



George Jenkins

Volume XXVII

Issue 4

"A Five Star School"



February

2025

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

School Contact Information

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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
February 2025 • Issue #4
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 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 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 keeping them on track to graduate on time. Your encouragement is greatly appreciated by all of us.

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've all adjusted to new safety procedures. 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.

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 some one 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 many 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.

Keep Soaring Eagles!

Tom Patton
Principal

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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Our elective course registration for the 2025-2026 school year starts on Monday, February 27th. The main academic courses (English, Math, Science, Social Studies) follow a District Progression Plan for each subject area which is based on current courses, course grades, and testing data in that subject area. Students will be choosing their elective courses using an electronic online registration form. This form will open on Monday, February 27th and close on Sunday night, March 2nd. Students will have an opportunity to complete the form at school or may choose to complete it at home with their parents. Once submitted, the student will receive an email confirmation with their chosen courses. Students are encouraged to review course choices with their parent prior to making selections but will be able to resubmit their requests through Sunday, March 2nd. Counselors will be available in the Food Court during all lunches for students to ask questions and gain advice on selecting elective courses. All students must submit an elective registration form or their elective courses will be chosen for them.

In May, students will be able to see all their courses that will be scheduled for the 2025-2026 school year on their Student Portal. Students will receive an email with directions on how to view these courses with a link to request any course changes. Any course change requests must be submitted prior to the end of the school year. Over summer, counselors will turn course requests into schedules. Final schedules will be distributed at orientation on August 5th. 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.

How to Choose Electives: Elective courses should align with post-secondary goals. Students wishing to attend a four year university after high school should have academic rigor that includes additional AP, academic, and foreign languages courses. Even though foreign language is not required for graduation, two years of the same foreign language is required for admission to a four year university and the Bright Futures scholarships and our top universities are wanting to see 4-5 years of foreign language coursework. Additional academic courses is recommended which would include foreign language, science, AP, and social studies courses such as Psychology, Sociology, and Creative Writing. Universities require a minimum of 18 academic courses for admissions which would be 4-5 academic courses per year. More competitive colleges want 5-6 academic courses per year. More information on State University System requirements can be found at www.floridashines.org or on each university's website under admissions.

Dual Enrollment opportunities allow students to earn college credit while still in high school and offer additional opportunities at academic rigor, especially for students interested in the state college's 2+2 option. More information on dual enrollment can be found on our website under Student Services, and another dual enrollment information meeting will be held in April.

Our Career Academies give students experiences and exposure to different career fields. Most offer industry certifications that prepare students for direct entry into the workforce. Students should use these courses to explore career options, build their work resume,

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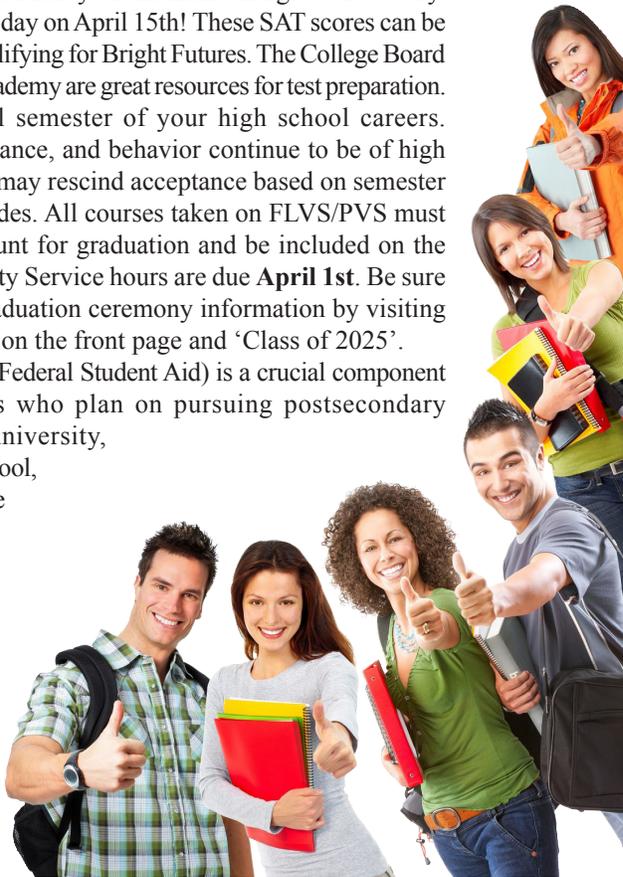
make connections with professionals in these industries, and/or prepare for further education in that field of study. For a complete list of courses along with the course descriptions, please refer to the registration page on our website at www.georgejenkinshigh.polkschoolsfl.com.

Freshmen and Sophomores: Counselors will meet with 9th and 10th grade students in their English class in March and April to review courses to be scheduled in 2025-2026. Students will have the opportunity to make changes to their elective course selections at this time.

Juniors: Counselors will 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 SAT School day on April 15th! These SAT scores can be used for college admissions and qualifying for Bright Futures. The College Board website, PSAT scores, and Khan Academy are great resources for test preparation.

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 2nd** 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 under 'Students' on the front page and 'Class of 2025'.

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!!*



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All Seniors and Parents

As we approach graduation in a few short months, 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; access the “Class of 2025 Senior Information” webpage on the school’s website for events, dates, and times.

IMPORTANT: If your senior has not ordered their cap, gown, and medallion, please contact Herff Jones (herffjonestampabay.com and/or 727-545-3288) as soon as possible and place your order. Contact Mr. Townley or Mrs. Iatarola with any questions of senior class events.



BUY YOUR YEARBOOK TODAY

2024 SCHOOL YEAR 2025



SENIOR CAP & GOWN PICTURES

Seniors will have the opportunity to have their cap and gown pictures taken on-campus on Thursday, February 13th from 7:15am – 11:00am. This is the ONLY day that Leonard’s Photography will be on campus to take these pictures. Seniors received sign-up information to their school email.

FINAL YEARBOOK SALE

This is your final opportunity to purchase a yearbook for the 2024-2025 school year. Yearbooks may ONLY be purchased with a credit or debit card online at www.yearbookordercenter.com, job #0140. Extra yearbooks will not be purchased this year so all orders must be pre-paid. The FINAL day to purchase your yearbook online is Friday, February 28th .

Yearbook Only → \$100.00

Yearbooks will be available for distribution in early May, 2025.

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George's Closet News

George's Closet is open year-round, accepting clothing and hygiene product donations to support our school community. Donations can be dropped off in Room 2115. We've also kicked off our Hygiene Drive, collecting unused underwear, socks, and essential hygiene items such as packaged single toothbrushes, toothpaste, and shampoo. Buckets for donations have been placed in several teacher's rooms around campus, but items can also be brought to room 2115 as well. Your contributions help ensure everyone has access to the essentials and are much appreciated.

Coming up on February 13th, we're preparing to host a booth at Eagle Fest, an event to introduce incoming freshmen to our school's clubs and activities. We'll be representing George's Closet, encouraging new members to join and learn more about how we support our students.

As prom season approaches, we're excited to organize our annual Prom Fashion Show in April. Our models will showcase a variety of dress and suit options available to students. This event emphasizes that looking great for prom doesn't require spending hundreds of dollars—our closet offers stylish and affordable attire for everyone.

Students are welcomed to come before school to help sort and organize clothes in George's Closet to earn community service hours. Meetings are every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month after school at 2:05 pm in room 2115. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Robinson by sending him an email at: lee.robinson@polk-fl.net.



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GJHS Academic Booster Club

The ABC, Academic Booster Club, is a parent run organization that helps support teachers, staff and students throughout the school year. 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. The school is looking for approved parent volunteers to proctor the AP exams. You cannot proctor your own child's exam and have to be an approved volunteer. Please reach out to the office if interested. Soon you will see information about ABC selling PDQ gift cards. They will be sold at a discounted price. 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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Spring 2025 Assessment Information

Dates below **are tentative** for Spring Assessments (at the time this newsletter was in the process of publishing, Testing Schedules are awaiting approval). Other than the ACT School Day for Seniors – ALL tests are taken on the student's school issued device. **Please remember your devices daily**, keep your devices charged and **bring the charger** with you daily.

*****PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THESE DATES; MAKE-UPS ARE NEVER GUARANTEED.**

George Jenkins High School 2024-2025 Winter/Spring Testing Calendar Test	Date*
START OF 2nd Semester	
District Writing Progress Monitoring in ELA Class	1/8-2/5/25
FAST ELA PM2 for 9th & 10th Grade	1/16/25
ACCESS for ELLs	2/3-2/6
District Writing Progress Monitoring in ELA Class	2/18-3/7/25
CLT Seniors needing concordant scores only	2/20/25
District Quarterly Assessments (Algebra, Geometry, Biology, US History, Environmental Science)	3/3-3/14/25
FAA Performance Task	3/10-4/25
ACT Non-College Reportable (Triple Time) Seniors ONLY	3/11-3/13/25
PERT Window for Dual Enrollment Classes for 25-26 school year (exact test date not scheduled yet)	3/24-4/25/25
B.E.S.T. Writing 9th & 10th Grades	4/2/25
SAT School Day ONLINE -Juniors (Seniors needing concordant scores)	4/15/25
Florida Civics Literacy Exam (FCLE) Am. Gov Students (no makeups)	4/23/25
FAST Reading Progress Monitoring 1 (PM3) 9th & 10th Grades	5/1/25
FAST Reading Retakes 11th & 12th Grade	5/2/25
B.E.S.T. Geometry & Algebra EOC Spring Testers (May need to split into two testing days?)	5/6/25
Biology NGSSS EOC	5/7/25
US History NGSSS EOC	5/8/25
B.E.S.T Algebra Retakes – This is not for those who just tested. This is for students who took Algebra prior to 24/25 school year and did not meet the concordant score	5/9/25

Advanced Placement (AP) exams will be given May 5th – May 16th. Please check with your teacher and/or the College Board website www.collegeboard.org. If you or your student would like to review the computer-based practice test at home, the practice tests and answer keys are available. Please see link below:
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National English Honor Society

Applications For Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors Eagle Fest, The Education Symposium, and E2E Tutoring



The National English Honor Society carries forward our traditions of being an organization dedicated to furthering the values of the English language via literature and writing, academic responsibility, community service, leadership, and scholarship.

Our 2024-25 Executive Board Officers are: President, Sarah Strickland; Vice President Co-Chair of Activities and Meetings, Bella Overbaugh; Vice President of Community Service, Isabella Alvayero; Vice President of Marketing and Recruiting, Jayda Nieves; Historian, Lucia Winkler; Parliamentarian, Alessio Guerrero; Secretary, Naomi Jalloh; and Treasurer, Abbie Kent.

Mrs. Michele Barr and Ms. Alyssa Rose serve as our GJHS NEHS Sponsors.

Spring NEHS Applications are available in 19-127 for Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors.

For the third year in a row, our NEHS Chapter has been selected to present two educators' workshops at the Annual Education Symposium on the Polk State College campus. Join us on Saturday, February 22 to hear our scholars present "Highly Effective Socratic Discussion Groups" for middle school and high school educators from across the district.

Students may participate in Eagle To Eagle Tutoring every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday after school from 2:05 – 3:PM in 19-127. NEHS members are requested to tutor 3 hours/semester.

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

The listing below catalogs our NEHS meeting dates/events for the 2025 Spring Semester:

Spring Semester Dates	Event and Times	Locations
Thursday, January 30	Officer Candidates For 2025-26 Executive Board (All 9) 6:25 AM & 2:05 PM	19-127
Thursday, February 6	Begin 2025-26 Executive Board Officer Campaigns 6:25 AM & 2:05 PM	19-127
Thursday, February 13	Eagle Fest 5:PM	GJHS Gymnasium
Thursday, February 20	6:25 AM & 2:05 PM	19-127
Saturday, February 22	Education Symposium	Polk State College
Thursday, March 6	Voting For 2025-26 Executive Board Officers (All 9) 6:25 AM & 2:05 PM	19-127
Thursday, March 27	6:25 AM & 2:05 PM	19-127
Thursday, April 3	6:25 AM & 2:05 PM	19-127
Tuesday, April 22	2:05 PM	Auditorium Decorating
	6:PM	Sixth Annual NEHS Spring Senior Recognition and Induction Ceremony
		Auditorium and Foyer
Friday, April 25	Faculty Breakfast 5:30 AM	Eagle Room
Thursday, May 1	2:05 PM	NEHS Party @ Media Center

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To Addressee or Current Resident

8

Artists at the ABG Museum of Art

Please congratulate our GJ Artists on having their artwork displayed in the ABG Museum of Art (formerly Polk Museum of Art)! Art teachers Debra Smith and Marcia Anderson are so proud of our students' work being selected from across the district!

Alina	Martinez	10	Saving The World
Savana	Covington	11	Production Line
Yarilis	Aung	11	The Heretic Villian
Dominic	Ambrosino	10	The Rake
Donia	Hassan	12	Egyptian Landscape
Madison	Fearnow	12	Isolation
Judah	Littles-Lewis	12	Local Liminal Space
Emma	Thomas	12	Untitled-Dominican Republic
Cori	Parker	10	Highrise Pattern

These students' art includes photography, paintings and more!

Saving the World

by Alina Martinez, a mixed media piece

