



# Gulf Shores Elementary

## Coastal Connection

1600 E. 3<sup>rd</sup>. St. • (251) 968 – 7375 • <https://.gses.gsboe.org>

### Important Dates

- Jan. 4 – Students Return to School
- Jan. 6 – Report Cards Go Home
- Jan. 9 – STAR Testing Window Begins
- Jan. 10 – 7 Habits with Admin  
(*For Parents in The Nest 8:30am*)
- Jan. 11 – Class Picture Day
- Jan. 16 – MLK Holiday (No School)
- Jan. 17 – Spirit Night (Hog Wild BBQ)
- Jan. 27 – Pizza Snack Day  
(*Pizza must be purchased on the 26<sup>th</sup>*)

Dr. Alicia Early  
Principal

Sonya Price  
Assistant Principal

Dr. Tim Webb  
Assistant Principal

### FAQS ABOUT STAR TESTING

#### WHAT IS A STAR TEST?

- STAR tests are adaptive, computer-based tests that students take (in reading and math).

#### WHY DO THEY HAVE TO TAKE THESE?

- STAR tests help provide teachers and other school support staff, with data that will show students strengths and deficiencies in both subjects. Teachers can then determine if your child needs additional support .

#### WHEN DO STUDENTS TAKE THE TESTS?

- Students generally take these tests three times a year. Once in the fall (August or September), winter (January), and spring (March or April).

#### IS GSES THE ONLY SCHOOL THAT TAKES THIS TEST?

- The state requires an assessment like this to be given 3 times a year for all public schools.

#### WHAT IS DONE WITH THE RESULTS?

- Not only are results sent home to parents, but teachers and administration meet and collectively analyze the scores to see where needs are and the best way to meet them.

### Mark Your Calendars!!!!

We have two early dismissal days left this year:  
March 10<sup>th</sup> & May 26<sup>th</sup>

Parents, please discuss with your child how they go home on these two days. There will not be any afterschool care these two days. Dismissal time will be 11:30. If you are picking your child up through carline, please make sure you have a number and car tag prior to pickup.

## 7 Habits with Admin

On January 10th, from 8:30 – 10 am in The Nest. Dr. Early will lead parents in the study of Habit 1. We are excited to have you all back on campus for this wonderful learning experience.



**YES,  
Attendance is  
important, BUT  
stay home if:**

- Temperature of 100 degrees or higher
- Vomited in the past 24hrs
- Body rash with itching or fever
- Itchy head/  
Active head lice
- Redness, itching, and our puss draining from eye

## We Need Your Help...

GSES will be participating in the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence process this semester! This is an exciting time for our school, and we can't wait to begin the process. I am sure you're wondering what this process looks like and what is the point of it all. The first part of the process includes questionnaires for the school administration. Secondly, a confidential online survey is completed by our parents, community stakeholders and students, support and certified staff members, as well as building level administrators. The data will be reviewed and a team of reviewers will be in our schools in February to validate the findings, as well as look for areas of strength, as well as areas of growth. We appreciate your support in completing the survey when it is sent home next week.

## Habit Focus for this Month

**Habit 5: Seek First to  
Understand, Then to be  
Understood**

**What does this habit mean?** This habit is to listen first and talk second. Strive to see things from the others point of view before inserting your own. Listen with intent to understand, NOT with the intent to respond.

### Tips to help practice this habit:

1. Listen to others without interrupting.
2. (In class) Raise your hand to be called on to speak.
3. Don't blurt out
4. Look people in their eyes when listening and talking.