



TIGER TIMES

JANUARY 2021 | Volume 12, Issue 5

THE ONLINE NEWSLETTER FOR GUNTER ISD

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

TWENTY 21

We are excited for your return!
Staff/Faculty return on January 4th
Students return on January 5th

Important information from the desk of Dr. Jill Siler, Superintendent



Dear Gunter ISD Family –

What an INCREDIBLE fall semester our Gunter Tigers have had! With state-level appearances in **volleyball, cross country, and football this fall**; cheer headed to state in January; a multitude of students in band and choir still advancing through the All-State audition process; and impressive results in FFA, Robotics and so many other programs – this year is already **record-breaking!** And given the uncertainty of how the year started and what we've asked our students and staff to do to remain safe and healthy, I couldn't be more thankful or proud!


We will be **EXCITED** to welcome our students back on **Tuesday, January 5th!** Just like Thanksgiving, please give us a heads-up about any Covid situation prior to returning by either dropping a note to covid@gunterisd.org or filling out this [close contact form](#) or [positive case form](#).

As you know, GISD decided to discontinue remote learning for the spring of 2021. Please know that this was a very difficult decision for us and our principals and counselors are ready to help you transition or answer any questions you have to help make the best decisions for your family. If you did not read our 12/10 letter about the rationale for this recommendation, it is included at the end of this newsletter.

We will still be offering remote learning to any student who is quarantined due to Covid (close contact or for a positive test). And we will still be offering our Voluntary Early Release Fridays so that our teachers can support our short-term remote learners. If we find that it is not needed later in the spring semester, we will reevaluate and discontinue. Please remember that the Friday program is a voluntary early release – our schools will remain open to all students. These weekly afternoon hours have been a game changer for our teachers so a huge thanks to your partnership with that program.

Thank you SO much for all of your patience and flexibility as we have led through this really challenging semester. I think the only thing that was constant was our continual process of evaluating and refining our processes! We appreciate you all so much!

Gunter ISD School Board



Navigating To Success
School Board Recognition Month
January 2021

Jeff Banks – Member since 2013
Dr. Gary Harris – Member since 2005
Gabe Johnson – Member since 2019
John Jonas – Member since 2008
Scott Meyerdirk – Member since 2015
Jason Padgett – Member since 2020
Lynn Reed – Member since 2019
Steve Smith who served 2008-2020

Navigating to Success

The challenge involved in providing an excellent educational experience for the many, varied students in our district is a challenge that requires dedication and creativity in the best of times. The year 2020, however, was not the best of times.

The past year required an unusual combination of skills and talents from district leaders. Unexpected circumstances resulted in changes in laws and regulations, and those statewide changes required adaptability, quick problem solving, teamwork, and leadership at the district level.

Navigating through unfamiliar waters became a daily task, complicated by the differing opinions and desires of various constituents. These uncertain and sometimes treacherous circumstances created challenges for even the most seasoned among us. A steady hand on the rudder was absolutely required, and that's exactly what our district's board provided.

Our trustees came through when we needed them most this year, charting a course that protected our most vulnerable, while ensuring that academic progress could continue for all students. It was a daunting situation, but they navigated to success with unerring determination.

Board service is a volunteer effort, accepted by only a few in the community. It is a tough job with no salary. It is a critically important job that requires an election and then mandated training. It is a responsibility that takes time, a mature outlook, and careful decision-making.

School board members are the largest group of elected officials in the state, numbering more than 7,000 statewide. They are farmers, doctors, business owners, retirees, and young professionals. They are people you see in the store, at the game, and in your neighborhood. They are often overlooked, but their contributions cannot be overstated. They are shaping tomorrow.

Take a moment to recognize your local trustees. Take a moment to honor the work they are doing to help your students sail into the future. Take a moment to say thank you for the work school board members are doing on behalf of your students and community.

Please join GISD in celebrating School Board Recognition Month throughout the month of January.



Mr. Jason Padgett takes the oath to make his board position official.



Dr. Jill Siler
Superintendent



Mr. Jeff Banks
President



Mr. Lynn Reed
Vice President



Mr. Jason Padgett
Secretary



Dr. Gary Harris
Member



Mr. Gabe Johnson
Member



Mr. John Jonas
Member



Mr. Scott Meyerdirk
Member

Holiday Magic

The giving spirit is apparent throughout the campuses all year long, but December is always something special. The staff, students, and our PTO's all go above and beyond during this time of year to make somebody else's day or season happier... it's, well.... magical!



Special thanks to our campus PTO's for spoiling our teachers and staff as we finished up the fall semester. Things can get a little crazy at that time of year in a school, but their generosity definitely relieved a lot of that stress. From the yummy food to gift baskets, to the daily gift drawings, you have outdone yourselves!



The annual campus service project of collecting items for the Women's Shelter was very successful! The project was headed up by the GHS Choir, NHS, and Student Council. Giving to others is a lesson every student should learn while in school, and our students are always given the opportunity to help others.

With the COVID crisis this year, the needs have increased greatly, so we are so happy to see the generosity of our students. The shelter is always very appreciative of the items, and we honestly couldn't do it without the help of our community.

Another project to spread kindness was for local nursing home residents. HOSA (Future Health Professionals Organization) collected new pairs of fuzzy socks (with the rubber skids on the bottom) and Christmas/

Holiday greeting cards to gift to nursing home/assisted living residents for the holidays. The last few months have left many residents of senior centers with no visits from friends and family. This service project made sure they got something warm and fuzzy for the holidays.

The GHS Student Council made it an extra special day for our hard working janitorial staff on the campus by giving them a gift. With the COVID protocol, they have been working very hard, and a gift was the perfect way to say thank you!



Community Helpers

Helping people is something GISD takes seriously. We start young, showing our students how to be good helpers, and by doing this, they grow up and participate in community projects (like those described above). During their Community Helpers unit, the kindergartners dressed for their future careers. It looks like they all have great plans for their future!



Gearing up for the Holidays!

Each campus has their own traditions leading up to the winter break. Each campus has fun with dress up days, service projects, and other fun activities. Take a look at some of the fun we had this year!



The GHS Marching Band made their way through the neighborhoods of Gunter sharing some of their favorite Christmas carols. This was a HOT topic on Facebook which shows just how much it was loved!



Transforming the gym into a magical place for holiday games is Coach Watson and Mrs. McCullough's favorite thing to do! The kids sock ice skated, played several reindeer games and had a snowball fight with fake snow. "Snow" much fun was had by all!



Dress up days were fun for both, students and staff! Decking the halls at GMS became a fierce competition!

Not only did the halls get decked at the campus, the GMS staff had matching shirts to wear to amp up their campus holiday spirit (... well, the coaches were busy with playoffs, and forgot theirs)...

From what we hear, Mrs. English had A LOT to do in creating the hallway competition and shirts. The staff would probably agree that the best way to spread holiday cheer is sending emails for all to "hear".





Mrs. Clement's students were as busy as an Elf in Santa's PhotoShop (the new workshop).

The GMS Photography students transformed themselves into some magical holiday scenes; take a look!



The 5th grade science students decorated their own version of an ugly sweater. They had to incorporate science into their design, and they turned out so cute! In all reality, we didn't see any "ugly" ones!



Trash to Treasure! 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Art students have been busy turning what some people would throw away into a treasured art piece. After learning about symmetry, they painted mandal inspired ornaments and decorated the classroom tree.

They recycled magazines by folding each page into the shape of a Christmas tree. The students chose to spray paint their trees, added sparkle with glitter, and used tinsel and ribbon to finish their creations. Some students then presented their tree to a staff member at GMS.





What can you make if you're handed some supplies and inspiration? Mrs. Murphy's STEAM students had been learning about size specs and scale, and with that info in hand, she asked them to build a Winter Wonderland. The results were astonishing! It looked like you were walking through a snow globe in her classroom... Take a look :)



Solving Problems

Mrs. Pelzel's class had some fun with make believe snowballs! During a simple machines unit, students created levers in the form of catapults! Each group had 16 minutes with limited materials to create their device. They measured and recorded the distances their cotton ball "snowballs" traveled.



This 
leads to  ***that!***



Gunter ISD challenges students to solve problems from an early age. This skill serves them well in their classes at middle and high school.



Learning, creating, and testing your work! The students in Mrs. Foster's Robotics course built these robots and had to drive them up the ramp, around the cafeteria, and back down the ramp. We witnessed some pretty impressive skills as they maneuvered around tables and up and down the ramps!



On December 17th, Master Sergeant William Gosnell from the United States Air Force addressed Mrs. Foster's Robotics class as well as several engineering students. MSgt Gosnell spoke with the students about the different types of branches of the service and the requirements for each. He told them that starting in the 9th grade – grades count! He also informed them the USAF covers all educational expenses up to

a graduate degree and commissioned opportunities to underclassmen in high school. Students also learned about the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery (AFVAB) test. The Air Force requires the highest score to enter their ranks. Students also learned about the many different types of jobs, training, and adventures the Air Force offers. Later in his presentation, MSgt Gosnell transitioned into his personal adventures in the Air Force and his many travels around the world (complete with pictures). He has visited many interesting places, including visiting one of the Reclining Buddhas! The only other person



in the room that knew about Reclining Buddhas was Mrs. Foster, but now the students know as well! It was an interesting trip around the world via MSgt Gosnell's presentation.

GHS Counselor, Jacob Waggoner, was recognized by the Air Force for his service and help connecting students and the military. Thank you Mr. Waggoner and thank you to our armed forces for all you do!



FFA COMPETITION



The FFA students have been busy preparing their animals and traveling from show to show. Take a look at what they have accomplished so far ... WOW!

Abby Marks – Champion Southdown Tom Bean Jackpot 2020, Champion Senior Showmanship Whitesboro Jackpot 2020

Aubrey Wendt – Class winner, 5th overall Market Goat Whitesboro Jackpot Show 2020

Kenndyl Sikes – Division Champion Market Goat, Grand Champion Wether Doe Requel's Wings Jackpot Show 2020, Reserve Overall Champion Wether Dam Southern Oklahoma Goat Breeders Association Show 2020

Ashtyn Wade- Champion Spot Gilt (1st belt buckle ever) Whitesboro Jackpot 2020

Camryn Craddock- Champion Duroc Barrow, Champion Spot Gilt Whitesboro Jackpot 2020

Shey Menkhoff - Light Weight Division Champion and second in class Princeton Jackpot 2020, Champion Senior Showmanship, 1st in class Tioga Jackpot 2020

GHS BAND AND CHOIR COMPETITION

Nine students auditioned for the All-Region Band. Of the nine that auditioned, EIGHT made a Region Band, and on top of that, all eight of those students qualified for Area!

Symphonic Band is the 1st Band & Concert Band is the 2nd Band:

Bria Savage	Clarinet	17th Chair Symphonic Band-Area Qualifier
Sam Neufeld	Clarinet	2nd Chair Concert Band-Area Qualifier
Gray McDowell	Alto Sax	4th Chair Concert Band-Area Qualifier
Jack Locke	Trumpet	1st Chair Symphonic Band-Area Qualifier
Penn Seiberling	French Horn	5th Chair Symphonic Band-Area Qualifier
Dylan Marsh	Trombone	7th Chair Symphonic Band-Area Qualifier
Paige Daniel	Trombone	8th Chair Concert Band-Area Qualifier
Hayden Rizzo	Euphonium	3rd Chair Symphonic Band-Area Qualifier

Congratulations to the following GHS students who advanced to the Area Round in choir.

Penn Seiberling | Tenor | Chair 3
 Jacob Seiberling | Bass | Chair 6
 Kase Carlile | Tenor | Chair 7
 Sam Erwin | Bass | Chair 8
 Jackson Burkholder | Tenor | Chair 8



WINTER CONCERT

The GMS band joined forces with the GMS & GHS choirs to create a night of music for everyone to enjoy. The music was wonderful and was enjoyed by all. Audience members were required to wear a face mask, and they were seated in a socially distant manner. Thank you for following the guidelines.



The Middle School Band received one of the highest results for All-Region Band placement in program history this past week. We had 11 7th & 8th students place in the All-Region Band. The number of 7th graders who placed is amazing when noting that they are competing against 8th graders. Here are the results:

Symphonic Band is the 1st band & Concert Band is the 2nd band:

Jorge Sanchez - 8th - Flute - 10th Chair Concert Band
 Kaleb Bohac - 8th - Clarinet - 5th Chair Concert Band
 Braxton White - 7th - Trumpet - 2nd Chair Symphonic Band
 Caitlin Badillo - 8th - Trumpet - 6th Chair Symphonic Band
 Mia Smith 7th - Trumpet - 9th Chair Symphonic Band
 Brooklyn Neufeld - 7th - Trumpet - 10th Chair Symphonic Band
 Christianna Grayard - 8th - Trumpet - 7th Chair Concert Band
 Presley Pace - 7th - Tuba - 2nd Chair Symphonic Band
 Audra Sanchez - 8th - Tuba - 2nd Chair Concert Band
 Emily Todd - 7th - Percussion - 3rd Chair Concert Band
 Luke Wilde - 8th - Percussion - 6th Chair Concert Band

GMS & GHS BAND COMPETITION

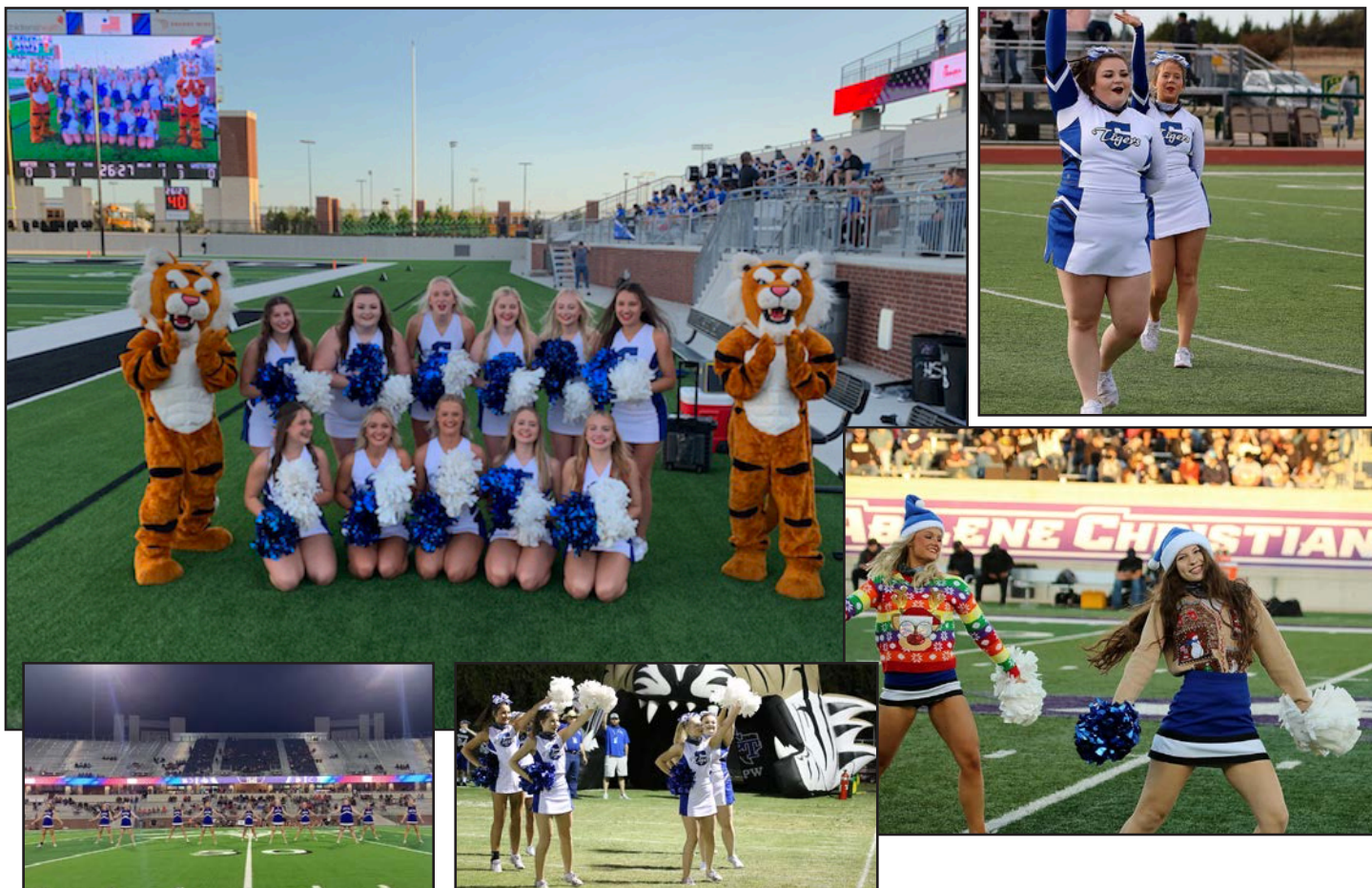


The GHS Tiger Band took the field for the UIL competition and **KNOCKED** it OUT of the park with a performance that exemplified their theme (overcoming adversity) when they lost their electronics for the first half of their show and **STILL** blew other schools away! They finished with a jaw-dropping 4th place **OVERALL** (only placing behind Whitesboro, Holliday and Howe) with an absolutely impressive performance. Band only competes for "state" every other year and this wasn't our year. But had it been our year, we would have been **STATE-BOUND** with the highest placing in school history!



VARSITY CHEER

Cheer competition season is here! They spend the fall cheering on our teams, now it's time for us to cheer them on! If you see a varsity cheerleader, wish them well at their competition in January!



Strong programs don't just happen, they are built!



5th grade UNDEFEATED Superbowl Champs!



6th grade advanced to the 1st round of playoffs!

FOOTBALL

STATE SEMIFINALISTS

TIGER FOOTBALL PLAYOFF RUN

Final District Game vs S&S	56-0	DISTRICT CHAMPS
Bi-District Championship vs Rice	62-0	BI-DISTRICT CHAMPS
Area Championship vs Henrietta	59-6	AREA CHAMPS
Regional Semifinal vs City View	44-19	REGIONAL SEMIFINAL CHAMPS
Regional Finals vs Eastland	61-28	REGIONAL FINAL CHAMPS
State Semifinals vs Canadian	6-33	STATE SEMIFINALISTS



Gunter Football All-District Team

Superlatives

Hudson Graham, Jr. – MVP
Mitchell Brewer, Sr. – Def. MVP
Mason Peacock, Jr. – Def. Newcomer of the Year

1st Team All – District

Ethan Sloan, Soph – RB
Cole Lemons, Jr. – WR
Sean McClure, Jr. – Center
Lane Dophied, Jr. – Guard
Lane Dophied, Jr. – Def. Tackle
Martin Garcia, Sr. – Def. End
Saul Rodriguez, Jr. – Linebacker
Kaden Rigsby, Jr. – Outside Linebacker
Cole Lemons, Jr. – Cornerback
Logan Hubbard, Jr. – Kicker

2nd Team All – District

Ashton Bennett, Soph. – RB
Cade Roller, Sr. – WR
Trey Oblas, Jr. – Tackle
Ethan Sloan, Soph. – Outside Linebacker
Cooper Wade, Jr. – Safety

Honorable Mention

Cannon Lemberg, Fr. – RB
Isaac Villeneuve, Soph – TE
Greyson Toney, Jr. – Guard
Ashton Bennett, Soph. – Def. End
Ivy Hellman, Soph. – RB
Cade Dodson, Fr. – Cornerback
Trey Oblas, Jr. – Def. End
Adam Reed, Soph. – Outside Linebacker
Brandon Wilcocks, SR. – Guard
Ben Wilcocks, Sr. – Def. End

Academic All-District

Hut Graham
Cannon Lemberg
Cole Lemons
Ashton Bennett
Harper Culp
Mason Peacock



Congratulations! Ethan Sloan was named the Week 14
Texoma High School Football Player of the Week!

Congratulations to Hudson Graham for
being nominated for the Mr. Texas Football
Player of the Week award, presented by
Dave Campbell's Texas Football and Wells
Fargo in conjunction with the Texas Bowl.
Hudson was one of ten nominees for the
weekly statewide award.

VOLLEYBALL



The trophy has arrived and is proudly displayed!
#statesemifinalists



The Lady Tigers celebrated their record breaking season with their end of the season banquet.

All-District 11-3A Volleyball Team, as selected by the district coaches.

Most Valuable Player – Jacee Childers, Sr., Gunter.
Co-Hitters of the Year – Rayanna Mauldin, Soph., Gunter;
Blocker of the Year – Hanna Rubis, Soph., Gunter.
Defensive Player of the Year – Nyah Ingram, Sr., Gunter.
Coach of the Year – Katelyn Gill, Gunter

First Team
Shae Pruiett, Jr., Gunter; Bethany Gilbreath, Sr., Gunter
Second Team
Miranda Putnicki, Soph., Gunter; Kinzee Hamilton, Sr., Gunter;
Honorable Mention
Gunter – Briley Singleton, Soph.; Lakin Satre, Sr.; Audrey Curtis, Jr.



Bethany Gilbreath will not be leaving the court after graduation... She signed her letter of commitment to play collegiate volleyball at LETU Volleyball! Congratulations!



CONGRATULATIONS to GTVB Junior Shae Pruiett on being selected to the TGCA 1A-4A Red All Star Team! The TGCA All Star Game is made up of 24 incoming seniors in the state that will train together and participate in an exhibition game in July! We are so proud of Shae!!



These Lady Tiger GTVB players were selected to the TGCA 3A All-State team. What an outstanding accomplishment! These players are 3 among only 50 players selected in the state for their positions!

- Jacee Childers, Setter
- Nyah Ingram, Libero
- Rayanna Mauldin, Outside Hitter

*Graphic Credit: OurGunter



GIRLS BASKETBALL

Varsity Girls

12/30	54-42 (L) - Gunter @ Muenster
12/29	52-47 (L) - Gunter vs. Dodd City
12/22	38-36 (W) - Gunter @ Pottsboro
12/18	73-32 (W) - Gunter @ Bonham
12/15	64-27 (W) - Gunter vs. Bells
12/11	59-21 (W) - Gunter @ Blue Ridge
12/8	58-46 (W) - Gunter @ Rock Hill
12/5	70-47 (W) - Gunter vs. Ursuline Academy
12/4	86-26 (W) - Gunter vs. Pilot Point
12/1	61-44 (L) - Gunter @ Ponder
11/24	41-22 (W) - Gunter @ Celina
11/23	61-32 (W) - Gunter vs. Lebanon Trail
11/20	49-47 (L) - Gunter @ PCHS
11/19	68-37 (W) - Gunter vs. Sherman
11/14	58-56 (L) - Gunter @ Little Elm
11/10	44-43 (W) - Gunter vs. Argyle
11/6	58-51 (W) - Gunter vs. Krum



Junior Varsity Girls

12/22	vs. Pottsboro (Win)
12/15	vs. Bells (Win)
12/11	vs. Blue Ridge (Win)
12/8	vs. Rock Hill (Win)
12/5	vs. Ursuline Academy (Loss)
12/4	vs. Pilot Point (Win)
12/1	vs. Ponder (Win)
11/24	vs. Celina (Win)
11/23	vs. Lebanon Trail (Win)
11/19	vs. Sherman (Win)
11/10	vs. Argyle (Loss)
11/6	vs. Krum (Loss)



Photo Credits: Marion Cole

MS Girls

11/18 Gunter vs Bells
B team won 23-13
7A won 27-21
8A lost 30-32

12/15 Gunter vs Blue Ridge
B team won 22-8
7A won 53-1
8A won 43-9

12/7 Gunter vs Whitewright
No B team game
7A won 18-9
8A won 64-1

12/1 Gunter vs Howe
B team won 14-10
7A won 46-5
8A won 25-9



Teacher Appreciation on the Court

Lady Tiger basketball players honored their teachers on December 15th during the home basketball game.



BOYS BASKETBALL

Varsity Boys

12/29 63-42 (L) - Gunter @ Callisburg
 12/22 77-60 (L) - Gunter @ Pottsboro
 12/8 56-32 (L) - Gunter vs. Pilot Point
 12/5 51-39 (W) - Gunter @ Collinsville
 12/4 58-52 (L) - Gunter vs. Farmersville
 12/1 54-29 (L) - Gunter @ Bland
 11/24 54-46 (L) - Gunter @ Sanger
 11/23 54-39 (L) - Gunter @ Whitesboro
 11/20 59-25 (L) - Gunter vs. Glen Rose
 11/17 47-24 (L) - Gunter @ Ponder
 11/13 53-44 (L) - Gunter @ Ector



Junior Varsity

JV Blue

vs. Sanger L 33-61
 vs. Bland W 43-36
 vs. Farmersville W 55-44
 vs. Collinsville W 30-22
 vs. Pilot Point W 46-42
 vs. Celeste W 42-38
 vs. Denison L 43-61
 vs. Pottsboro L 51-67

JV White

vs. Celeste W 36-13
 vs. Pottsboro L



Boys MS Team

8th B Win vs Bells 34-16
 8th A win vs Bells 36-10
 7th A Loss vs Bells 28-27

Photo Credits: OurGunter

Teacher Appreciation on the Court

Gunter Tiger boys basketball players will honor their teachers on January 22nd during the home basketball game.



Gunter Independent School District Board Briefs

Monday, December 14, 2020

GISD F.I.R.S.T. HEARING 5:45pm

Public Hearing to discuss the 2019-2020 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas "FIRST" was called to order by Jeff Banks, Board President. A quorum was established. Dr. Siler and Brittany Floyd presented the FIRST Report. Gunter ISD received a score of 76/100 on the Financial Integrity Rating Report. The reason for the three areas of point reduction was due to paying off one of our bonds early. While this saved the district significant money, it temporarily reduced our fund balance in our debt service account (the account now has a healthy fund balance). The score earned a Meets Standard rating. The Hearing adjourned at 5:50pm

GISD Regular Board Meeting 6:00pm

The Regular meeting was called to order by Jeff Banks, Board President. A quorum was established.

Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by Jeff Banks, Board President

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Jeff Banks, Dr. Gary Harris, Gabe Johnson, Scott Meyerdirk, Jason Padgett and Lynn Reed; District attendance included: Dr. Jill Siler, Mr. Kelly Teems and Brittany Floyd

Steve Davis or Morgan, Davis & Co presented the 2019-2020 School Audit.

Gunter ISD is in excellent financial shape. The fund balance is a healthy \$1.8 million and Steve Davis reported a clean audit.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- A full Financial Report was provided
- Communications
 - Enrollment Update
 - Elementary School 385
 - Middle School 328
 - High School 313
 - TOTAL 1026
 - COVID Update: Dr. Siler reported minimal cases of Covid since Thanksgiving and gave an update on new quarantine protocols due to CDC changes.
 - Dyslexia Audit Recommendations by Kristina Weeks, HBU Student & GISD Intern
 - Upcoming Events / Meeting Dates were shared with Board
- Board Member Report
 - May 1, 2021 Board Election Calendar was shared

CONSENT AGENDA/ROUTINE BUSINESS:

November 30, 2020 Minutes and November Bills were approved.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- The Board approved the Audit presented by Steve Davis of Morgan, Davis & Co., PC.
- The Board approved Resolution Regarding Extending FFCRA Leave Benefits through the Spring of 2021. The federal government has not extended FFCRA (Covid Leave) for the spring so the GISD Board locally approved to extend that through the spring semester.
- The Board approved to Discontinue Full-Time Remote Learning for Spring 2021. Dr. Siler had shared at the November Board Meeting and sent a letter home to all families on December 10th about the possibility of discontinuing full-time remote learning. Because our numbers of full-time remote learners have decreased to an average of 4 students per grade level, it is no longer sustainable to maintain stand-alone teachers at our elementary grade levels. In addition, there are multiple students at risk for not earning credit at our secondary level. Dr. Siler shared data from the past 4 months which showed the low occurrence of Covid at school and the data that notes that the mass majority of spread is occurring from prolonged exposure outside the school day. The Principals and Counselors will be working with families to help in these transitions.
- The Board approved the Tax Roll Values for 2020.
- The Board approved the Superintendent Evaluation Instrument as presented.

No Closed Session

ADJOURNMENT: Regular meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:27pm

Covid “Close Contact” Quarantine Rule Changes:

The CDC has adjusted its guidance related to COVID-19 quarantines due to close contact and GISD will be adopting those changes immediately. The stay-at-home period for individuals who have had “close contact” with someone who has tested positive can end for individuals experiencing no symptoms:

- On day 10 without testing (instead of 14 days)
- On day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later)

***GISD will now offer our free, rapid tests for students or staff to use to end their “close contact” quarantine period on Day 7 for those who request it. These changes are effective now and we will be contacting any students / staff currently quarantined to discuss next steps.

After stopping quarantine, the CDC recommends that individuals:

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
- If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your healthcare provider.
- Wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet from others, wash their hands, avoid crowds, and take other steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



To: Gunter ISD Parents & Students

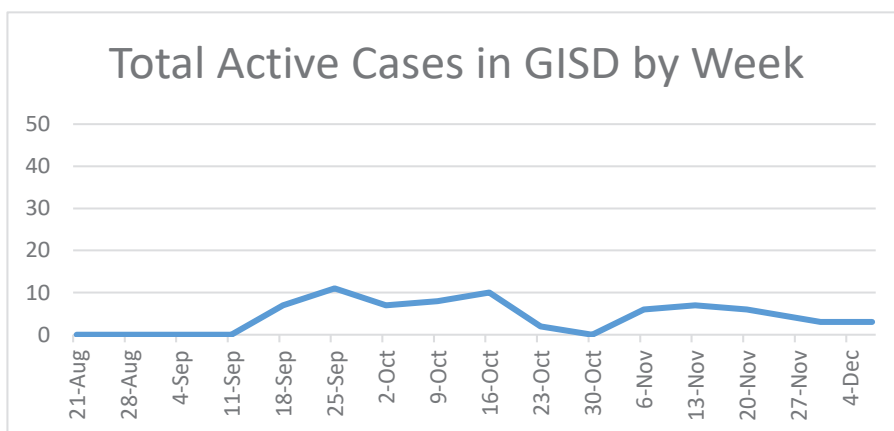
Date: 12/10/2020

Re: Proposed Changes to Remote Learning

As we have worked through this incredibly challenging year with COVID-19, we have strived to meet the needs of all of our students – both academically and from a health and safety standpoint. The Texas Education Agency allowed us to offer a multitude of learning options to meet the instructional needs of students remotely whose parents chose to keep them at home or for when students were quarantined at home due to close contact from Covid.

During the past four months, we have learned a lot about the spread of Covid, but there are two major takeaways as it pertains to the impact of school:

1. **The rate of occurrence of Covid at school has been extremely low.** The average number of cases that we report every Friday has ranged from 0.8 to 2.4 by campus (0.8 cases at GES; 1.3 cases at GMS; and 2.4 cases at GHS) with the average case count of 4.4 for the entire district. To put it another way, the range of active cases as we look back on every Friday's report has been from 0 active cases to 11 active cases back on September 25th. Even in that highest week, less than 1% of our school population was impacted.



2. **The mass majority of spread of Covid has been a result of activity outside of school.** We have tracked every case reported to us and have actively contact traced and quarantined students who met the definition of close contact. This process has resulted in sending home nearly 300 of our 1,000 students since the start of school. As we look at the students who have been quarantined, less than 10 students actually tested positive, and in each of those cases it was due to prolonged exposure outside of the normal school day. In all of our cases, we are not seeing students test positive from a casual interaction in class or at lunch where both students were masked. Where we see the spread is from prolonged exposure from sleepovers, car trips, meals and get togethers outside of school.

In the same way that we've learned a lot about Covid, we have also learned a lot about our full-time Remote Learning program.

1. **As the number of students transitioning back to in-person learning has increased, our current full-time remote learning model, particularly at elementary is unsustainable.** At the beginning of the year, over 15% of our students were learning from home yet as the year has progressed, more and more students are coming back into the classroom – to the point where only 7% of our students are learning full-time at home. As this decrease has occurred, it has made our remote learning model unsustainable moving forward. As an example, we now have just 4 kindergarten students learning in a full-time remote learning environment – leaving the other kindergarten classes at the maximum class size of 22 students. The situation is similar in 1st through 4th grade with the number of full-time remote learners ranging from 3 to 9 per grade level.
2. **At all levels, we have found that full-time remote learning has been challenging.** At middle school and high school, the struggle has been in both attendance and performance causing many students to be in jeopardy of losing credits or not moving on to the next grade level. While we have worked really hard at the secondary level to find an online curriculum program and add in teacher support, we also know that the platform has been challenging as the singular learning environment for students. At elementary, while our teachers and parents are doing an extraordinary job, there are still limitations in terms of how we can fully serve and support our students.

I wanted to let you know that **we will be bringing a recommendation to the School Board at our December 14th meeting to discontinue the full-time remote learning program.** If this is approved, the transition would occur at the start of the spring semester (January 5th). As a parent or guardian, you would have the following options:

- Return to in-person instruction at your campus
- Complete the paperwork to withdraw to homeschool
- Enroll in a private or public school that offers remote learning
- Transfer students can return to their home district

We would still retain short-term remote learning for those students who test positive for Covid or who are quarantined due to close contact.

We understand that ending full-time remote learning would be a major change. Please know that we are making these decisions in the best interest of all of the students in Gunter ISD based on their academic, social & emotional needs. We are more than willing to work with you to address any safety concerns that you have so that your students feel safe at school. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we make tentative plans to make this transition for the spring of 2021.

We will keep you posted about final decisions that are made the week of December 14th.

Dr. Jill Siler | Gunter ISD Superintendent | jsiler@gunterisd.org

Find Us!

Gunter ISD
213 N. Preston Road
Gunter, Texas 75058
903.433.4750

Gunter High School
1102 N. Preston Road
Gunter, Texas 75058
903.433.1542

Gunter Middle School
410 Tiger Lane
Gunter, Texas 75058
903.433.1545

Gunter Elementary School
200 West Elm
Gunter, Texas 75058
903.433.5315

Website: <http://www.gunterisd.org>

facebook.com/gunteridschools
facebook.com/gunterhighschool
facebook.com/guntermiddleschool
facebook.com/gunterelem

Twitter @Gunter_ISD



In the November issue, we reported the Niche ratings where our cafeterias earned an A+ Rating. When the news got out, our Parent/Teacher Organizations got to work creating some wonderful baskets to present to our cafeteria staff. We appreciate their thoughtfulness in presenting these baskets to our hard working ladies in each of the cafeterias! (Pictured: GHS cafeteria staff)



JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div> <p><i>"The best way to predict the future is to invent it."</i></p> <p>- Alan Kay</p> </div>					1	2
					HAPPY NEW YEAR	
3	4 Professional Development - Teachers World Braille Day	5 Students return to school! 4:30p HS Boys Basketball @ Gunter vs Howe 5p HS Girls Basketball @ Gunter vs Howe	6	7 4:30p MS Boys Basketball @ Leonard 4:30p MS Girls Basketball @ Gunter vs Leonard	8 4:30p HS Boys Basketball @ Leonard 5p HS Girls Basketball @ Leonard	9 11a MS Girls Basketball @ Gunter vs Pottsboro
10	11	12 4:30p HS Boys Basketball @ Gunter vs Whitewright (youth night) 5p HS Girls Basketball @ Gunter vs Whitewright	13	14 4:30p MS Girls Basketball @ Bonham 4:30p MS Boys Basketball @ Gunter vs Bonham	15 4:30p HS Boys Basketball @ Gunter vs Blue Ridge 5p HS Girls Basketball @ Blue Ridge	16 11a MS Girls Basketball @ Leonard 4:30 p MS Boys Basketball @ Gunter vs Whitesboro
17	18 School Holiday Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	19 5p HS Girls Basketball @ Bells 5p HS Boys Basketball @ Bells	20	21 4:30p MS Girls Basketball @ Gunter vs Pottsboro 4:30p MS Boys Basketball @ Pottsboro 6p School Board Meeting @ Admin Presidential Inauguration	22 4:30p MS Girls Basketball HS Girls Basketball @ Gunter vs Bonham 5:45p HS Boys Basketball @ Gunter vs Bonham (teacher appreciation)	23 10a MS Boys Basketball @ Whitewright 11a MS Girls Basketball @ Gunter vs Whitewright
24	25	26 4:30p HS Girls Basketball @ Gunter vs Pottsboro 5:45p HS Boys Basketball @ Gunter vs Pottsboro	27	28 4:30p MS Girls Basketball @ Bells 4:30p MS Boys Basketball @ Gunter vs Bells	29 4:30p HS Girls Basketball @ Howe 5:45p HS Boys Basketball @ Howe	30 10:30a Softball Scrimmage @ Gunter 2p MS Boys Basketball @ Gunter vs Celina
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