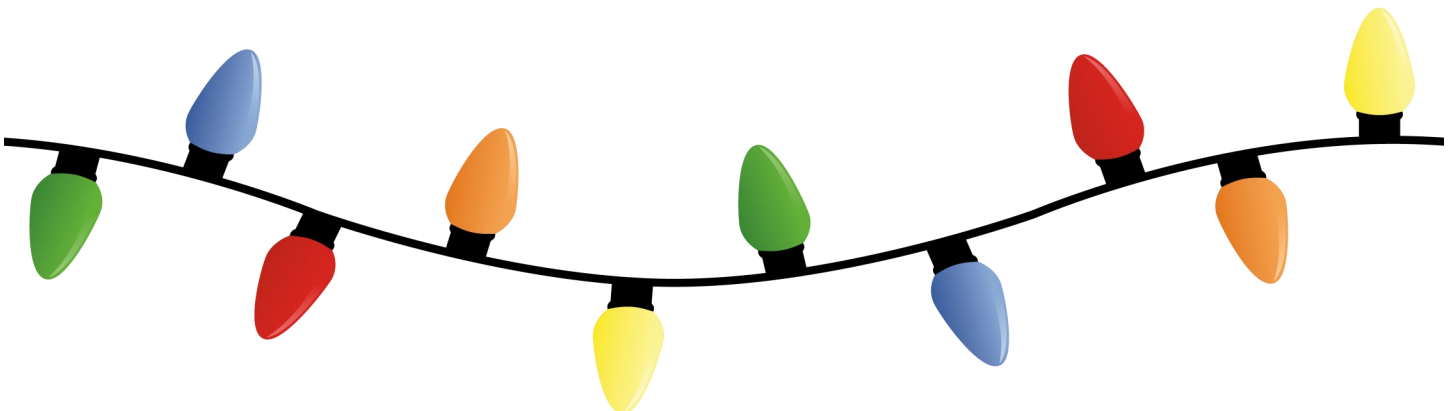
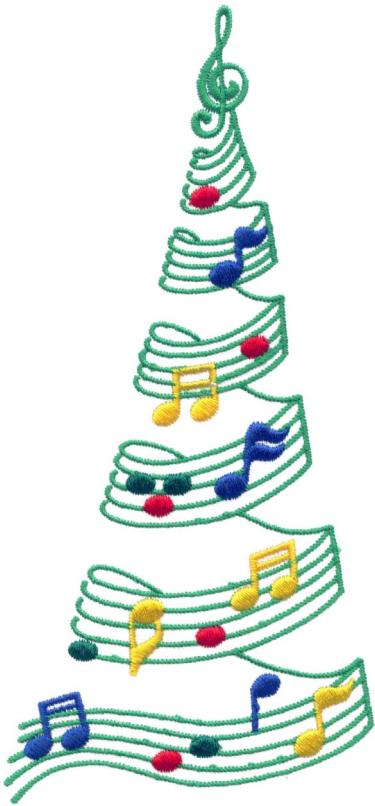
There will be much joyful singing and listening in the weeks ahead for students at GW Primary and Elementary!

The 4th Grade students at the Elementary will be at the GW City Lighting of the Park on Thursday, Dec. 3rd. They will be bringing in the holiday spirit with song! Come to the Park at 6:00 pm to catch some Christmas joy.

The Dobie West Theater will be hosting the traveling troupe from the Magik Theater on Thursday, Dec. 10th. The Elementary campus will be delighted with Dr. Krashandboom, a scientist with a punch. The Primary students will see performances of The Three Little Pigs Christmas. We are excited to have the opportunity to experience live theater in our town.

The Christmas season will conclude with the annual Primary Christmas Concerts on Friday, Dec. 18th. Don't miss out on this exceptional vocal presentation of new and old Christmas favorites. Performance times are: Kinder @ 9:00 am; First Grade @

9:30 am; Second Grade @ 10:00 am; Third Grade @ 10:30 am. All concerts will be at the Dobie West Theater.



Junior High News



Mrs. Bales and Mrs. Worley from the Nueces River Authority came to Mrs. Keadle's 7th grade science class to talk about the Nueces River watershed and our impact on the river.

. Mark Your Calendars!

- ⇒ **Student/Teacher volleyball game 11/24 at 10:00 in the front gym.**
- ⇒ **Toy Drive sponsored by FCCLA Dec 1-18.**
- ⇒ **JH holiday dance Dec 11 5:30 - 8:30**
- ⇒ **Six Weeks Testing Dec 15 - 17**
- ⇒ **JH Annual Variety Show Dec 18 9:00 - 12:00 in the front gym.**
- ⇒ **Benchmark testing will be in January**

Junior High News

Pam Sehlke

Cooperative Cross-Curricular Connections

(Alliteration is always awesome.)

Eighth grade students at George West Junior High benefit greatly from the teamwork that takes place amongst their teachers. The district's initiative to bring writing into core content areas is working well. Teachers in the core areas have students write in their classes to focus on the application element of learning while honing basic writing skills. After the content teachers grade the assignments, they pass the assignments to the ELA teacher who then grades for grammar and mechanics.

Ms. Hall, who teaches science, has introduced "Writing Wednesday" into her lesson plans. Bi-weekly writing activities are done in class to encourage students to apply their knowledge of science concepts. One example of this required students to create a scenario about a safety situation that would require use of a fire blanket, a fire extinguisher or the eye-wash station. Students were able to write creatively about rules that keep them safe during labs.



In math class, students write weekly. They use words to explain formulas and processes that normally only involve numbers and letters, as well as explaining the "why" and "how" of math concepts. Mrs. Feist creates interesting writing prompts that can be completed with one or two paragraphs. If students can explain a concept, their retention will be greater. Many students explain topics well enough that Mrs. Sehlke feels like a math genius after reading their paragraphs.

U.S. History students are also writing. In a class typically considered a lecture format, Coach Hicks allows students to expand their thoughts in creative ways. Recently, students wrote an essay explaining their theory on the missing colony of Roanoke. The world may never know what happened to those early settlers, but some students had interesting ideas. Luckily, none involved extra-terrestrials. His students are currently reading the Newberry Award winner My Brother Sam is Dead. He will incorporate writing activities into this unit on the Revolutionary War. Students will take AR quizzes and Literacy Skills tests over the novel for their ELA class.

Tech Apps not only teaches students basic keyboarding and use of programs such as Word, StoryBoard, and Tux Paint, but Ms. Clark supports all other teachers by giving students school time and access to technology for completing assignments in other classes. In ELA, students use Reading Plus and Study Island. One day a week in Tech Apps, students have time to work on these programs.

Teams are important on the gridiron and the court, but the most effective teams are at work in the classrooms at George West Junior High. Creating academic stars who are able to build their brains through training in all areas and in all classes will ensure stronger students for the next level, as well as improve state mandated test scores.

Junior High News

Marianne Peters, Counselor

Turning Harsh Self-Talk into Positive Belief Statements

Have you ever heard the term “*You are your own worse critic?*” Well I am here to tell you that it is true! I recently noticed that anytime someone complements me, I quickly come up with a statement about how I just got lucky. I never seem to say, “Thanks, I worked really hard on that!” Our students are often the same way. They feel that if they fail, the activity just isn’t worth trying. Perhaps we are so hard on ourselves because we take humility too far. Whatever the reason, it is becoming more and more difficult to accept a complement and to stop placing unreal demands on ourselves and our families. STOP THE INSANITY! Learn to accept both a compliment and constructive criticism to better yourself (and your family).

Diane Morris Jones, a speaker I recently heard at a counseling conference, has a way to interrupt our negative thought process and alter our responses. STOP, BREATHE, BELIEVE is her simple program to help us deal with the pressures we place on ourselves and our children. It helps us take time to adjust our negative self-thoughts.

It is time we all take a moment to INTERRUPT THE NEGATIVE THOUGHT PROCESS AND ALTER THE RESPONSE! Here are the three easy steps in the process:

STOP – Become aware of the negative statements you are making about yourself or your family (“I stink at Math”)

BREATHE – in for 10 counts and out for 10 counts (continue for 3 minutes or so).

BELIEVE – Restate your original thought into something else (“I don’t understand this math concept. I bet if I take it in pieces, look at my notes and ask someone, I will begin to feel more confident.”) Believe in yourself and choose healthy thoughts.

For Example:

Rather than: *“There is no way I will finish in time. I have too much homework and my friends keep texting me!”*

A Healthy Response Would Be:

“I have more homework than usual. I had better get started and take one at a time so I can text my friends later.”

Rather than: *“Everyone else on Facebook and Snap Chat is holding together just fine. They are even getting to go on date night without the kids! Why can’t I have some time to myself?”*

A healthy response would be:

“I need a few minutes to myself. I will ask the girl down the street to watch the kids so we can go out to dinner. That way, tomorrow when my son has a game, I will be ready to cheer for him.”

Rather than: *“I have to keep a calendar with all of my daughter’s activities. If I didn’t, she would never remember what to do when. Her teachers want her to take responsibility for her actions – like that will ever happen!”*

A healthy response might sound like this:

“My daughter has a full schedule. We can keep a family calendar along with her own calendar. If she forgets something important, we will use that as a teachable moment and learn together. If she cannot keep up with everything maybe she is in too many activities.”

Teaching our children to cope with the pressures of school, extracurricular activities, and busy social lives while maintaining a good grade average is tough. Hopefully together, we can all take time to refocus negative thoughts and ease the demands of a hectic life.

Remember to **STOP, BREATHE, BELIEVE!!!!**

Special Olympic News~Bowling

Viola Salinas



On November 5 & 6th, the George West Special Olympic team traveled to Palladium Bowl in Alice to compete in the 2015-2016 Special Olympic Area Bowling competition. Our athletes competed against several other Area 2 school districts from surrounding areas. The athletes train throughout the year for this competition as well as State Bowling. Area competition allows these athletes to advance to State Bowling in February to be hosted in Austin, Texas. A “Big Shout Out” goes to the George West Special Olympic team for a job well done. We are very proud of our athletes as they represented GWISD with much pride. Each athlete bowled their hearts out in two games as they demonstrated their own unique skill in the sport of bowling.

Results of Area Bowling Competition:

Daymion Cano: Gold Medal

Travis Emerson: Gold Medal

Dakota King: Silver Medal

Mia Perez: Gold Medal

Mercedes Reyes: 4TH place

Miguel Serrano: Silver Medal

Payton Swint: Bronze Medal

Chris Valdez: Gold Medal



Special Olympics Texas Athlete Oath

“Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt”

Special Olympics News

—Just a few photos from Bowling



High School News

Natalie Carroll

FCCLA Activities Keep Members Busy:

October 29th- 48 FCCLA members attended the Fall Leadership Workshop at Camp Zephyr where students attended leadership tracks and completed an FCSA (Family and Consumer Science Assessments). The results on the FCSA's are expected in the upcoming week.

November 7th- FCCLA members hosted the Annual Cake Walk at Storyfest. We didn't let the weather interfere with our fun! Also, Sahara Wills and Madeline Cox presented for the local storytellers and spoke out for FCCLA. They spoke about the changing mission of the leadership organization which was once known as FHA.

November 14th- FCCLA members volunteered to help serve at the Grand Re-opening of the Veteran's Depot at the site of the Grace Armentrout Museum.

November 19th- FCCLA member, Erin Nance will host an Alzheimer's simulation from 3:30-5pm in Mrs. Carroll's room. The simulation is for any interested student, faculty member or community member. The simulations will take place every 30 minutes.

December 2nd- Monthly lunch meeting

December 10th- Annual STCH cookie donation and trip to Beeville Wal-Mart to shop for the Angel Tree kids. We will need FCCLA members to donate two dozen cookies each and bring to Mrs. Carroll's room on Thursday, December 10th. If you would like to help deliver cookies and shop for Angel Tree, please see Mrs. Carroll no later than December 1st.

FCCLA Fall Leadership Conference



FCCLA Storyfest Cakewalk



FCCLA Storyfest Cakewalk

December 12th- Need volunteers to help run the Winterfest activities

December 14th (tentative)- FCCLA Christmas party. We will have a gift exchange (\$10-\$15 limit), play games and fellowship from 4:30-6pm



Maddie Sahara at Storyfest

FCCLA Continued



GOLD

Christina Sok- Etiquette

Bronze

Etiquette

Kassidy Preston
Catherine Valdez
JoLeeza Morin
Adriana Amaya
Bailey Clifton
Kelly Lillie
Isaac Guajardo
Katie Day

Participants:

Destinee Leal- Creed, Mission, Purpose

Lawson Henicke- Parli Pro
Adrian Fuentes- Etiquette

Silver

Etiquette

Wyatt Dugosh
Daymian Culpepper
Jose Carrillo
Bridget Upton
Sunni Weaver
Savannah Mason
Madison Upton
Esmeralda Lopez
Dana Bernal
Avery Bulsterbaum
Madeline Donovan
Tiffany Cortinas
Anna Crawford
Catherine Hyde
Erin Nance
Janelle Gass
Alyssa Garza
Katelin Jefferson
Xavier Paiz
Garrett Feist
David Ybanez
Madeline Cox
Mikayla Molohon
Destin Leal
Beth Ham

Step One

Mollee Hermann
Sierra Benavidez

Parli Pro

Riley Mumme

Hospitality

Bryana Lopez

Child Development

Natalie Baird

Job Interview

Lauren Carroll
Dylan Orr
Sahara Wills

High School News

Heather Lee

Have a Happy Thanksgiving & a Wonderful Winter Break!

With the upcoming holiday breaks, students will be faced with FREE time. Don't let this time go to waste. This is a perfect time for Seniors to work on scholarships and any college applications that have not been submitted. All seniors should have created their Apply Texas account with Mrs. Lee through their government classes. Students can access their account to complete their applications and apply for "school" scholarships. The GWHS list of all other scholarships available can be found on the GWISD website!

Juniors can complete scholarships available to them as well during this time. Juniors are also encouraged to re-search colleges and careers that interest them. In the spring, juniors are encouraged to sign up and take the SAT/ACT. Students can create their accounts and profile anytime.

SAT & ACT Registration Dates

Date	Test	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
12/5/2015	SAT	11/5/2015	Mail 11/20, Phone/Online 11/23
12/12/2015	ACT	11/6/2015	November 7-20, 2015
1/23/2016	SAT	12/28/2015	Mail 1/8, Phone/Online 1/12
2/6/2016	ACT	1/8/2016	January 9-15, 2016
3/5/2016	SAT**	2/5/2016	Mail 2/19, Phone/Online 2/23
4/9/2016	ACT	3/4/2016	March 5-18, 2016
5/7/2016	SAT**	4/8/2016	Mail 2/22, Phone/Online 2/26
6/4/2016	SAT**	5/5/2016	Mail 2/20, Phone/Online 2/25
6/11/2016	ACT	5/6/2016	May 7-20, 2016

**To qualify for the PSAT/NMSQT – National Merit Scholarship, students must take the PSAT when they are in 11th grade. 9th and 10th graders may take the PSAT, however, only 11th grade scores will qualify them for the scholarship.*

***Redesigned SAT*

How to Register - On-Line at:

SAT: <http://sat.collegeboard.org/register>

ACT: <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/>

If you need financial assistance or paper registration forms, please see Mrs. Lee.

FREE SAT/ACT Test Prep Sites:

Number 2 - <https://www.number2.com>

Princeton Review - <http://www.princetonreview.com/>

Peterson - <http://www.petersons.com/>

Khan Academy - www.khanacademy.org

GradPoint – see Mrs. Lee to sign-up for an account!

Students need to make sure they send their SAT/ACT scores to your colleges directly from ACT/Collegeboard's website!

Don't know which test to take, the ACT or SAT?

“Study Points” offers a complete side-by-side analysis of the ACT and SAT (Offered through January 2016): <http://www.studypoint.com/ed/act-vs-sat/>

“EdNavigators” offers a complete side-by-side analysis of the ACT and the NEW SAT (Offered in March 2016): <http://ednavigators.com/2014/06/26/side-by-side-comparison-sat-revised-satact-a-preliminary-look/>

New SAT:

In March, the College Board will begin administering the “New SAT” tests. There will no longer be subject specific tests.

Quick Facts:

No penalty for guessing

No vocabulary that you'll never use again

4 parts: Reading, Writing & Language, Math, and the optional SAT Essay

400-1600 score scale

3 hours and 50 minutes with the SAT Essay – or 3 hours without it

4 answer choices

4 college application fee waivers for every student who uses an SAT fee waiver

For additional information, visit the College Board Website: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat?navid=gh-nsat>

College Recruiters

Students have already had the opportunity to visit with recruiters from the following colleges/universities: Texas A&M Corpus Christi, Texas A&M University – College Station, Texas State University, and Texas Tech University.

Recruiters Coming Soon:

Del Mar College – 11/18/15
Texas A&M Kingsville – Tentative date, 12/2/15
University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) – Date TBA
Coastal Bend College – Date TBA

These sessions provide information spanning from campus life, applying for college and school based scholarships, honors programs, available degrees, paying for college (financial aid and scholarships) and so much more. Please encourage your student to attend these sessions. If parents/guardians would like to attend, please see Mrs. Lee prior to the scheduled visit. Students interested in colleges/universities other than the ones listed should contact Mrs. Lee to see if a recruiter is available to come GWHS!

Upcoming Events

A financial aid presentation will be scheduled in January for seniors and their parents and juniors who want to attend. We'll provide everything you need to know about applying for financial aid through FAFSA, as well as information about all different types of student loans and options you may have. The process of how the financial aid office works to calculate how much aid you may get and why will also be discussed. Learn how merit scholarships and private ones can have an impact on your financial aid. Check with the high school in January for the specific date and time!

Special Opportunities

- If you are a musician between the ages of 14-15, you are invited to submit an original piece of music that celebrates life above the influence or brings attention to the real-life consequences of substance abuse. Winners will be off to LA to attend the 58th Annual GRAMMY Awards and related events. Award also include tickets to Vans Warped Tour, cash and other prizes! Deadline is December 7, 2015! <http://abovetheinfluence.com/grammys/>
- Profile in Courage Essay Contest: The essay contest is open to US high school students in 9th – 12th grades. The first place winner receives \$10,000 comprised of a \$5,000 cash award and \$5,000 from John Hancock. The second-place winner receives \$1,000. Up to five finalists receive \$500 each. Deadline is January 6, 2016! <http://www.jfklibrary.org/education/profile-in-courage-essay-contest.aspx>
- C-SPAN's Student Cam 2016: Middle and High school students are eligible to enter. Each entry should reflect the theme: "Road to the White House" – *What's the issue YOU most want candidates to discuss during the 2016 presidential campaign?* Deadline is January 6, 2016! <http://www.studentcam.org/rules.htm>
- The American Composers Forum (ACF) is pleased to announce the 2n annual American Composers Forum NextNotes High School Composition Awards. 6 composers will receive: mentorship from professional composers, \$1,000 to be used for formal composition studies, and much more. Deadline is January 11, 2016! <http://composersforum.org/program/nextnotes>
- San Patricio Electric Co-Operative Youth Tour: Available for juniors and seniors whose parents or legal guardians are members of SPEC. Winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington DC for the Government-In-Action Youth Tour. Deadline is January 8, 2016. <http://www.sanpatricioelectric.org/content/youth-tour-win-free-trip-dc>

Scholarships

(Not always just for seniors!)

*For a complete list of all scholarships, applications, and links,
visit the 2015-2016 Scholarship and Financial Aid Information page on the GWISD website!*

Recently Posted:

- NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award – Deadline: December 18, 2015
- Texas Engineering Foundation Scholarship – Deadline: January 8, 2016
- Dell Scholars – Deadline: January 15, 2016
- Carr P. Collins Scholars Program (Baylor University) – Deadline: January 31, 2016
- The Hometeam Homecare Scholarship – Deadline: February 1, 2016
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship – Area Go Texan Scholarship – Deadline: February 8, 2016
- 16th Annual Marsha Martin Scholarship (Texas Farm Credit) – Deadline: March 1, 2016
- TTA Foundation Scholarship – Deadline: March 18, 2016
- Rover College Scholarship – Deadline: May 31, 2016
- The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) Coastal Bend Chapter – Deadline: April 15, 2016
- Abbott and Fenner Scholarship – Deadline: June 10, 2016
- BigSun Scholarship – Deadline: June 17, 2016
- Petkey Scholarship – Deadline: June 22, 2016

Scholarships due in December and January:

- Stephen J. Brady Stop Hunger Scholarship - Deadline: December 5, 2015
- NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award - Deadline: December 18, 2015
- GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program - Deadline: January 7, 2016
- San Patricio Electric Co-Operative Youth Tour - Deadline: January 8, 2016
- Texas Engineering Foundation Scholarships - Deadline: January 8, 2016
- The Gates Millennium Scholars Program - Application deadline: January 13, 2016
- Dell Scholars - Application deadline: January 15, 2016
- 10 Words or Less Scholarship - Application deadline: January 29, 2016
- Texas Student Housing Scholarship - Application deadline: January 31, 2016
- Carr P. Collins Scholars Program - Application deadline: January 31, 2016

High School News



Senior Information

Herff Jones will return on Thursday, November 19th to take orders for Senior cap & gowns and invitations from 8:15-9:20 a.m. in the high school library.

December End-of-Course Re-test Dates

- 7 – English I EOC Re-Test
- 8 – U. S. History EOC Re-Test
- 9 – English II EOC Re-Test
- 10 – Algebra I EOC Re-Test
- 11 – Biology EOC Re-Test

These tests are for students who have not passed previously taken End-Of-Course tests, or those who have gained credit (or will gain credit in December) for these courses since the tests were given in May. STAAR A re-tests will be given on paper for this administration only.

2015-2016 Progress Report and Report Card Dates

Marking Period	Progress Report Dates		Report Card Dates	
3rd	Tuesday	12/1/2015	Thursday	1/7/2016
4th	Monday	1/25/2016	Wednesday	2/24/2016
5th	Monday	3/21/2016	Tuesday	4/19/2016
6th	Monday	5/2/2016	TBA	Mailed Home

High School Dates

Wednesday, November 18	FFA meets during lunch School Pictures
Thursday, November 19	Herff Jones back to measure for Cap & Gown, and take orders for graduation announcements, etc. ~ 8:15 am Drama Club meets during lunch Varsity Girls Basketball ~ Woodsboro Tourney
Friday, November 20	Varsity Girls Basketball ~ Woodsboro Tourney Boys Basketball vs. Beeville ~ 5 pm
Saturday, November 21	Varsity Girls Basketball ~ Woodsboro Tourney
Monday, November 23	Area X FFA LDEs ~ Kingsville Girls Basketball @ Three Rivers ~ 5 pm Boys Basketball vs. Banquete ~ 5 pm
Tuesday, November 24	EARLY RELEASE Girls Basketball vs. Sinton ~ 5 pm
Wednesday, November 25- Monday, November 30	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
Tuesday, December 1	PROGRESS REPORTS



The GWHS FFA Ag Issues Team stopped by the administrative offices to give their presentation before contest. They sounded like winners to us!

About NHS

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1921.

Today, it is estimated that more than one million students participate in NHS activities. NHS chapters are found in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, many U.S. territories, and Canada. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service.



GWHS keeps both Mobile Blood Centers Busy

NHS Sets Blood Record

The George West High School National Honor Society (NHS) has a history of supporting the Coastal Bend Blood Center through the years. The organization hosts four blood drives during the year and one during the summer. A typical blood drive brings in somewhere around 45-55 units of blood. This crucial event is significant in that blood donors save lives. It is that simple, and it is that important.

According to statistics provided by the Coastal Bend Blood Center, "more than four million Americans would die each year, if not for blood donors." Further stats support that more than 120 people a day must donate blood in order to maintain the blood supply in the ten-county area served by the center.

At September GWHS Blood Drive, the George West community donated 96 units of blood! Donors beat the school goal of 56 units! NHS sponsor, Glenda Locke, was extremely excited and proud of her students. "These NHS students recruited donors and encouraged them to give the gift of life. Today, we learned how powerful we can be when we come together and work toward a common goal. I'm so very proud of these students and our community."





*12th Texas Student Legislative Session
Inspiring the Leaders of Tomorrow!
Austin, Texas*



*FFA Ag Issues Team presents at
Commissioners' Court
Live Oak County Courthouse*



Veterans' Day. It's a day that touches one's heart. Respect. Honor. Gratitude.



For the men and women who stepped forward, and said “I’ll go”, George West High School paused Wednesday to say, “thank you”. There’s no way anyone could ever understand what someone in the military experienced during their time in the service—even if it was peace time. How can one imagine leaving their family, experiencing a battle, fighting an enemy who wanted them dead, or watching his buddy die? One could attempt to empathize, but would likely fall short to completely comprehend.

George West High School recognized some very special veterans this week. Meeting these heroes was extraordinary. Mr. Waterhouse, George West High School principal, led the student body in a time of recognition of these true patriots. Some of the heroes in attendance were young and their service recent. Some of the heroes reflect the passage of time--no longer living the life they once knew.

During the ceremony, Kailey Keach, representing FFA, read, “I Am Old Glory”, a wonderful poem about the Stars and Stripes, originally written by Master Sergeant Percy Webb, USMC. The GWHS Band played beautiful patriotic music that pulled at the heartstrings including our National Anthem, God Bless the USA, and Grand Old Flag.

Students recognized and acknowledged the contribution of each Veteran as they listened attentively. It was impressive to watch our young teens try to grasp the words from Colonel Richard Waterhouse, U. S. Army, rather than Mr. Waterhouse, GWHS Principal. The students were quiet and respectful. Morgan Miller stepped up to the podium to recognize her principal, Mr. Waterhouse for his service in the Army. Waterhouse has seen extensive tours throughout his 29 years in the military, including the Vietnam War.

As students left the assembly, they quietly and respectfully filed out of the room by way of the Veterans, shaking each one’s hand and acknowledging the sacrifice and service each Vet gave to our country. No one told the kids to do that. They just did it. It was nothing less than incredible. Young people, at the right time, rise to shine....every time. It was a beautiful morning.





*Veterans' Day
2015*





George West Lady Yearling Basketball 2015-2016



Date	Opponent	Site	Time	Teams
November 16	Taft	Home	5:00	7 & 8 A & B
November 23	OPEN			
November 30	Mathis	Away	5:00	7 & 8 A & B
December 7	Aransas Pass	Home	5:00	7 & 8 A & B
December 10 & 12	Karnes City Tournament	Away	TBA	7 & 8 A
December 14	Odem	Away	5:00	7 & 8 A & B
December 18-19	Taft Tournament	Away	TBA	7 & 8 A
January 7	Skidmore	Home	5:00	7 & 8 A & B
January 14	Taft	Away	5:00	7 & 8 A & B
January 21	Mathis	Home	5:00	7 & 8 A & B
January 28	Aransas Pass	Away	5:00	7 & 8 A & B
February 4	Odem	Home	5:00	7 & 8 A & B
February 8	Skidmore	Away	5:00	7 & 8 A & B

Head Coach: Tom Warlick (361) 449-1914 ext.1071

Coaches: Jessica Hall – 8th Grade, Laralee Pankey – 7th Grade





George West V & JV Lady Horns Basketball 2015-2016



Date	Opponent	Site	Time	Teams
October 21, 2015	1st Practice Day	GW	TBA	JV & V
October 31, 2015	First Scrimmage Day			
November 12-13, 2015	Bishop JV Tournament	Away	TBA	JV
November 17, 2015	Stockdale	Away	5:00pm	JV & V
November 19-21, 2015	Woodsboro Tournament	Away	TBA	V
November 23, 2015	Three Rivers	Away	5:00pm	JV & V
November 24	Sinton	Home	5:00pm	JV & V
December 1, 2015	Pettus	Away	5:00pm	JV & V
December 3-5, 2015	Karnes City Tournament	Home	TBA	V
December 8, 2015	Karnes City	Home	5:00pm	JV & V
December 10-12, 2015	McMullen County Tournament	Away	TBA	V
December 15, 2015	OPEN			
December 18, 2015	McMullen County	Away	TBA	V
December 28, 2015	Bishop	Away	11:00pm	JV & V
December 31, 2015	Karnes City JV Tournament	Away	TBA	V
January 2, 2016	McMullen County	Home	11:00	JV & V
January 5, 2016	Pleasanton	Home	5:00pm	JV & V
January 8, 2016	*Taft	Away	5:00pm	JV & V
January 12, 2016	*Mathis	Home	5:00pm	JV & V
January 16, 2016	*Aransas Pass	Away	5:00pm	JV & V
January 19, 2016	*Odem	Home	5:00pm	JV & V
January 22, 2016	*Skidmore-Tynan	Away	5:00pm	JV & V
January 26, 2016	*Taft	Home	5:00pm	JV & V
January 29, 2016	*Mathis	Away	5:00pm	JV & V
February 2, 2016	*Aransas Pass	Home	5:00pm	JV & V
February 5, 2016	*Odem	Away	5:00pm	JV & V
February 9, 2016	*Skidmore-Tynan**	Home	5:00pm	JV & V
February 15-16, 2016	Bi-District Playoffs			
February 18-20, 2016	Area Playoffs			
February 22-23, 2016	Regional Quarterfinals Playoffs			
February 26-27, 2016	Regional Tournament			
March 3-5, 2016	State Tournament			

** Denotes Parents Night

Head Coach: Tom Warlick
Assistant Coach: Cathy Taylor



361-449-1914 ext. 1085



George West Yearling Basketball 2015-2016



Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
Nov. 16	Mon	Taft	Taft	5:00 pm
Nov. 30	Mon	Mathis	Home	5:00 pm
Dec. 3,5	Thurs, Sat	Taft Tournament	Taft	TBA
Dec. 7	Mon	Aransas Pass	Aransas Pass	5:00 pm
Dec. 10, 12	Thurs, Sat	Karnes City Tournament	Karnes City	TBA
Dec. 14	Mon	Odem	Home	5:00 pm
Jan. 7	Thurs	Skidmore	Skidmore	5:00 pm
Jan. 14	Thurs	Taft	Home	5:00 pm
Jan.21	Thurs	Mathis	Mathis	5:00 pm
Jan. 28	Thurs	Aransas Pass	Home	5:00 pm
Feb. 4	Thurs	Odem	Odem	5:00 pm
Feb. 8	Mon	Skidmore	Home	5:00 pm

Coaches: Lamar Lewis, Chuck Pawelek

School phone: 449-1914

Athletic Director: Brent Kornegay

Supt.: Ty Sparks

Principal: Ashley Lowe





Longhorn Football 2015

Longhorn Football

2015



Regional Semi-Finalists—GW Lady Horns



Thanks for a great season, Lady Horns!! We're proud of you!!

Lady Horns 2015!



2015 GEORGE WEST BOND ISSUE

HIGH SCHOOL ADDITION
GEORGE WEST, TEXAS



ADDITIONAL PROJECTS BY GWISD
 -MAIN CAFETERIA RENOVATION
 -PRIMARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA RENOVATION
 -ELEMENTARY GYM RENOVATION
 -JR HIGH RESTROOM ADDITION
 -FIELD HOUSE RENOVATION
 -DEMO OF EXTERIOR ELEMENTARY WING



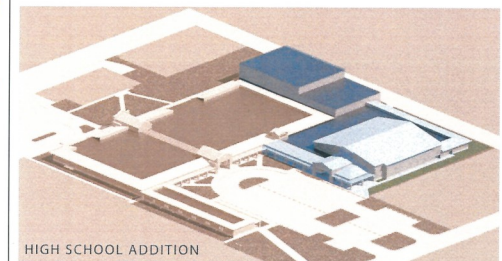
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
 Cheri Dee Moore
 Kathy Likens
 Mackey Alvarez
 Cosme Arciba
 Jimmy Moore
 Jimmy Orr
 Riley Rhodes

GWISD ADMINISTRATION
 Ty Sparks
 Superintendent
 Robin Sellman
 Mark Montgomery
 Rick Waterhouse
 Ashley Lowe
 Pat James

In 2008, GWISD developed a comprehensive 3-Phase Master Plan that would allow all of the identified facility improvements for the District to be prioritized and implemented with three separate bond projects. Approval of Phase I of this plan, in 2008, produced various upgrades and new facilities addressing the greatest needs on each campus. Phase II, in 2011, constructed a new high school instructional facility. Intentionally, the District asked the voters to focus on the most urgent instructional needs early in the bond process.

Phase III will now provide for a new band hall and gymnasium at the high school. Also included, will be a new classroom wing for the elementary school to replace the aging exterior north wing and provide better security for the campus. Additionally, the plan includes improvement for the main cafeteria, the primary school cafeteria, and upgrades to the sidewalks and disabled seating at the football stadium.

The new Student Activity Center, adjacent to the high school, will include a new performance stage, sound system and theater lighting. This center will be used for student activities and special events for the school and community. Many hours of planning and thoughtful discussion have taken place in the development of these plans for Phase III.



Notification to Parents

George West ISD will make available a verbal Spanish translation of this newsletter. If you would like a verbal Spanish translation, please contact the campus in which your child is enrolled.

Notificación a Padres

El Distrito Independiente Escolar de George West hará disponible una traducción verbal en español de este noticiero. Si usted gustaria una traducción verbal en español, por favor de ponerse en contacto con la escuela en cual su niño este registrado.

George West ISD
 913 Houston Street
 George West, Texas 78022

361.449.1914

George West ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

George West ISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, religión, color, origen nacional, sexo o discapacidad en la prestación de servicios educativos, actividades y programas, incluyendo programas vocacionales, de acuerdo con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda, Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmendada.

*We're on the Web at
www.gwisd.esc2.net*